

REGULAR SESSION, COMMON COUNCIL, FEBRUARY 24, 2014

Be it Remembered that the Common Council of the City of Plymouth, Indiana, met in regular session on February 24, 2014. The meeting was held in the Council Chambers of the City Building, 124 N. Michigan Street, Plymouth, Indiana. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Senter led the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilman Delp offered prayer.

Senter presided for Council Members Delp, Culp, Ecker, Smith and Grobe. Clerk-Treasurer Hutchings, City Engineer Gaul and City Attorney Surrisi were also present.

Councilmen Delp and Culp moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting on February 10, 2014 and to dispense with reading them since they have been reviewed and found to be correct. The motion carried.

Mayor Senter presented his State of the City address:

To: Members of the Common Council
Madam Clerk-Treasurer Toni Hutchings
Members of the media
The Citizens of Plymouth

Good evening and thank you for this opportunity to address the Common Council tonight on the status of this wonderful city in which we live and work. It is my distinct pleasure for six years now to serve the City of Plymouth as your mayor. Tonight's theme is DIRECTIONS and I believe that Plymouth is doing it RIGHT!

Let me start out by thanking the great employees of Plymouth. They all do an outstanding job and I hear nothing but praise while I am out and about in the city. I commend each and every one of you for a job well done and I know you will keep up the great work! THE RIGHT DIRECTION!

The department heads are beyond reproach and enthusiastically go out of the way to make the city a better place to live and work.

When you think of city departments you often think of several employees that work for one department head. But there is one department that is often overlooked because it only has one employee. I am referring to the City Attorney's office. I introduced Sean Surrisi to the council two years ago during the State of The City and I must say he has gone beyond what I expected. Sean has proven to be a great writer, counselor, mediator, investigator, troubleshooter and most importantly, friend, that has kept all of us out of hot water more than a few times. THE RIGHT DIRECTION!

Also with us tonight is the 2013 Indiana Association of Cities and Town's Financial Management Award winner. Clerk-Treasurer Toni Hutchings has positively operated the city's finances like no other in the State of Indiana and she has taught all of us so much about it as well! The State of Indiana is full of clerk-treasurers that were elected into office and had no idea what they have gotten themselves into. In our city, we don't have to be concerned with that because we have the best there is. Municipal finances are like no other! Thank you, Toni, for all that you have done to make this city what it is today! THE RIGHT DIRECTION!

I want to thank the Common Council for your input, your thoughts and your conscientious decisions in making this city go! I love it when you call me after getting your packet with questions about the agenda and upcoming decisions to be made. You don't always agree with the resolution or ordinance before you, but you are always respectful of the process! THE RIGHT DIRECTION!

For the third year in a row I start out tonight talking about OPERATION BRIGHT SPOT! I would like to announce tonight that the job of code enforcement will be moving from the building commissioner's office to the Plymouth Police Department. Building Commissioner Keith Hammonds loves his job of inspections but is often tied down by code enforcement actions. Police Chief David Bacon has dedicated two officers (one on the day shift and one on the evening shift) to take on this task with the assistance of Mr. Hammonds and new receptionist/secretary Marilyn King. THE RIGHT DIRECTION!

On April 26th the Mayor's Youth Council is planning a major Earth Day celebration and program here in Plymouth. The council is currently writing letters to invite numerous church groups, service clubs, other youth groups and school organizations to be involved as well. The Council, who will be addressing the common council at the next meeting in March, would love to have 200 people involved to help beautify the downtown and areas along the Mighty Yellow River. THE RIGHT DIRECTION!

In June of 2011 at the Yellow River Festival the Mayor's Youth Council named the downtown park RIVER PARK SQUARE. With the assistance of the Troyer Group, the Park Board, the Clerk-treasurer's office, the Redevelopment Commission and a local company, Michiana Contracting, we were able to break ground on June 1st of last year and 83 days from today, when its sunny...and warm...and dry...and green...standing on new sod and brick in the shadows of a bandshell, pergola and archway we will be able to cut the ribbon for our new River Park Square. Finally, after going through basements, bad weather and a few change orders we are almost there.

Right behind River Park Square the City was recently awarded \$445,504 for a second phase of the Greenways Trail from Founders Park to Garro Street. This will include a new footbridge across the Mighty Yellow just north of Garro Street. Construction is still a few years away, but it's another step to beautifying our downtown area. THE RIGHT DIRECTION!

The City is working well with the Marshall County Economic Development Corporation. Job retention is just as important as job creation. We have witnessed two great examples of that just this year with the expansion of both American Container and Kessler Crane. Both of these corporations promise jobs and new equipment to help their businesses grow and prosper.

The MCEDC is further entrenched in Marshall County by offering quarterly Community Conversations involving all the entities that are members of the corporation. In these luncheon meetings egos and turf wars are left at the door and a regional concept of economic development is positively discussed. I truly appreciate that process. THE RIGHT DIRECTION!

The Plymouth Municipal Airport has seen many changes since David Lattimer took over in July of 2010. For many years the talk of the Board of Aviation Commissioners was to lengthen the runway, but we had buildings in need of desperate repair. With Dave's leadership and the board's aggressiveness we have new roofs, new heating and air conditioning in nearly every building, a new sign, sidewalks, landscaping, new pilot's quarters and lobby and major improvements to all of the hangars at just over \$371,000. THE RIGHT DIRECTION!

