

Minutes of the Regular Arcola City Council Meeting Monday, January 5, 2004

Mayor Manna called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Alderpersons Lampe, Kile, Williams, Ferguson, Wheeler and Gentry. Attorney Moore, Treasurer Harvey, City Foreman Jack Logan, Police Chief Mike Phillips and Zoning Officer Byron Joergens were present.

Mayor Manna welcomed the large group in attendance and wished everyone a Happy New Year. Mayor Manna thanked Alderman Larry Ferguson, who served as Mayor Pro-Tem at last Council meeting and the City Council for working with Alderman Ferguson.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Alderwoman Lampe led the Council and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Manna reviewed the guidelines for the Council meetings. He asked anyone wanting to make public comment to raise their hand and to keep their comments to three minutes. He asked that all speak loudly and in an orderly manner.

Mayoral, Council and Engineers Comments on Sanitary Sewer and Storm Sewer Problems:

Mayor Manna said there were two issues to be discussed tonight, one the Libman expansion issue and the other the Sanitary Sewer Problems on the west side of town after the rains this past weekend. Mayor Manna received many calls from upset citizens and did drive around town to look at the water standing. He said the storm sewer drainage repairs that were done this past summer did help, but there was more to be done.

Alderman Williams said he did not see much water standing this morning. The most water he saw was on the south end of Diamond St. and in front of the houses on West Jefferson St. Williams said he had said he would wait and see how the storm sewer project worked and if it did not help the sanitary sewer problems then the City would continue to try to fix the sanitary sewer problems. He said an item on the agenda did pertain to repair of the sanitary sewers and it was put on the agenda before it rained this past weekend.

Alderman Wheeler said he had 8" – 10" of water under his house and in his back yard that he has not had before. Wheeler felt the City had done the right thing with the storm sewer project this past summer, but did need to address the sanitary sewer problems now. He said there are sanitary sewer problems all over town.

Alderwoman Kile said she did drive around this past weekend and did not feel it was as bad as it has been.

Alderwoman Lampe said the south end of town had some flooding.

Alderman Williams said you have to give the rainwater enough time to get out of town. He said the ditches southwest of town were full and flowing so it just takes time for that much rain to get away.

Marty Vogel of Clark-Dietz, Inc. felt the problems result from the fact that the system is an old clay tile system and there is a lot of infiltration into the sanitary sewer. The repair of the storm sewer was never a fix for the sanitary sewer problems. He said the storm sewer seems to be working fine, but the sanitary system leaks very bad and is overworking the Arcola Avenue Lift Station. Vogel said the City has discussed repairs to the sanitary system on the west side of town and that is one of the agenda items tonight. Vogel felt problems on the west side of town should be listed and prioritized based on worst case to the least. Vogel said the first repairs would be on West Jefferson St., which is going to be advertised for bids after tonight's approval. This repair would consist of lining the sanitary sewer tile, as was done on W. Washington St. last year. The City has the money in the current budget to take care of this repair, according to Treasurer Harvey.

Public Comment:

Ed Fidler felt the new storm drain system had handled the rain very well this past weekend. He said the north side of West Jefferson St. was dryer than the south side of the street. In front of the High School there was a lot of water standing. He said on the west side of the school a storm drain was found standing above the water, where the water could not get to it, which needed to be corrected. Fidler suggested dropping die in the tiles in the area farm ground tiles and see if the die comes out in the sanitary sewer. He also suggested checking the High School for improper connections into the tiles. Fidler said the previous Council had voted to repair the storm sewer first in hopes that it would help the sanitary sewer.

Dorie Edwards was present and questioned why the water from her front yard is now under her house if the storm sewer system is working so well. She said the City did not put the catch basin in the lowest part of her yard.

Mayor Manna said Don Graven in the past has had problems with water, but he did not have problems with this rain.

Theresa Nave was present and said they have had raw sewage in their basement, but luckily were home and were able to turn the valve to keep the sewage from coming in. She said they could not use water or their bathroom facilities. She said if the City is trying to correct the problem that she was very appreciative of that fact and would be a happy person.

Don Rhodes said the City lined the sewer tiles from Arcola Ave. lift station to Diamond St. and behind each of the houses north to Washington St. and the line was supposedly in good shape. Now with the first rain the sanitary sewer line filled up and on Rt. 133 in Jeff Honn's front yard sanitary sewerage was shooting up and was worse than it was before. Rhodes felt the water was coming from the school and the new drainage system did not work properly. Don Rhodes did not feel the City Engineer was doing their job and felt the City should hire a new engineer.

