

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 21, 2020
5:30 PM

The Jan 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, Linda Roiger, Teresa Keifer, Vince Robinson, John Nicholson, Bill Helget and Shane Traulich.

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

Helget opened the hearing for the Small Cities grant application. Keifer reviewed the preliminary proposal that was submitted and how it could be made more competitive. The primary target area has 33 interested property owners while the secondary target area has 14. It was recommended to reduce the number of properties from 24 to 22 and raise the amount per parcel from \$18,750 to \$21,000 resulting in a \$462,000 grant. The lowest income bracket would be a 100% deferred grant, the middle would be 70/20/10 and the highest would be 50/40/10 (deferred/repayable/down-payment). She also inquired about the possibility of conflict of interest. The council didn't think there would be any. The grant application is due by Feb 28 and recipients would be announced between June and October. Motion by Rothmeier, second by Beckman to close the hearing at 5:42 PM. All ayes.

Motion by Mueller, second by Beckman to approve submission of the final grant application. All ayes.

Keifer explained that the council would have to conduct an RFP for grant administration services for this grant. Motion by Mueller, second by Beckman to advertise for grant administration services to be reviewed at the Feb council meeting. All ayes. Helget signed the Tennessean warning that was required.

The consent agenda was reviewed. Rothmeier questioned why the city is repairing mower parts when it is being traded in. He also questioned if the fire dept could only send 2 people to the conference or go every other year. It was mentioned that they didn't go last year. Beckman thanked all for the various donations received. Motion by Mueller, second by Rothmeier to approve the consent agenda. All ayes.

Stremcha stated that they are still working with Mayo on the lease termination agreement to account for any penalties due to the city for the early lease termination. They are also working with Allina on their preliminary wants/needs for their lease. All 3 entities will be meeting on Jan 27. The city and Allina will meet further after that meeting. A special council meeting will be needed when a lease termination is available.

Stremcha stated that a Nixle notice will go out about the trees being removed, along with a letter to property owners. Currently there are 45 trees to be removed by the end of March. Property easements are still being worked on for the project itself. Dale Knutson, Scott Johnson, Bill

Helget and Stremcha reviewed the 90% plans earlier today. Motion by Hesse, second by Rothmeier to authorize bidding out the tree removal. All ayes.

The council reviewed pay estimate #3 from Salonek's for \$24,520.54 for the concession stand. Stremcha noted that there was a change order to change the west window to add about one foot at a cost of about \$600. There will be a change order submitted for plaza drainage. Motion by Rothmeier, second by Beckman to approve payment of the pay estimate for \$24,520.54 to Salonek's. All ayes.

Stremcha stated that there is a survey going on now until the end of January to see what hours the citizens prefer it to be open. Six hours per day has been budgeted for.

The ordinance amendment regarding PUC commission member wages. The amendment allows for the compensation to be determined by resolution of the council. The PUC agrees that they shouldn't make the same as the council but haven't recommended an amount yet. Motion by Beckman, second by Mueller to adopt Ordinance #429 amending how PUC commission compensation is set. All ayes.

It was suggested that Helget and Rothmeier meet with Stremcha, Scott Johnson and the PUC to work on this resolution.

Motion by Beckman, second by Mueller to appoint Rothmeier as council president. All ayes.

Motion by Beckman, second by Mueller to appoint council members to the following: Helget – Airport, Parks, Rec Complex, Buildings, and Fire; Mueller – Airport, Street and Personnel; Hesse – Ambulance, Fire, Special Events and Weed Inspector; Beckman – EDA, Community Center, Police, Rec Complex and Library; and Rothmeier – Asst Weed Inspector, EDA, Police and Personnel. All ayes.

Motion by Beckman, second by Rothmeier to appoint the following to boards/commissions: PUC – Barry Reindl and Mark Brown to 12-31-2022, Police – Shawn Rummel to 12-31-2022, Planning – Derek Tonn until 12-31-2020, Justin Asmus and Brian Schwarzrock to 12-31-2022, Library – Clarence Thorston, Mary Glaesemann and Jeanette Pidde to 12-31-2022, Airport – James Bigelow to 12-31-2020, EDA – Paul Pieschel and Dan Hillesheim to 12-31-2022 and Clayton Kretsch to 12-31-2021, and Community Facilities Board – Edna Petersen, Roger Prechel, and Marian Thorston until 12-31-2022 and eliminating the one position. Ambulance officers are President Rick Cook, Vice President Kyle Schwarzrock, and Secretary/Treasurer Brenda Anderson. Fire – Chief Tim Gramentz, Asst Chief Chris Gartner, Secretary Brian Fuhrmann, Treasurer Travis Wendt, Hose Company Captain Doug Walton, Hose Company Lieutenant Nick Fast, Hook & Ladder Company Captain Jeff Weisensel, Hook & Ladder Company Lieutenant Scott Johnson, Pump Engineer Captain Brian Veenstra and Pump Engineer Lieutenant Joel Pingeon. All ayes. Council requested advertisement of available paid positions and having them submit a letter of interest. All upcoming openings will be published.