Thanks to a partnership between the City of Plymouth's Redevelopment Commission, the MCEDC, Garmong Construction and the Plymouth Industrial Development Corporation we will be breaking ground on a new shell building on April 8th. This all started at a meeting in January of 2012 and finally after a flood of bureaucracy we are ready to take that next step. We are looking forward to brand new building on Commerce Drive to attract more economic development to The City. I cannot say enough about Derek Spier, Pam Davis and the MCEDC in this regard! THE RIGHT DIRECTION!

In closing, I must speak about the four points of the Stellar Community Program that we sent off to the State of Indiana last week:

- The City's first Stellar project is the total renovation of this historic structure of the Old Firehouse with its repurposing and dedication as a permanent veteran's center. Age and weather have taken its toll on the building and it's time to fix and repair this icon of Plymouth's past while giving veterans a place to work on and show off their hobbies.
- Project 2: Plymouth's second Stellar project is improved streetscapes in a quadrant of blocks of the downtown giving definition and a town square feel to the area. Our new town square will celebrate our State's coming Bicentennial and the youth that will make Indiana's third century even better. With this project, the City intends to attain Legacy Project approval from the Indiana Bicentennial Commission. The Mayor's Youth Council will take a leading role in engaging their fellow young people in the planning of this project and will ultimately fulfill their pledge by adopting a portion of these streets to provide ongoing care and upkeep.
- Project 3: Our third Stellar project is an outreach to the Nickel Plate Neighborhood unifying it with the downtown and fostering housing development. Currently, the Nickel Plate area is, in my opinion, one of the most blighted parts of The City. The City worked with the meth home owners, through its unsafe building fund, to assist with required remediation and clean up. The City plans, through continued cooperation, to assist with the rehab of the properties or to demolish and replace them with new model infill housing. The City will also work with experienced local developers toward development of a senior villas housing addition in the neighborhood. Further streetscape improvements will link this area to our new town square.
- Project 4: Plymouth's fourth Stellar project is completion of Phase II of River Park Square along with construction of a new mixed-use building at the City's South Gateway. This project returns the remainder of the flood plain to green space. The park will be connected to Gill Park to the north by a footbridge over the Yellow River as part of the second phase of the City's Greenways Trail and will be further connected to the City's South Gateway redevelopment project with another footbridge. This will ultimately create a trail system connecting five city parks and over four miles of trail. The project includes carrying out recent engineering plans to refurbish the existing historic foot bridge, which was originally constructed in 1898. Recreation on the river will be enhanced with the addition of a kayak launch. The park will include a formal gardens and additional opportunities for urban gardening with expansion of the City's existing Community Garden. THE RIGHT DIRECTION

We have a STELLAR COMMUNITY already here in Plymouth, but let's take it to the next level and a positive direction.

Author and public speaker Dr. Deepak Chopra once said: "No solution can ever be found by running in three different directions." Ladies and gentleman, the City of Plymouth is going in one direction and I believe it is the RIGHT ONE! Thank you!

City Attorney Surrisi presented Resolution No. 2014-596, Resolution of the City of Plymouth

Declaring Certain Real Estate to be Within an "Economic Revitalization Area" Pursuant to I.C. 6-1.1-12.1 et seq. (American Containers, Inc.).

Derek Spier of Marshall County Economic Development Corporation and Michael Isban and Leonard Isban were present on behalf of American Containers.

Councilmen Smith and Culp moved and seconded to adopt Resolution No. 2014-596, Resolution of the City of Plymouth Declaring Certain Real Estate to be Within an "Economic Revitalization Area" Pursuant to I.C. 6-1.1-12.1 et seq. (American Containers, Inc.). It passed by roll call vote.

AYES: Delp, Culp, Ecker, Smith and Grobe
NAYS: None

Mayor Senter introduced Chamber of Commerce Treasurer Dan Weidner. Weidner introduced Dan Tyree who is President of the Redevelopment Commission and Superintendent of Plymouth Community School Corporation and Sarah Smith representing PIDCO. Weidner asked the city to consider joining 50/50 with the Chamber of Commerce in hiring an executive director/city development director, with that person being a full time employee of the City of Plymouth. Weidner estimated that the city's share of the employee would be \$46,000. He said that the Chamber would also contribute \$46,000, but part of that would go towards the funding of the Chamber's secretarial staff.

Weidner said that at one time, PIDCO, the City, the County and the Chamber of Commerce contributed funds to Plymouth Economic Development Corporation and hired an individual to represent all of the parties. He said that several years ago the county withdrew its funding; a year later the city switched its funding from PEDC to Marshall County Economic Development Corporation and PIDCO also withdrew its funding and the Chamber did not have the resources to continue.

Mayor Senter said there is not funding for this in the 2014 budget, so it will not happen this year.

City Attorney Surrisi said that if the council chooses to move forward with this, there is a considerable amount of research to be done and concerns to be considered.

Councilmen Smith and Grobe moved and seconded to table the matter for further review by the city attorney. The motion carried.

Airport Manager Lattimer presented the Plymouth Municipal Airport 2014-2019 Capital Improvement Program Update to the council.

Senter offered the privilege of the floor to members in the audience. No one accepted.

Councilmen Ecker and Delp moved and seconded to accept the following communications: minutes of the Board of Public Works and Safety meeting of February 10, 2014; minutes of the Redevelopment Commission meeting of January 21, 2014; minutes of the Urban Forestry and Flower Committee meeting of February 19, 2014; and the Clerk-Treasurer's Depository Statement and Cash Reconciliation for January, 2014. The motion carried.

There being no further business to discuss, Councilmen Ecker and Grobe moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried; the meeting was declared adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

S/Toni L. Hutchings, IAMC/CMC/CPFA
Clerk-Treasurer

APPROVED

S/Mark Senter, Mayor