Alderwoman Kile questioned if Clark Dietz has reviewed the school's drainage work and if the system is working properly. Marty Vogel said he did not know if they had resolved if they were done or not, but that they could call the school's engineer's and review the system with them.

Linda Clark was present and told the Council that she had problems with sanitary sewer backup at her residence on West Jefferson St. that she has never had before. The sewer line was full in her back yard and Roto Rooter came and gave her a little relief. Mrs. Clark has a beauty shop in her home and her business is dependent on a working sewer system.

Homer Clark said the manhole behind the Clark's house was full and residents west of the manhole were having problems, but residents east of the manhole were not having problems.

Joe Hunter said he was also having problems with his sanitary sewer that he had not had before. He felt there was a blockage east of the Clark's residence.

Bud Sanders was present and said he had lived on Diamond St. for 38 years and he felt the size of the tile was too small for the flow.

Dorothy Fidler suggested that the City hire a different engineer for the sanitary sewer project.

Don Rhodes felt the City Engineer should have been in the City when the rain was falling to see how the system was working.

Mayor Manna said that he and some of the Aldermen and Jack Logan had seen where the water was standing and did not feel the engineer should be called down at that time.

Mr. Rhodes said he was not satisfied with the answers that Marty Vogel was giving and felt the City should hire another engineering firm.

Mayor Manna said he had given the public enough time to speak on this issue.

Alderman Ferguson told the audience that the City could not answer all of the questions tonight, but that they will continue to research and find answers to the sanitary sewer problems.

Alderman Gentry said he received a call about water standing at the corner of East Jefferson and Jacques St. The Parks were also flooded. Alderman Gentry agreed with Alderman Ferguson that the City would continue to find answers to the sanitary sewer problems.

Mayor Manna said the top priority for 2004 would be to try and solve the sanitary sewer problems.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 15, 2003 MINUTES Alderman Wheeler moved to approve the December 15, 2003 Council Meeting Minutes, copies of which were furnished to each Council member and was seconded by Alderman Ferguson. Roll call vote, Lampe, aye; Kile, aye; Williams, aye; Ferguson, aye; Wheeler, aye; Gentry, aye. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT Alderman Williams moved to approve the December Zoning Officer's Report consisting of \$ 131,700.00 Valuation and \$ 223.24 Permit Fees and was seconded by Alderwoman Lampe. Roll call vote, Lampe, aye; Kile, aye; Williams, aye; Ferguson, aye; Wheeler, aye; Gentry, aye. Motion carried. Permits were issued to: Bill Hendrickson, 213N 800E CR for a garage; John Nacke, 305 W. Main St. addition to dwelling; E. Dale King, 223 W. Jefferson, accessory structure; Chris Good Construction, South Elm St. for a house.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER TREASURER'S REPORT Alderman Ferguson moved to approve the December Treasurer's Report as presented and was seconded by Alderman Wheeler. Roll call vote, Lampe, aye; Kile, aye; Williams, aye; Ferguson, aye; Wheeler, aye; Gentry, aye. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 13, 2003 – JANUARY 2, 2004 BILLS Alderman Ferguson moved to approve the December 13, 2003 – January 2, 2004 bills as presented and was seconded by Alderwoman Kile. Roll call vote, Lampe, aye; Kile, aye; Williams, aye; Ferguson, aye; Wheeler, aye; Gentry, aye. Motion carried. Alderman Ferguson thought the City should pay the Internet bill for the public works department annually, if there would be a cost savings.

APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE 04-S-1, TIF REDEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT – LIBMAN COMPANY Alderman Ferguson moved to approve Ordinance 04-S-1, An Ordinance approving a TIF Redevelopment Agreement by and between the City of Arcola, and Libman Equipment Partnership (Libman-Phase 2 Expansion) and was seconded by Alderwoman Kile. Roll call vote, Lampe, aye; Kile, aye; Williams, aye; Ferguson, aye; Wheeler, aye; Gentry, aye. Motion carried.