Motion by Mueller, second by Hesse to establish regular council meetings as the third Tuesday at 5:30 PM. All ayes.

Motion by Beckman, second by Mueller to approve the library applying for a Pieschel grant for the art show and summer reading program. All ayes.

Motion by Rothmeier, second by Mueller to set the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization for May 5, 2020 at 5:30 PM. All ayes.

Stremcha stated that the EDA has a mortgage on 19 W Central and has receipt of the deed in lieu of foreclosure and is requesting the city to reimburse the EDA for the city's share of the past due property taxes. The EDA will have to pay off all property taxes in order to transfer the deed.

Motion by Mueller, second by Beckman to approve the city reimbursing the city's share of property taxes amounting to \$360.90 of the \$618.23. All ayes.

Bill Helget presented the most updated plans for the 2020 street project and asked for permission to submit them to the state and county for approval. He noted that the O'Connell Ave stormwater is 100% eligible for county assistance. The county's share would go from \$80,000 to \$180,000 for stormwater at Range Rd and O'Connell. The LPP grant from the state would also go up due to adding lighting to the Hwy 14/Central St intersection.

Muske is still waiting on the appraisal for the land that has to be acquired to allow for the new Hwy 14 intersection, which should be here tomorrow. The Hwy 14 manhole rehab and directional boring will take place between Jefferson and Jackson. Central St will be a 10-ton route. Motion by Beckman, second by Rothmeier to adopt Res #20-012106 approving the plans and specs and authorizing the advertisement of bids for the 2020 street project. All ayes.

Motion by Beckman, second by Rothmeier to approve submitting the plans and specs to Brown County and the state. All ayes.

Motion by Rothmeier, second by Beckman to approve the step raise to step 5B \$17.24 for Lucas Erickson as he completed a successful probation on Jan 15, 2020. All ayes.

Stremcha inquired about advertising for facility maintenance personnel for the medical center. Negotiations are still on-going with Allina and it is unclear how this will work. Mayo will be fully exited by March 13, 2020. No action was taken.

The first reading of the amendment to the tobacco ordinance regarding the legal age to purchase tobacco products was conducted. It was noted that an 18-yr old store employee can sell as long as the license holder is over 21.

Stremcha explained the tax abatement the EDA has recommended approving to incentivize new construction of new single family, duplex, or multi-family complexes in the city between March 1, 2020 and Dec 31, 2022. The abatement would be 50% of the city's share of real estate taxes for 5 years providing that the property is located within the city limits and is zoned for the proposed development, the applicant has not received other local financial assistance, property taxes are paid in full each year, and approval must be received prior to the start of construction of the new housing. The council agreed that new construction should be clarified as new

construction and/or pre-fab within one year's time. An older home may not be moved in to qualify for the abatement. Motion by Beckman, second by Rothmeier to approve the abatement policy for new home construction or a pre-fab home that is built within the year before application. All ayes.

Stremcha stated that trail improvement priorities were agreed upon last August. The portion proposed to connect Sticker Field with Brown's Park will be an 8-ft sidewalk as the federal regulation to be a trail is 8 ft wide. The property owners will need to be contacted along this portion before going to bid. Easements will be necessary from two property owners to connect Riverside Park with Co Rd 5.

Members of the ambulance crew toured the medical center to see if it would work to be located up there. They could use 2 rooms and the ambulance garage. They would like to get a Lucas device for the other ambulance so that both are equipped with one. One rig would be stored at the medical center and the other one in the current ambulance garage. The council could walk through the medical center as part of their special meeting if desired. Motion by Hesse, second by Beckman to approve utilizing space at the medical center that is not expected to be used by Allina for the ambulance dept. All ayes.

Motion by Mueller, second by Rothmeier to set a special meeting on Feb 12, 2020 at the Medical Center Board room just below the stairs. All ayes. The lease termination and new lease will be discussed.

The council reviewed the IT server back-up proposal. This includes additional security by having the backups off-site. The extra cost would be \$325/month. They are also proposing to increase the internet speed from 15x1 to 20x20 that would increase \$80/month. It was unclear if this was for city hall only or everyone. Motion by Rothmeier, second by Mueller to table this matter to Feb. All ayes.

Stremcha has talked with the City of Windom building inspector and a current list of Springfield rental properties is be put together. His charge would be \$50/hour and would be able to inspect two houses/hour. It is proposed that he would inspect each property one time every 2-3 years and have a 2 to 3-year inspection schedule. This will be on the Feb. agenda.

Motion by Mueller, second by Hesse to adjourn at 8:06 PM. All ayes.

Lowell Helget, Mayor

Amy A. Vogel, City Clerk