

REGULAR SESSION, COMMON COUNCIL, JANUARY 23, 2017

Be it Remembered that the Common Council of the City of Plymouth, Indiana, met in regular session on January 23, 2017. 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 Council Member Ecker offered prayer.

Mayor Senter presided for Councilmembers Cook, Culp, Ecker, Fonseca, Grobe, Houin and Walters. City Attorney Surrisi and Clerk-Treasurer Xaver were also present.

Councilmembers Ecker and Culp moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting and executive session of the Common Council on January 9, 2017 as presented. The motion carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Xaver referred to the list of outstanding unpaid warrants from 2014 to be cancelled, which had been sent in the packet. She said per IC 5-11-10.5, by March 1 of each year, the clerk-treasurer shall prepare a list of checks outstanding and unpaid for 2 or more years as of December 31, which shall be declared cancelled. One copy of the list is filed with the city council, the other is kept in the clerk-treasurer's office. The funds from the cancelled checks are receipted back into the operating balance of the fund from which it was drawn. This requires no action by the council.

Councilmember Houin asked if we have any legal obligations to try and locate the individuals with outstanding checks.

City Attorney Surrisi said that he will look at the state statute and notify the council of his findings.

Xaver also notified the council that she will be requesting the council's approval of the 2015 Annual Operational Report for Local Roads and Streets at the next meeting. The federal government requires that municipalities with a census of 20,000 file this report; however, we have been informed that the state is requiring it as well for all municipalities that receive state funds.

City Attorney Surrisi presented Resolution No. 2017-721, A Resolution of the City of Plymouth Establishing an Agreement of Interlocal Cooperation Authorizing Purchasing Through the Nation Joint Powers Alliance.

Councilmembers Ecker and Walters moved and seconded to approve Resolution No. 2017-721, A Resolution of the City of Plymouth Establishing an Agreement of Interlocal Cooperation Authorizing Purchasing Through the Nation Joint Powers Alliance.

Jeff Jones, President of Anco Office Products, addressed the council members in opposition to the agreement.

January 23, 2017

Council Members:

I am here today after watching our new President getting sworn in and pledging to "Put America First", creating wealth within, while creating jobs and increasing our local tax base. I want to address the consideration of Resolution 2017-721, where the City of Plymouth wants to establish an Agreement of Interlocal Cooperation Authorizing Purchasing through the National Joint Powers Alliance.

For those here that don't know me, my name is Jeff Jones, President of Anco Office Products, whose downtown family business has been here for over 40 years. During those four decades plus, we have paid our fair share in local taxes to support our schools, our city and our county offices. As I review the National Joint Powers Alliance, it consists of direct out of county providers, business who pay no taxes to support our employees or local infrastructure improvements. To this I say "Put Marshall County FIRST!" Is being a part of this Alliance in the best interest of local citizens? Will this action help support filling up downtown empty stores, create jobs or increase tax revenue?

I am pretty familiar with purchasing alliances and wish to share my experience and what it means to your community. First of all, I have never been afraid of competition, in fact, we thrive on it. We are extremely competitive in price, in fact as you can see through the comparative sheet, we are regularly 30% lower in price every day. When offered the opportunity against national players such as Staples, we are very competitive!

"Big is not always Better! When Staples came to town years ago, they hired a representative who went around to our accounts saying they were going to drive Anco out of business. Not to brag, but look who is here today still paying their local taxes one decade later and look who isn't!!!

Knowledgeable staff, competitive prices and outstanding service make the local difference! I have run up against coalition buying groups in the past; members are told that they should channel their purchases to their alliance to hit an annual dollar level. In many cases, I believe, members of existing alliances are paying far more than they otherwise would. (Again, I refer you to my provided comparison sheet.) Those prices are everyday website prices taken from Staples and Anco's website late last month. I have witnessed firsthand the complacency

of members in buying groups who automatically purchase at a higher cost because they are told by management that they have to. Again, to this I say; "Bigger is not always Better!" Often the cost to do business with out of town vendors is higher due to higher overhead and transportation costs. The end result, often in the contract, is a higher actual cost to their goods and services while taking away dollars normally spent within their community. Again, I would emphasize that these are the same businesses that don't contribute to our local tax base, don't create jobs or keep money in our community.