LIBMAN COMPANY EXPANSION – PHASE III PROPOSAL Mayor Manna welcomed Robert Libman of the Libman Co. and Tom Berns, their Engineer, as well as Ken, Structural Engineer for the Libman Co. Mayor Manna thanked Tom Berns, ex-State Representative as well as the late Stanley Weaver, State Senator, who were instrumental in getting Illinois First money for the renovations of City Hall. Mayor Manna reported that he had been receiving correspondence about the Phase III Expansion of the Libman Company and invited Mr. Libman and Mr. Berns to attend the Council to inform the City of their expansion plans. Mayor Manna told the Council and audience he was in favor of Libman's expansion and bringing employment to the City. Mayor Manna said this would be an informational meeting only tonight and no decisions would be made.

Robert Libman acknowledged his engineers who were present and directed the Council to a model of the facility that they had on display. Mr. Libman gave a history of the Libman Company which originated by his grandfather in 1896 in Chicago and moved to Tuscola, IL in 1932. Tom Monahan called his grandfather and offered him an old school that was for sale and the Libman

Company moved to Arcola in 1957. The Company has since been passed on to the next generations, where it now is operated by Robert and his brother Bill as well as their children. The Company started selling corn brooms and has grown from approximately 6,000 square feet and 15 employees to 800,000 square feet and over 250 employees. The original plant is on the south portion of the property and the expansions have been going north on the property. The factory relies heavily on automation and robotics. Most of their equipment is bought from Italy. The new expansion is a two-year plan which will be a complete reorganization of the plant. Mr. Libman pointed out the future plans on the model and explained part of the manufacturing process. More space is needed for finished goods and the new facility will house the finished goods so they are ready for shipment to their there customers within three days. The new expansion will be approximately 156,000 square feet. Mr. Libman hoped the new expansion would be done by October of next year. Mr. Libman said part of the older plant will be removed and rebuilt as well as additional parking areas constructed. Mr. Libman said he is a believer in this country and will not move their plant out of the United States like many other companies are doing. His hopes are to keep growing in Arcola.

Pat Monahan of the Monahan Company and Chairman of the City's Economic Development Committee and TIF Committee was present and commended The Libman Company. He said he was sure Libman's were one of the top producer's of brooms and mops in the United States, coming in over O'Ceder and Rubbermaid. Monahan said the City has a lot to offer with the additional employment that the Libman Company is bringing to Arcola.

Mayor Manna asked for Attorney Moore's opinion on the Libman expansion as far as legalities. Attorney Moore said he is working with the Libman Attorney's now on possibly bringing more of the Libman property into the TIF District. Attorney Moore said he is in favor of doing whatever the City can do to help the Libman Company within the legal boundaries.

Ken, the Structural Architect for the The Libman Company said he has worked for Libman's since they have started adding on in Arcola and they always strive for the best. He asked anyone with any questions to contact him personally.

Tom Berns, of Berns, Clancy and Associates addressed the Council and said his engineering firm has looked at the growth of the plant and has planned for storm water drainage in the area. He said they would continue to work with the City striving for the best for the City of Arcola and the Libman Company.

Alderman Gentry asked about the increase in truck traffic. Mr. Libman said there will be an increase in truck traffic, but hoped that in the future trucks could come in from Rt. 45 and come in the north side of the plant.

Mayor Manna read a letter received from Dawn Miller and her husband, who was speaking for themselves as well as her parents, Dave and Bev Pryor, who live east of the Libman plant. Their concern was about the increase in truck traffic and deteriorating the street. Mr. & Mrs. Pryor were present and expressed their concerns. Mr. Libman said there would be no more truck traffic on Jacques St. than there already is. He said they would address the dust concerns which they have also. Mr. Libman told the Pryor's to contact him with any concerns and he would take care of them.

Alderwoman Kile commended the Libman Company on what they have done with their business and wished them continued success. She said the City is lucky to have a business such as the Libman's in town.

Mayor Manna asked Alderwoman Kile as Building and Grounds Chairman to be in charge of the Libman Company expansion in keeping the City informed on their progress.

Pat Monahan said he assumed the Libman Company would be applying for a TIF rebate for the new addition that is already in the City and the TIF District. Mr. Libman agreed with Monahan and invited anyone to come out and tour the plant.

Pat Monahan said the TIF Advisory Board had discussed adding property west of True Value on Rt. 133 to the TIF District. He said this had been discussed when Lynda Fishel was Mayor and was

dropped at that time. He said there are parties interested in building on the property. Mayor Manna said he and Attorney Moore were aware of that and are working on it.

Monahan said Mac Boyd has prospects for some of the buildings on Rt. 133. He said they are working on getting all of the vacant buildings filled.

