

Committee of the Whole
December 18, 2015

Present: Mayor Vulich, Council Members McGraw, Rowland, Gassman, Determann, Wilke, O'Neill (by telephone), Allesee, City Administrator, City Attorney, City Clerk, Press and interested citizens.

1. Discussion of Proposed Public Safety Authority

Councilmember Rowland stated that the City had received a request from the County Board of Supervisors and the Justice Commission to move forward a resolution creating a Public Safety Authority. A PSA allows for a 50% + 1 for a bond referendum passage, as opposed to 60%. Ward meetings were held to gather input from residents and the majority of those attending wanted to keep 60%. He continued in stating that the best way to serve the public is to reject a resolution of support. Voting is a right and a privilege and is sacred to people. He further stated that the Council has a responsibility to 26,000 people.

Councilmembers McGraw and Allesee stated that they were disappointed in the number of residents attending their Ward meetings. Councilmember Allesee continued in stating that residents need to have information on how a PSA would affect their household.

Councilmember Wilke stated that it is the Board of Supervisor's responsibility to keep a building for the Sheriff and to house criminals. He continued in stating that he wished there had been a better turnout at the Ward meetings. He further stated that it is the Council's responsibility to move forward for the people. He proceeded to state that it is too bad that the City will not be a part of this except to vote on the bond referendum. Many people want a new jail; however, do not want to spend what is not necessary.

Councilmember Determann stated that he attended all four meetings. Residents need a lot more information and education regarding a PSA. He continued in stating that he did not hear anyone say they were against a new jail. He further stated that there needs to be a citizens group to drive this.

County Supervisor Dan Srp requested that the City remain partners with the County to get the information out to the people.

Mr. John Totten, 1140 16th Avenue North, stated that the citizens know that a new jail is needed and he hoped that 60% would vote for it; however, it would move forward if people knew the cost. He continued in stating that he hoped that the City could be a partner and work on the design and getting the information out to the public.

Mr. Bob Betsinger stated that it would be best for the City to combine with the County for a jail.

Mr. Richard Hudson, 727 Mill Creek Lane, stated that there is not enough information going out to the people. We are not against a jail, just do not want to build a Taj Mahal.

Mr. Nathan Sondergroth, President of the Clinton Area Chamber of Commerce, advised that the reason for the Chamber's support is to create a framework for the City and County to have a structured partnership.

M/S, Rowland-Gassman moved to forward a resolution to the next City Council agenda approving the Public Safety Authority. On roll call, McGraw, Rowland, Gassman, Determann, O'Neill, Allesee – No; Wilke – Yes. Motion failed.

Mayor Vulich advised that the outcome of the vote does not mean the Council voted down a jail. More information needs to go out to the people as well as the cost to each household. The City can bring this back again after educating the citizens.

2. Mayor & Council Member Updates

Councilmember Determann stated that he had attended Clinton National Bank's 150 years in the community. He congratulated them and thanked them for their part in community development.

Councilmember Rowland advised that there would be the swearing in of elected officials at 11:00 today.

Councilmember O'Neill thanked the Mayor, Councilmembers, and City staff for their support. He welcomed Cody Seeley to the Council.

Councilmember Wilke stated that he echoed Council Member O'Neill's sentiments. He stated that the Council brought the City back from some serious problems and have made a lot of decision which have benefited the community. He commended the citizens involved and stated that the City employees do a tremendous job. He further stated that it is an honor to serve the community.

Councilmember Determann thanked Councilmember Rowland for his years of service.

Mayor Vulich thanked Councilmember Rowland for his years of service. He stated that the Council has done a lot of positive things in the last two years. He continued in stating that we have the same common goal to make Clinton a great place. He thanked the Council and City staff and stated that he looks forward to starting another cycle. He wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

M/S, Determann-Wilke moved to adjourn. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Van Loo
City Clerk