

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 16, 2020
5:30 PM

The June 16, 2020 council meeting was called to order by Mayor Lowell Helget at 5:30 PM at the Springfield Area Community Center. 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 John Nicholson, Sierra Maples, Cody Theis, Wendy Krier, Randy Haseleu, Joe Micka, Steve Helget, Dale Lindmeier, Bill Helget, Linda Roiger and Tom Ryan and Paula Thomas by Zoom.

Motion by Beckman, second by Mueller to adopt the agenda with the addition of approving the Small Cities grant agreement and the small Cell agreements for the medical center and school. All ayes.

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

Council reviewed the pay estimate of \$64,435.46 for the concession stand and a list of change-orders that have been approved. Of the \$17,624 of change orders, the Baseball Assn is responsible for \$10,478 for the hood installation and Rec Complex approved the balance of \$7,146. Motion by Mueller, second by Beckman to approve the pay estimate of \$64,435.46 to Salonek Concrete for the concession stand. All ayes.

Stremcha received another concern on the alley east of St. Paul's Church. Currently it is cheaper to maintain this than it is to make improvements to the alley. He recommended no action at this time.

Stremcha recapped the trail improvements that were approved by the committee. Their priorities were connecting the current trail north on O'Connell across the railroad tracks to connect with the downtown. The other priority was to wrap the current trail around the south and east sides of softball field and continue east to Co Rd 5. The low quote from MR Paving to do these improvements is \$54,648. Muske stated that this could be paid by the \$100,000 trail improvement allocation in the Roiger funds. It was also noted that striping would occur on Co Rd 5 north of the river and on Range Rd to extend the walking trails there. The trail on the north of the river and west of the Cass Ave bridge has a steep bank that would need a fence installed to protect the walkers. Motion by Beckman, second by Hesse to approve the trail committee's recommendations and proceed with the low quote from MR Paving of \$54648. All ayes.

Muske stated that needed trail repairs were identified on the hill by Wild Ridge Addition and by Salonek Pit and a couple of other areas with a cost estimated at \$27,000. The committee agreed to focus on the first two.

Stremcha has been speaking with Tom Ryan and other property owners about stormwater drainage. He described the original plan that was to cost about \$90,000. Ryan thought he could do it cheaper to meet the requirements and then turn it over to the city. Bill Helget said that they could look at a smaller solution as they are only required to meet the half inch rain event. Ryan

also mentioned that the snow melt with all the snow from Paffrath and Hoyt has caused drainage issues as well. It was agreed to have city staff meet with Ryan and contractors to come up with a solution that works for all.

The council conducted the first reading of the rental ordinance since it was revised based on Andy Spielman's recommendations. It would be implemented over a three-year period starting with the north side of the city, then middle and then south. Single family properties would not be included.

Motion by Rothmeier, second by Hesse to adopt Res. #20-061601 establishing the response time for emergency personnel as 35 minutes and the requirement to report to all scheduled shifts regardless of weather conditions. All ayes.

Motion by Beckman, second by Hesse to approve the hiring of Sierra Maples as a full-time officer and Austin Watkins as a part-time officer effective June 15, 2020. All ayes. Maples took the oath of the police officer.

About 40 properties were identified as having nuisances and were sent letters to clean up by the council meeting. There are approximately 12 of them that didn't comply. They will need a final warning letter to comply by July 1 or they will receive a hearing notice. Motion by Rothmeier, second by Beckman to set the public hearing on nuisances as July 21, 2020 at 5:30 PM. All ayes.

Thomas explained that Tim Birkemeyer will conduct an EMS training class in Springfield if there is a guarantee of at least 8 people. She has 4 and he has 5 interested individuals. Since there is enough interest, the class could begin in August. The number of EMT's in Springfield is about 14, which is not enough. There is a concern that interest may fall off before the beginning of the class. Motion by Beckman, second by Mueller to approve the contract with the condition that the outside people prepay for the class so their interest is guaranteed. All ayes.

Council reviewed library lighting quotes to convert to LED. The outside lights were quoted at \$1,950. It qualifies for a \$400 PUC rebate and will realize energy savings annually of about \$1,200. Stremcha approved this portion and is completed already. Stremcha recommended converting the lighting in the main library including the entry and the 2 main offices at a low quote of \$7,360 with a rebate of \$400 and an annual savings of \$1,300. The other 2 phases looked at didn't have the return on investment and are not recommended to pursue. Motion by Mueller, second by Hesse to approve the H&H Electric quote of \$7,360 to convert the main library lighting. All ayes.

Stremcha noted the concerns he received on food truck regulations. The council reviewed a first reading of an ordinance based on Sleepy Eye's current ordinance. It was noted that they have not set any fees on this yet. With only one food truck showing interest in Springfield, fees wouldn't amount to much as the fee can't be more than covering the cost of administering the ordinance. It was noted that food trucks are licensed through the state.

Motion by Mueller, second by Beckman to approve the Driver and Vehicle Services deputy registrar agreement and designate Amy Vogel as the local appointee. All ayes.

Motion by Rothmeier, second by Beckman to adopt Res #20-061602 appointing the 2020 election judges. All ayes.

The council conducted the first reading of a purchasing policy ordinance as it has not been reviewed since 2000. It was edited to more closely resemble state statute. It would give the city manager the authority to purchase budgeted items up to \$25,000 and non-budgeted items up to \$5,000. Other amounts were discussed.

Stremcha stated that the city adopted a preparedness plan for COVID-19 in May but the state is requiring an adopted plan between June 16 and 29. Motion by Beckman, second by Hesse to approve the preparedness plan to meet the state's requirement. All ayes.

Motion by Mueller, second by Beckman to approve the subordination request for 423 Ray Ave. All ayes.

Stremcha stated that Governor Walz moved the state to Phase 3 on June 10, 2020 meaning that baseball fields can be open again with guidelines but they need correspondence from the owner that it is acceptable. Motion by Mueller, second by Beckman to approve the use of the baseball field for amateur baseball. All ayes. However, there will be no food or beverages until there is clearance from the local health authorities. The bathrooms will be open as of Friday.

It was noted that there is no conflict with July 21, 2020 council meeting date.

Council reviewed GO bond interest rate trends. No action was taken at this time.

Motion by Beckman, second by Mueller to approve the Small Cities grant agreement with the State and authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute it. All ayes.

Motion by Beckman, second by Hesse to approve the small cell agreements with Verizon for the Medical Center and school and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute them. All ayes.

Beckman stated that the community center is now open to events of up to 250 people with guidelines. Public bathrooms will be open on Friday. It may be very difficult to be able to open the pool at this time.

Motion by Mueller, second by Rothmeier to adjourn at 7:38 PM. All ayes.

Lowell Helget, Mayor

Amy A. Vogel, City Clerk