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING LETTING BIDS FOR SANITARY SEWER REPAIRS BEHIND WEST JEFFERSON ST. Alderman Williams moved to authorize Clark Dietz to prepare bid specs and advertise for bids for sanitary sewer repair on West Jefferson St. and was seconded by Alderwoman Kile. Roll call vote, Lampe, aye; Kile, aye; Williams, aye; Ferguson, aye; Wheeler, aye; Gentry, aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Manna said he and City Foreman Logan and Marty Vogel would look at the situation behind the Clark's where an in ground swimming pool was put in this past summer.

CONSIDER USDA LOAN RESOLUTION Alderman Ferguson moved to approve a USDA Loan Resolution authorizing the City to borrow \$840,000.00 from USDA for the South Side Storm Sewer Project and was seconded by Alderman Wheeler. Roll call vote, Lampe, aye; Kile, aye; Williams, aye; Ferguson, aye; Wheeler, aye; Gentry, aye. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Alderwoman Lampe - Alderwoman Lampe had nothing to report at this time.

Alderwoman Kile – Alderwoman Kile said she did finally talk with Brent McKee from Mediacom and they were to take care of the cable at the end West Washington St.

Mayor Manna said the Senior Citizen men asked for permission to go to the Chief of Police or Officer on duty to open the Arcola Center on the afternoons that they play cards. Mayor Manna asked the Police Chief to note this.

Alderwoman Kile reported that the heating and air conditioning problem is hopefully fixed in City Hall. She said there was a bad valve that the repairperson had not found.

Alderman Williams – Alderman Williams had nothing to report at this time.

Alderman Ferguson – Alderman Ferguson reported that the audit was in and he would like to have a committee meeting to have the auditor come down and review and answer questions about the audit. Due to staff problems and getting the audit out late to the City, the auditor credited the City \$2,000.00.

Alderman Wheeler – Alderman Wheeler reported that the Street and Alley Committee met this evening and discussed the plans for the South Side Storm Sewer. He said Marty had reviewed the plans with them and they are 95% complete. Wheeler said Jack Logan has the plans and anyone is welcomed to look at them. Marty Vogel said the City will hopefully vote to advertise for bids at the next meeting and open bids the last part of February and award the bid the first meeting in March and begin construction in April, 2004.

Alderman Wheeler reported that the Police Committee had met earlier this evening and addressed putting a Stop sign in at Bailey Addition. He said Chief Phillips also informed the committee of the new law on Racial Profiling. The Police Officers will now have to keep track of the race of the people they stop. He said there would now be written warnings given instead of verbal warnings.

Alderman Wheeler said it was discussed that a No Passing Zone is needed on the Rt. 133 curve west of the school. Wheeler said this would be an item that IDOT needs to take care of. Chief Phillips will take care of contacting IDOT.

Alderman Gentry – Alderman Gentry reported that he and some other Arcola residents had attended a meeting with the Douglas County Health Department on Boil Order Protocol. He asked for

a Water Committee Meeting to be held on Monday , January 26 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the boil order protocol.

Alderman Gentry said the Park Committee would meet at 7:00 p.m. on Monday January 12 at City Hall to discuss the Park Summer Recreation Program and Swimming Pool.

Ed Fidler told the Council that several years ago the EPA notified the City that cross connections on residential water lines were to be checked by a registered plumber. He said it was going to be very costly and it was never done. He also felt residences should be checked for illegal hook-ups into the sanitary and storm sewer from their gutter, etc.

Fidler said the property west of town of the curve needs to be cleaned up and the Police need to act on it soon.

Fidler said there are several houses in town where several people are living in one house and he has had several complaints. He said there is a house on the South side of town that five families live in. Fidler said the City should address this.

Mayoral Comments: Mayor Manna questioned if the City would have a Council meeting on Martin Luther King's birthday. The City Offices are open so the Council meeting would be held at the regular time and date on January 19.

Mayor Manna thanked Krista Lewin from the Mattoon paper for attending tonight's meeting.

Mayor Manna said he hoped everyone appreciated the Libman Company and said he was grateful to have the Libman Company in Arcola.

As this concluded the business of the meeting, Alderwoman Kile moved to adjourn and was seconded by Alderwoman Lampe. Council approved unanimously by voice vote.

Adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Andrew A. Manna Sr., Mayor
Vickie Dill, City Clerk