

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 18, 2020
5:30 PM**

The Feb. 18, 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, City Attorney Paul Muske, and City Clerk Amy Vogel. Absent were Mike Rothmeier and City Manager Joe Stremcha (available on the phone). Others present include Wendy Krier, Bill Helget, Shane Traulich, Larry Smith, Tim Gramentz, Greg Ryan, Donna Woidylla, Teresa Keifer, Justin Robertson, Joe Micka, Jerry Anderson, Paula Thomas, John Nicholson and Mike Gordon.

Motion by Mueller, second by Beckman to adopt the agenda with the addition of the flood insurance renewal and Abdo's Engagement Development Series. All ayes.

Motion by Mueller, second by Beckman to adopt the consent agenda. All ayes. Beckman thanked Janet Johnson for her donation to the ambulance dept.

Stremcha explained that he, Mueller, and Beckman interviewed 3 good candidates for the facility maintenance position and agreed that James Rogotzke be offered the position at the highest step of \$28.46 due to all his experience. If hired, he would start on March 2. The city meets the pay equity standards with the position and point value. Beckman noted that he is a master electrician and these wages are comparable to the PUC wages and Allina was hiring at that pay level as well. Motion by Beckman, second by Mueller to approve hiring Rogotzke at the high step of 28.46 beginning on March 2, 2020. All ayes.

This position would be cost-shared with Allina at \$5,000/month to cover wages and other operating expenses. The utility bills would be split 60/40. There was discussion on maximum and minimum monthly contributions depending on other uses of the building.

Stremcha further explained that the Mayo lease termination includes about \$786,000 for working capital, \$20,900 for the ALS startup and \$14,000 for IT startup. They would replace the ultrasound and an analyzer with functional equipment that needs to be in operating condition on the transition day. This totals about \$821,000 and they are leaving everything. Motion by Beckman, second by Hesse to approve these terms and send out the lease termination before signing. All ayes.

Stremcha stated that the Baseball Assn doesn't know which hood they will be installing in the concession stand, which affects one of the change orders. The changes include the size of the west serving door, installing a knee wall, plaza drainage and changing faucets to meet the plumbing code all at a total of \$5,981. The Baseball Assn will continue to fundraise for these extra expenses but the council has to approve to keep the project moving forward. Motion by Beckman, second by Mueller to approve the decision of the Rec Complex on these change orders. All ayes.

Motion by Mueller, second by Hesse to accept the SHIP grant to purchase a portable speed indicator sign that records data. Recorded data will be reviewed monthly at the community wellbeing meeting. All ayes.

Stremcha stated that there is nothing new on the rental ordinance as Muske is still reviewing Windom's. Jake from Thriveon would hopefully be available in March to be at the meeting or call in for a conference call.

Keifer is almost finished with the Small Cities grant application. Once again, she inquired as to any conflict of interest with the council. Helget noted that he could potentially be a conflict so he will abstain from voting in the future.

Only one administrative services proposal was received and it was from DSI. The state wants to make sure that the city has someone who can take care of the grant program. Keifer stated that the contract would come if the grant is approved. Motion by Beckman, second by Hesse to accept DSI's proposal. Ayes – Mueller, Hesse and Beckman. Abstain – Helget. Motion passed.

Motion by Beckman, second by Hesse to adopt Res #20-021802 approving the submission of the grant application. Ayes – Mueller, Hesse and Beckman. Abstain – Helget. Motion passed.

Bill Helget stated that plans for the 2020 street project are still being finalized. Muske is still working with landowners to acquire the property needed to complete the Hwy 14 realignment with Central St. The value of one of the properties was appraised at \$7,900 but the owner wants \$10,500. Wells Fargo has a mortgage on this property and it would have to be released on this portion. The other owner accepted the appraised value of \$200. When all plans are finalized, agreements will need to be executed.

Three quotes were received for the tree removal along Central. Zinniel Tree Service quoted \$277.50/tree, Ryan Tree Service quoted \$139.59/tree and Keck Tree Service quoted \$95.00/tree. Motion by Hesse to accept the low bid from Keck Tree Service which died for a lack of a second. It was questioned whether the city could accept a bid other than the lowest. Muske stated that the lowest responsible bid is to be accepted. Council agreed that they would like to keep the business in town but it may not be possible. Motion by Beckman, second by Mueller to table this matter to the March meeting so that references can be reviewed. All ayes. It was also noted that the trees need to be removed by March 31, not May 31 that is on the bid sheet.

Motion by Beckman, second by Mueller to approve the pay estimate of \$45,490.56 payable to Salonek Concrete for the concession stand. All ayes.

Motion by Hesse, second by Beckman to adopt Ordinance 431 amending the selling of tobacco products. Ayes – Hesse, Helget, Beckman. Nays – Mueller. Motion passed. The required age to sell and to use were questioned.

Motion by Beckman, second by Hesse to approve the pool daily schedule as open 1-5 PM and 6-8 PM daily. All ayes.

Motion by Beckman, second by Hesse to adopt Res.20-021803 establishing the PUC Commission wages as 75% of council with no additional compensation for special meetings. All ayes.

Micka requested permission to wear his city police uniform to work at the state fair and other events held on the State Fair grounds. He would use vacation and be using his own time. He would make sure the hours don't interfere with scheduling and coverage. Motion by Beckman, second by Mueller to approve Micka working at the State Fair and other events. All ayes.

Two quotes were received for the flower baskets – Sunrise Gardening \$1,214 and Hacker's Tree Service \$1,302. Motion by Beckman, second by Mueller to accept the low quote of \$1,214 from Sunrise Gardening for the flower baskets. All ayes.

The council reviewed a quote of \$964.54 for 16 soft shell jackets for the ambulance crew. Motion by Beckman, second by Mueller to approve the purchase of the jackets with the charge coming out of the uniform allowance. All ayes.

Thomas also presented a quote for 10 radios, noting that only 6 were budgeted for. They need 10 radios but could get by with 6 and budget for the rest in 2021. These are 800 series radios that work with dispatch. Motion by Mueller, second by Beckman to approve the purchase of 6 radios. All ayes.

Motion by Hesse, second by Beckman to approve Micka attending background investigation training in Brainerd March 2-3, 2020. All ayes.

Motion by Beckman, second by Mueller to accept, begrudgingly, the resignation from Officer Mike Gordon with his last work day of Feb. 28, 2020. All ayes.

Motion by Mueller, second by Beckman to accept Option B for flood insurance for the softball concession stand at a cost of \$779. All ayes. It was noted that additional information is needed for the flood insurance renewal of the pool house and pet shelter.

Mueller asked if preparations are being made for a possible flood this spring so we don't wait until the last minute.

Vogel asked about attending the Abdo HR training. It is a series of 9 presentations at a cost of \$2,200. This is one area that additional knowledge is needed. Motion by Beckman, second by Hesse to approve Vogel attending the HR training series with other staff attending when she can't. All ayes.

Motion by Mueller, second by Hesse to adjourn at 6:59 PM. All ayes.

Lowell Helget, Mayor

Amy A. Vogel, City Clerk