

City Council
October 1, 2014
5:30 p.m.

The Atlantic City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers at City Hall with Mayor Jones presiding. Council Members present were: Jimerson, Somers, Hayes, Hartkopf, Stuart, Halder, and Cord. Absent: none.

Jimerson moved, Hartkopf seconded, to approve the agenda as posted. All in favor.

Hayes moved, Hartkopf seconded, to approve the consent agenda which includes: minutes of the September 17, 2014 Council Meeting and the route for the Fireman's Parade on October 11, 2014. All in favor.

Dave Sturm of Snyder and Associates, Inc. explained that a change order was needed for the 2013 Street Improvements Project due to poor soil conditions. He also noted that 10 more working days have been added because of the weather.

Hartkopf moved, Jimerson seconded, to approve Change Order #6 for \$7,193.44 for said project. All in favor.

Susan Fisher of the Environmental Protection Agency told the Council that upon groundwater testing, contamination was found with the source being from a former dry cleaning business located on the southeast side of Seventh & Plum Streets. She explained the course of action that needs to be taken, which could cost up to \$1,500,000, to stop the plume from migrating towards the Atlantic Municipal Utilities well field. The removal of the contamination at the source area and remedial action could take several years.

Funding for the cleanup could be paid by the EPA if the City is first placed on the National Priorities List, with the site then being placed on the Superfund National Priorities List. EPA attorney, Dave Hoefer, explained how the process works for the funding and he also addressed some concerns by the Council.

Halder moved, Hartkopf seconded, to approve a request from the EPA to support their decision to move forward with the nomination of the former dry cleaners site at Seventh & Plum Streets to be placed on the National Priorities List. All in favor.

Mayor Jones opened the public hearing as officially published regarding the disposal of property at 1200 Birch Street and 1106 Poplar Street. No written or oral comments were filed.

Jimerson moved, Hartkopf seconded, to close the public hearing. All in favor.
The properties will now be put up for bid.

City Administrator Doug Harris reported on an agreement with Fox Engineering to conduct a study regarding the discharge of effluent from Mahle Engine Components USA, Inc. into the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The cost of the study, which is not to exceed \$13,000, will be paid for by Mahle.

Somers moved, Jimerson seconded, to authorize the Mayor to sign said agreement with Fox Engineering regarding the effluent from Mahle Engine Components USA, Inc. All in favor.

The Mayor read a statement regarding the resignation of City Administrator Doug Harris.

Those speaking in support of Harris were: Doug Harris, Roger Steffens, Jeremy Butler, Rhea Whetstone, Kern Miller, Mark Wedemeyer, Nancy Armstrong, and Larry Hummel.

When asked by Wedemeyer if he would stay if given the opportunity, Harris commented how he was asked to resign and though he's enjoyed working for the Council, they have different viewpoints than he has and he respected that.

At 6:27 p.m., Hartkopf moved, Halder seconded, to go into closed session to discuss the competency of an employee whose discharge is being considered, as allowed in Section 21.5 (i) of the State Code. All in favor.

At 7:08 p.m., the Council reconvened to open session with no final action taken in closed session.

Jimerson moved, Hartkopf seconded, to approve the resignation (effective October 3, 2014) and severance agreement with the City Administrator. The motion passed on a 4-3 vote with Jimerson, Stuart, and Cord voting against.

Somers moved, Hayes seconded, to appoint John Lund as Interim City Administrator effective October 4, 2014, for a six month period with his salary to be recommended by the Personnel and Finance Committee. All in favor.

City Administrator Doug Harris informed the Council about several matters including: that a development company from Cedar Rapids is looking at renovating the former Whitney Hotel at 222 Chestnut Street, sanitary sewer improvements on Maple Street between Ninth and Tenth Streets, and various work being done by the Street Department.

Jimerson moved, Hayes seconded, to approve the bills totaling \$203,906.61. All in favor.

Council Committee Reports were given as follows: Cord-Chamber of Commerce; Halder-Atlantic Municipal Utilities and Community Development; Hartkopf-Cable TV Commission; and Jimerson-Cass County Public Safety and Community Protection.

Fire Chief Mark McNees reported that he has made the necessary corrections to the Mutual Aid Agreement with the City of Lewis.

Jimerson moved, Halder seconded, to adjourn at 7:39 p.m. All in favor.

David R. Jones
Mayor

Attest: Deb Wheatley Field
City Clerk