

**RUSHVILLE CITY COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2003
6:00 P.M.**

The Rushville City Common Council met on the above date and time at 270 West 15th Street, Rushville, Indiana. Mayor Bridges called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m., with Bill Goins, Darrin McGowan, Brian Sheehan, John Byrne and Mike Pavey answering roll call. Also present were City Attorney, Tracy Newhouse, Jan Voiles, *Rushville Republican*, and Scott Murray, WKWH. The Pledge to the Flag was led by Samantha Helfer and Brittany Sharpe, representing Leadership for Rush County

MINUTES * * *

Minutes of the January 7, 2003 meeting were presented for approval. Goins made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Byrne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT * * *

Mayor Bridges reported the following:

- Attended the Ball State University Economic Development course last week. Bridges stated that the course was very informative and he gained valuable knowledge for the future of Rushville economic development;
- Bridges participated in the annual Martin Luther King celebration at Mount Zion Church in Connersville. He noted that Henry County has officially joined the Rush-Fayette County NAACP. It will now be known as the Rush-Fayette-Henry County Chapter. Bridges said this is the only chapter with 3 counties involved;
- In the Board of Works meeting Bridges performed the swearing in ceremony for Doug Keith, who is now a Rushville City Police Officer.

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT * * *

Copley announced that there will be a Perf seminar on January 30, at the Courthouse Assembly Room. She will prepare a memo for the departments to share with all the employees. This does not include Police & Fire Perf.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS * * *

Fire - Fire Chief Clark gave a report on the run load for the year 2002. He noted that the number of runs was a little less than the year before.

Animal – Hill gave his annual report on cats and dogs. He also mentioned that they are participating in a new program with Greenwood, Indiana called "Save-a-Pet". Save-a-Pet took 58 pets for adoption. Hill said through this program all pets are either spade or neutered.

CITIZEN'S CONCERNS * * *

Bill Goins thanked those who attended the Ivy Tech night. He thought it was a great success.

Pavey asked about any progress on the Wilson Estate matter. Newhouse asked for clarification on the title search. Sheehan made a motion to have Newhouse proceed with the title search and appraisal and to work with Wilson's attorney to remedy the situation. Byrne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS * * *

Out of School Suspension Program - Prosecuting Attorney, Paul Barada said they had hit a snag on the out of school suspension program. He said they needed a place to hold the program and someone to employ the proctors as part-time employees. Barada stated that all funds would be reimbursed. The program involves students in grades 7 through 12. Barada's request was to use the council chambers and to have the employees as part-time city employees. He said there would be absolutely no cost to the City. Bridges suggested appointing a committee to work out all the details. The committee will consist of Mayor Bridges, Clerk-Treasurer Copley, John Byrne, Tracy Newhouse, Marcia Fish, and Mark Fields. Sheehan made a motion to move forward with the program contingent on any unforeseen problems found by the committee. Goins seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Insurance Bid Proposals – Pavey informed Council that they need to assign someone to sign the insurance application. Rebidding is at a standstill because the application has not been signed. There is a large group user, which consists of the City filling out a one page questionnaire concerning medical history. The small group user is more involved and is filled out by the employee. The large group usually gets a more advantageous rate due to the application.

Goins made a motion for Pavey to sign as President of the Council. Pavey stated he has no problem signing as long as information is provided by someone else.

Sheehan asked **"Why should Mike sign?"**

Byrne said that the person signing is saying the information is correct.

Newhouse said that if the Mayor feels comfortable then he should sign the application.

Bridges said he is signing something when he does not know the medical history.

Copley said that no one would have all the medical history.

Newhouse said he was not so sure we should know all the medical history.

Bridges stated that you must identify if you have any knowledge of anyone who has an illness.

Sheehan asked, **"What is wrong with 58 forms going out and saying they have to be back in by next Friday. They fill them out and sign them."**

Copley stated that many employees become irate at having to fill them out.

Sheehan said, **"That's part of being an employee. I get irate all the time, but....."**

Copley said it is hard to get the forms back from the employees and they get upset because of all the questions.

Sheehan said **that the other alternative is not to have any insurance or fill out the form.**

Pavey said that Council needs to be aware that our carrier is getting ready to change.

Bridges said that Ann received a call today saying they aren't going to insure us anymore.

Pavey said instead of all this being a passive process it is now an active process.

Sheehan said, **"me at Monarch, Darrin at Harcourts, you at Copeland, you at Visteon, if something big goes on you get it, it's mandatory you do it. If that's what you got to do to move forward. If someone is not willing to sign because we are afraid of not having the right information, your choices are sign it and get it going or send it to these people and have them sign it if you are not comfortable with it. In a business we are worried about a lot of expenses and insurance is one of them and we haven't moved a single foot in 2 or 3 months and I think it is ridiculous."**

Pavey said, "the one involving the least medical questions is going to get you the better rate. The statistics say that if you are a large group the costs are going to balance out because there are more people to spread it out over. If you don't use that advantage and you fill out that 3 pager, the same insurance companies are going to quote, but your rates are going to be completely different because they are going to know every single thing about you instead of just some general stuff. There's the smokin mirrors in insurance. It's that simple."

Newhouse said he did not believe the City of Rushville could know very much of anything about employees as far as their health care is concerned.

Pavey said the only person that really has the most knowledge of that is the person who handles the medical process.

Copley stated that her office does not handle claims so basically what you know is what you hear off the street. It is very hard to be accurate.

Sheehan said his question was **"if it is not the job of the Clerk-Treasurer, whose job is it to get the process going? Does anybody have that answer?"**

Goins made a motion that Pavey, as Council President, sign the application. Byrne seconded the motion.

