

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 21, 2020
5:30 PM

The April 21, 2020 council meeting was called to order by Mayor Lowell Helget at 5:30 PM. Those present include Helget, John Mueller, Sam Hesse, Theresa Beckman, Mike Rothmeier, City Attorney Paul Muske, City Manager Joe Stremcha and City Clerk Amy Vogel. Others present include Wendy Krier, Bill Helget, Greg and Linda Roiger, Steve and Cindy Gewerth, John Nicholson, Joe Micka, Justin Robertson, and Jill Riederer.

Motion by Rothmeier, second by Beckman to approve the consent agenda with the addition of the 4-17-2020 pool committee minutes and a subordination request. All ayes.

Citizens forum, Gewerth's explained their plan to construct a garage with 12' sidewalls to store a camper and have a portable hoist in it. The current ordinance states that sidewalls can't be over 9.5'. The permit will be considered at next week's zoning meeting.

Motion by Mueller, second by Rothmeier to approve the consent agenda. All ayes. Rothmeier stated that he wants the Rec Complex minutes to be included in this list.

Motion by Mueller, second by Rothmeier to approve payment of \$78,430.19 to Salonek Concrete for the concession stand. All ayes. Stremcha stated that there were issues in getting the hood delivered, which it has been now. They are now able to proceed with the roof.

Stremcha asked the council to consider hiring Andy Spielman as a PT employee to conduct rental inspections at \$50/hr. Spielman is reviewing the proposed ordinance and it is believed that the fees will cover his costs. Motion by Hesse, second by Mueller to approve hiring Spielman at \$50/hr. All ayes.

Bill Helget stated that bids would be opened on April 28, 2020 at 2 PM at the Brown Co Courthouse for the 2020 street project. Brown Co will consider these bids at their May 5, 2020 meeting and will approve the low bid contingent on Springfield council approval. The bid tabulation will be sent to the state. When they have fully reviewed and approve the low bid, they will send a concurrence letter to the city. This should take 1.5 to 2 weeks. The council agreed to hold the final assessment hearing after the project is done. This will allow for actual costs to be used. Having the hearing before the project would delay the project by about 1.5 months and the actual costs wouldn't be known. The council considered adopting a reimbursement resolution due to the removal of the trees ahead of the actual project start. Motion by Beckman, second by Mueller to adopt Res. #20-042102 declaring the city's intent to reimburse expenses from bond proceeds when they are issued. All ayes.

Council discussed the pool and recreational areas for the city due to COVID-19. There are 16 staff members being hired for the pool. However, with trainings being postponed/cancelled, the pool will not be able to open until at least June 15 so that staff can get the required training. Motion by Rothmeier, second by Mueller to hire the seasonal pool staff. All ayes.

For the Rec Complex staff, council asked how this would change if no outdoor activities would be allowed. Stremcha stated that the positions could be hourly because the mowing and upkeep would still have to be done even if there aren't any games. This could be reviewed in May.

Motion by Rothmeier, second by Mueller to hire Brandon Wilhelmi and George Tauer with compensation to be determined at the May meeting depending on the workload. All ayes.

Two quotes were received for street patching – MR Paving \$12,042 and Bargen \$15,845. Motion by Beckman, second by Mueller to approve the low quote of \$12,042 from MR Paving. All ayes.

Council reviewed quotes received on chip sealing – MR Paving \$1.30/sq yd and RH Sealcoating \$2.60/sq yd. There was \$63,000 budgeted for chip sealing but Dale Knutson would like to do about 54,463 sq yds for about \$70,801.90 since there wasn't any done in 2019 due to the amount of patching needed. The 2020 budget also included \$5,000 for crack sealing and \$1,500 for dust control. Motion by Rothmeier, second by Beckman to approve chip sealing the 54,463 sq yds for \$70,801.90 by MR Paving who had the low quote. All ayes.

Dust control was discussed as a quote of \$0.84/ft was received from SW Dust Treatment Inc. This is the same cost as 2019. Council suggested adding Garden St to the spray list. Motion by Beckman, second by Mueller to approve the same dust control as last year and add Garden St to the area sprayed. All ayes.