In closing, I ask this council to put Plymouth and our County FIRST, to partner with local businesses more and to be extremely diligent in questioning whether such an alliance is really in the best interest of our business community and subsequent tax base upon which you rely.

Respectfully,



Jeff A. Jones, President
Anco Office Products

City Attorney Surrisi clarified that the city's process for purchasing states that anything \$300.00 or greater requires a signed purchase order by the mayor and clerk-treasurer. If the cost is lower than that, especially for office supplies, there is no need to follow the legal process of soliciting quotes or bids for those goods or materials. He explained that the intent of this agreement is to satisfy these legal processes

for large purchases of \$50,000 or more, in which case the National Joint Powers Alliance would have already been through these legal processes on our behalf.

Councilmember Houin asked if the agreement specifically states that we are required to seek all bids through NJPA. He noted that in the Street Department's current situation of trying to purchase a skid-loader, we do not have local businesses that can offer this equipment, so the alliance would be helpful in trying to acquire what is needed.

Jones said he is asking that the local businesses be given a chance to be competitive and understand that these are downtown business who are keeping their doors open and paying taxes into the community.

Lenore Jones added that this is an opportunity for local businesses to get in front of the city and say that they are still open and ready to be competitive. She wants to ensure that this agreement does not lock the city into buying all goods and services through this out-of-state business.

Councilman Grobe noted that his intention behind supporting this resolution is that the agreement would be utilized for niche products that cannot be found in the local area. His understanding is that the agreement would allow for the city to solicit quotes and bids whenever it was a situation where local businesses could have the opportunity to supply services or equipment.

Councilmember Ecker explained that city officials have a financial obligation to taxpayers and when bids and quotes are reviewed, the lowest price is not always the lowest cost. He feels the department heads take these factors into consideration when deciding on purchases and he also feels this avenue is for niche products that cannot be found locally.

Councilmember Walters agreed that local businesses need to be considered first.

The resolution passed by roll call vote.

AYES: Cook, Culp, Ecker, Fonseca, Grobe, Houin and Walters

NAYS: None

City Attorney Surrisi updated the Council on the South Gateway Residential Development and the future vacation of South Water Street. He said the Marshall County Drainage Board and the Board of Zoning Appeals recently approved variances for the project. Surrisi said the next step is to move forward the vacation of South Water Street, which will be presented at the next Technical Review Committee.

Surrisi opened discussion on the combination of parcels for property tax purposes and referred to the presentation he gave at the Board of Works meeting. Councilman Culp asked if Surrisi feels there are any reasons not to allow them to combine these except for the few that we are waiting for more information. Surrisi said he did not see any problem with the combinations and the legal descriptions are not changing.

Surrisi asked for the council's permission to move forward with the assessor's application.

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Members Grobe and Houin moved and seconded to allow Surrisi to move forward with the application. The motion carried.

Mayor Senter offered the privilege of the floor to those in attendance. No one accepted.

Members Ecker and Culp moved and seconded to accept the following communications:

Minutes of the Board of Public Works and Safety meeting of January 9, 2017;
Minutes of the Technical Review Committee meeting of January 17, 2017;
Minutes of the Board of Aviation Commissioners meeting of December 13, 2016;
Minutes of the Redevelopment Commission meeting of December 20, 2016;
List of Outstanding Unpaid Warrants from 2014 to be Cancelled

The motion carried.

There being no further business to discuss, Council Members Culp and Grobe moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was declared adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Jeanine M. Xaver, IAMC
Clerk-Treasurer

APPROVED

Mark Senter, Mayor