

**SPRINGFIELD CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**SEPTEMBER 15, 2020**  
**5:30 PM**

The Sept 15, 2020 council meeting was called to order by Mayor Lowell Helget at 5:30 PM. Those present include Helget, John Mueller, Theresa Beckman, Mike Rothmeier, City Attorney Paul Muske, City Manager Joe Stremcha and City Clerk Amy Vogel. Absent was Sam Hesse. Others present include Wendy Krier, Marco Valencia, Naomi Salazar, Paula Thomas, and John Nicholson.

Motion by Rothmeier, second by Beckman to adopt the agenda with the addition of a use of force policy update for the police dept. All ayes.

Helget opened the abatement of taxes hearing taxes for the demolition of the elevator. There were no public comments so the hearing was closed.

Motion by Rothmeier, second by Mueller to adopt the consent agenda. All ayes.

Stremcha stated that the city is still waiting for a quote on the stormwater drainage project at Wild Ridge. It is thought that this will be put together this fall. Then further conversations with Tom Ryan can be scheduled. No general fund dollars are planned for this project.

Thomas recapped revenues and expenses for a possible ALS service. With ALS, the medics are able to administer more medications. This may be very important with the longer trip to a hospital now. She believes that 98% of all calls could be classified as ALS. To be an ALS service, a medic has to be on call every day. A full-time ALS means that there is a medic on 24/7. With a PT medic, the service would need a chase car to respond to the scene. The Expedition could be used. Thomas and one other are already trained medics through Allina. The city would have to provide/pay for training the others. It is believed that the service should start as a PT ALS service.

The nuisance hearing was called to order at 5:50 PM. The 104 S O'Connell property has made significant progress with the only thing remaining is unlicensed vehicles. One will be stored in the garage and the other has now been registered.

The 524 E Lincoln property has pallets, a bed frame, and unlicensed vehicles that belong to others. The vehicles should be cited or removed.

The 14 S Spring property continues to work at cleaning the property and the house. They have had dumpsters full and emptied already. The property owner is ultimately responsible. Motion by Rothmeier, second by Mueller to send a letter to the landlord that the property shall be cleaned up by the next council meeting or the city would abate the nuisance and costs would be assessed to the property. All ayes.

Motion by Rothmeier, second by Mueller to close the nuisance hearing at 6:02 PM. All ayes.

The council continued discussing the possibility of an ALS service. Different expense scenarios were reviewed. With the peacetime emergency in place, Thomas is able to charge for an ALS call if warranted. It is believed that about 7% of calls are self-pay, 71% are Medicare and 22% is private insurance. A good dept would have 17-25 EMT's. It was noted that the community could use an ALS service but it might be too expensive. They would like to ask the townships for financial assistance to make this work.

Stremcha stated that he has not received an answer from the police union. He also would like to wait until after the PUC's meeting next week to make the final decision. This will be on the October agenda.

Stremcha explained possible remodeling of city hall. Phase 1 would likely include a new lobby and moving the front customer counter. Phase 2 would include offices for the manager and city clerk and a possible conference room to allow room for small meetings like dept heads. It is thought this could happen winter 2021-2022.

The purchase agreement was reviewed for the Creamery elevator property. It was noted that the demolition can move forward since a variance was granted on the asbestos removal due to safety. The lease for the scale house is \$300 for the first 17 months and then \$800 for each month thereafter until the end of the lease on March 15, 2035. The lease funds will pay off the bonds. In case the lease is defaulted, abatements will be approved for collection to make the bond payments. As long as the lease payments are made, the abatement doesn't need to be used. The Creamery shall be responsible for all repairs and utilities and shall reimburse the City/landlord for property insurance and property taxes.

Motion by Beckman, second by Mueller to execute the purchase of the property contingent on the signed lease. All ayes.

Motion by Beckman, second by Rothmeier to accept the DEED demolition award. All ayes.

Motion by Beckman, second by Rothmeier to adopt Res. #20-091505 approving the abatements for the demolition of the Creamery elevator. All ayes.

Council reviewed an email received on a proposed improvement to Yellow Medicine Co Ditch 9 that may increase river flow causing flooding. Motion by Rothmeier, second by Mueller to draft a letter opposing the project unless due diligence is done with an Environmental Assessment Worksheet is done and there is net zero contribution to the river. All ayes.

Motion by Rothmeier, second by Mueller to approve Nick Rients for snow removal for the next winter at the same charge as last year. All ayes.

Motion by Beckman, second by Mueller to approve the safety program with MMUA and splitting the cost with the PUC 50/50 subject to PUC approval. All ayes.

Motion by Rothmeier, second by Beckman to approve the Post-Board approved "use of force" policy as submitted. All ayes.

Beckman noted that Harvest Fun Day will be held on Oct 25 with 2 entertainment shows and trunk or treating in the parking lot. There will be no meals or projects done due to COVID-19.

Helget stated that the State Baseball Tournament went very smoothly with no incidents. Lots of positive comments were received.

There was concern over a new garage in the Lincoln Van Dusen alley that doesn't meet the setback requirements. Stremcha will follow up on this.

The tax-forfeited property sale will take place on Sept 17. Stremcha stated that Brown County is not going to charge back special assessments, which was the understanding due to the county and school each getting 40% of the sale price and the city only getting 20%. The city can reassess their special assessments and a hearing will be held after the sale for the assessments.

Motion by Rothmeier, second by Mueller to adjourn at 7:08 PM. All ayes.

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Lowell Helget, Mayor

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Amy A. Vogel, City Clerk