Motion by Rothmeier, second by Mueller to table the crack filling decision to the May meeting to find out how much is needed. All ayes.

Stremcha stated that the street/parks dept have requested summer hours again. One person would work 7-3:30 all week and would be on-call for the parks. The other employees would work 7-4:30 PM Monday to Thursday and 7-11 AM on Friday except when there is a holiday and then it would be Friday 7-noon. Those on-call or called back would be guaranteed a minimum of 2 hours pay per day at time and a half their base pay. Motion by Mueller, second by Beckman to approve starting these summer hours on April 27 and continue until Labor Day the same as last year. All ayes.

There was no action taken on the liquor license fees.

Stremcha stated that Jim Rogotzke received fire alarm quotes from Brothers, Johnson Controls and Sieman. Brothers was low at \$3,105.30 and the other 2 were over \$5,000 each. This allows for 24-hr monitoring. Motion by Beckman, second by Hesse to approve the Brothers quote of \$3,105.30. All ayes.

Council discussed PT police officer wages. It is currently \$15/hr for new officers and hasn't changed for many years. It is \$17.50/hr for those with experience. It was recommended to adopt a new policy allowing former FT officers to continue working PT at their same rate of pay at termination and only receive COLA's, current PT officers would receive step 1 of the union contract and any COLA issued in the future, and newly PT officers would be at 90% of step 1 and then move to full step 1 after a performance review. Motion by Beckman, second by Mueller to adopt Res. #20-042103 approving the above terms for PT officer pay. All ayes.

Council considered changing the required response time for police officers, which is currently 20 minutes and was approved about a year ago. Officers who live out of town shall make an effort to get to town before a storm is predicted to start to be available for their shift. Muske stated that

response time should be in minutes not miles. Motion by Rothmeier, second by Beckman to table this until the May meeting. All ayes.

Stremcha asked the council to consider to go back to the CoS Level B for the state of emergency to resume most operations. This would allow for curbside library service and having all staff back at city hall beginning April 27 as long as the social distancing can be practiced. The street dept has work lined up that is mostly considerate of the social distancing requirement. All city buildings would remain closed to the public. Motion by Hesse, second by Mueller to move from Step C to Step B on April 27 and have the local state of emergency to expire at the May 5, 2020 council meeting unless it is continued at that time and to authorize the Mayor to go back to Step C if necessary. All ayes.

Motion by Mueller, second by Hesse to allow Paula Thomas to apply for a COVID-19 grant. All ayes.

The Community Facilities board tabled the community center rate adjustments to May.

Stremcha presented the quote for the new desks for city hall. It amounted to \$10,602 with delivery and setup. The city could apply for a SHIP grant that would allow for \$500/desk as long as an anti-fatigue mat is purchased for all desks. Motion by Mueller, second by Hesse to apply for the SHIP grant and if it is awarded to proceed with the purchase. All ayes.

Vogel noted that the city's auditors requested the city to establish a fund balance policy when the 2018 audit was done and supplied a sample policy to follow. The policy requires a 50% fund balance (covering 6 months of the next year's expenses) in the general fund and giving the city manager the authority to manage this. Funds over would be transferred to the 410 and 411 capital outlay funds. If the fund balance falls below 50%, then funds would be taken from the 410 and 411 capital outlay funds. Motion by Mueller, second by Beckman to approve the fund balance policy as written. All ayes.

Motion by Beckman, second by Mueller to approve the subordination request for 651 S O'Connell Ave. All ayes.

It was noted that the Cass Ave property needs to be notified with a nuisance letter. The police will work on this to get Muske the needed information to send a letter. The police will be looking at all properties.

Stremcha stated that the Community Facilities Board met earlier today. They agreed that the campground could be opened but the restrooms would remain closed until further notice.

Motion by Mueller, second by Hesse to adjourn at 7:30 PM. All ayes.

Mayor Lowell Helget

City Clerk Amy A. Vogel