Newhouse asked Pavey if he was comfortable with that.

Pavey stated, "Hey, I have to be comfortable or we don't have insurance."

Newhouse told Pavey to let him look at the application to see what it says.

Pavey said, "I don't care, to be honest with you, what I see is a bunch of people saying I don't feel comfortable. At some point someone has to be comfortable. If that means me, I will do it."

Goins said, "that's quicker than anything with the deadline we have."

Pavey stated, "exactly right."

Bridges said, "we have a motion and a second to allow Pavey to sign the application. Is there any further discussion?"

Pavey said someone else needs to fill in the application because he doesn't know all the needed information.

Bridges said, "there's a case there if someone else fills it out I don't have a problem signing it. I don't feel comfortable filling stuff out that I don't know anything about. If you understand what I mean. It's on the floor. Is there any further discussion?"

Newhouse asked if this was being signed under penalties of perjury or anything of that nature or just representing what you know.

Pavey said, "at this point all I can say, Tracy, is I handed the application to Bob. I didn't read all the fine print."

Bridges stated, "I gave it to Marcia."

Newhouse said to let him look at it to determine if we are signing off as to what we know there's not much that we know about the health of our employees, if none of us are handling the claims.

McGowan questioned who handles the claims.

Copley answered, "the doctor's offices and the insurance company. The only time the Clerk-Treasurer's office has anything to do with a claim is if there is a problem getting something paid."

Sheehan said, **"have we answered the one question, whose job is this? I don't understand why it's here. This is ludicrous that we are...."**

Pavey said, "it is here, from my point of view, to be honest with you, it's here because I can't bid insurance."

Sheehan said, **"right, and I appreciate that, but I'm flat out saying, Ann, this, why this hasn't gotten done is, I don't know. At that point I don't know and if at that point if the mayor steps in and does your job and sends it on, you are the representative we have already sent it to be done to the people in your office to get the information and we are stymied. This is the first I heard that we are stymied because of a signature."**

Copley said, "Brian, I have never signed these applications before."

Sheehan asked, **"who did?"**

Copley answered, "the mayor has signed before."

Bridges stated, "it was given to me and I had to sign it."

Sheehan said, **"well praise the Lord somebody signed it."**

Goins said, "but the trick to that, Brian, are you not the chairman of the insurance company?"

Pavey answered, "Yes, I am."

Goins said, "that's why I am bringing this forward."

Pavey stated, "yes."

Goins asked Pavey, "when you started talking I wondered if this was coming from the committee?"

Pavey said, "yes, because I asked the insurance company if they got their stuff and they said no because the applications are not done yet. I asked Bob why the applications aren't done yet and he said no one has signed them because no one is comfortable."

Byrne said, "technically, if I understand this correctly, none of us really can sign it by my understanding because of the privacy act. You cannot talk to any employee about any claims."

Sheehan said, "**I guess I go back to the second part of it. Why weren't we proactive 2 months ago or whenever the hell this happened and say, here you go individuals get this filled out and get it back to us within the next month?**"

Newhouse said, "so we really don't know anything. We don't know anything about the employee's health."

Pavey said, "the less educated you are on the topic the better you are."

Newhouse said, "if it is such a hardship, then send it out to all employees to do it."

Bridges said, "then you probably aren't going to get the better rate."

Byrne said, "the question I have is if the form is generic enough and it doesn't ask for detailed information."

Bridges said, "the employee form does."

Byrne asked, "the one you are asking to be signed doesn't ask for any detailed information?"

Copley said, "it simply asks do you know of any pre-existing problems."

Bridges said, "if you are comfortable signing we have a motion on the floor and we have a second. I call for question. All in favor signify by saying aye."

Council answered, "aye".

Bridges continued, "opposed the same." To which no one answered.

Bridges said, "motion carries."

Pavey said, "Guys, if you complain about your insurance, I'm only responsible to a point."

Sheehan stated, "**I would certainly like the minutes to reflect some of my comments, in bold.**"

Comprehensive Plan Contract – Bridges reviewed the following changes suggested by the Board of Works:

1. Under "deliverables" instead of "one copy" it should be changed to "two copies".
2. Under "Payment to the Consultant" paragraph 2 the sentence "Invoice amounts unpaid for more than 30 days are subject to a 1% premium of the invoice." Should be deleted.
3. Under the amount of meetings. There should be a maximum of 14 meetings, with fewer if deemed necessary.
4. Under "Payment to the Consultant" paragraph 1, place a period after \$25,000.00 and delete "with the option for an additional \$5,000.00 to maintain an office in the City of Rushville."
5. On Page 4 under "Trips to community", delete the paragraph, "The consultant will make up to twenty-five total trips to the community throughout the process. Additional trips, if necessary, will be billed on a mileage basis."
6. Under "Scope of Consultant Services" delete the words "up to" and provide the specific number.

Sheehan made a motion to approve the changes recommended by the Board of Works and to give the Board of Works the authority to sign the contract after the changes are made. McGowan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS * * *

None.

Claims Approval – Pavey made a motion to approve the claims as presented. Byrne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before Council, Goins made a motion to adjourn. Sheehan seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

ROBERT M. BRIDGES, MAYOR

WILLIAM R. GOINS, MEMBER

DARRIN L. MCGOWAN, MEMBER

BRIAN J. SHEEHAN, MEMBER

JOHN M. BYRNE, MEMBER

MICHAEL P. PAVEY, MEMBER

ATTEST:

ANN L. COPLEY, CLERK-TREASURER