

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING ----- SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Karst. The following Council members were present: Nistler, Carr, Ozark, Heitman, Koski, and Austin. DPW Skubinna was in attendance. Candy Lagerquist, Renee Jones, and Kristie Brabeck were also in attendance. City Clerk Amundson and City Attorney Pekovitch attended via Google Meets. There was no media representation.

Mayor Karst led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment on any Agenda Item: NONE

Council member Nistler made a motion approving the consent agenda including the payment of claims for September 2, 2025 in the amount of \$681,212.67, the Valley Court Apartment claims in the amount of \$811.95, and the minutes of the August 18, 2025 Regular Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Council member Austin, and carried unanimously.

Council member Nistler made a motion approving to levy 448.65 mills in the 2025-2026 fiscal year, with 10.51 of these mills being allocated to the fire relief fund. The motion was seconded by Council member Carr, and carried unanimously.

Council member Ozark made a motion approving to levy 12.71 mills for the permissive medical levy for fiscal year 2025-2026. The motion was seconded by Council member Koski, and carried unanimously.

Council member Ozark made a motion to approve the increase to the street maintenance assessments by 10% for fiscal year 2025-2026. The motion was seconded by Council member Austin, and carried unanimously.

Council member Heitman made a motion approving the May 2025 financials. The motion was seconded by Council member Koski, and carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business – Levee Safety Committee Report – DPW Skubinna that the annual SWIF updates have been forwarded to the Corps. He also told the council that a couple of meetings ago, the council had approved a resolution to submit MCEP funding for the Stormwater PER. The funding has changed for this grant and they will only award up to \$30,000.00 instead of the initial \$40,000.00 that was talked about at that meeting. So, the city's match will have to increase from \$20,000.00 up to \$30,000.00. The reason he wanted to bring this up under the levee report is because a major component of this PER is the interior drainage on the levee. Council member Ozark asked if a portion of the levee money was going to be used for this match. DPW Skubinna said a portion will come from the levee budget and another portion from the sewer budget. Council member Ozark asked City Clerk Amundson if another resolution will have to be passed for the MCEP application. City Clerk Amundson believed we do not have to pass another resolution as the original was just the authorization to submit for the MCEP funding. She said if the council is ok with the city matching the extra \$10,000.00, she will contact Craig at Great West and let him know and if it's something they don't want to approve, then we will possibly have to find additional funding elsewhere for the stormwater PER. The council agreed to move forward with the additional matching funds for this project.

Committee Reports: There were no reports Personnel, Water, Grant, or Cemetery. City Attorney Pekovitch said that she has two (2) ordinances ready to go and will be working on two (2) more next week and will get them to City Clerk Amundson to set up a meeting.

Department Head Reports:

City Attorney Pekovitch said she will be in town on Thursday for court and will check in with all the departments to see if anything is needed from her.

City Clerk Amundson told the council the publications for everything budget related will be published tomorrow the 3rd and also next Wednesday, with the public hearing to be held at the September 15th council meeting.

DPW Skubinna mentioned the patching project will be finished up this week, the punch list items on the Hall Terrace/Hurley Drive project should be completed this week, he started moving forward on the rate study for water and sewer, and there will be a street closure on 5th Avenue North between 1st Street North and Skyline, next week and it's been posted on the website and has given the information to the radio station. Council member Ozark inquired on the Daupler system and when DPW Skubinna thinks that will be implemented. DPW Skubinna explained that we have a "kick-off" meeting scheduled for this Thursday to start the process, but it's sure exactly when it will become active.

Mayor Karst said the fitness court will be worked on Thursday and the swim pool is closed for the season.

Public Comment: Candy Lagerquist inquired on the Pankratz lot. Mayor Karst asked City Attorney Pekovitch to report on it. She said that his Omnibus hearing has been moved to October 2nd. The Chief of Police has been

monitoring his lot and the city's goal is to have him come into compliance. She also mentioned the city has an ongoing injunction, where the city could go in and clean up that lot and charge them for it. The hardest part would be finding someone to go and do it. They have also been fined this last time and will have to pay it if they are found in violation of the city's ordinance. Renee Jones was in attendance to bring to the council's attention that the amount that the city employees have to pay out of pocket for health insurance is taking away about half of the raise they have received. She said she is very grateful for the raise and having insurance, but wanted the council to be aware for next year when the budget process is started. Council member Ozark asked Renee since she works for the police department if she is eligible for the in lieu of benefits. Mayor Karst said it's only for the police officers. Council member Ozark also said that the city hasn't always paid 100% of the insurance cost, but were able to the past few years. Each year the general fund budget gets tighter and possibly next fiscal year looking at doing something differently.

Council member Nistler made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council member Koski the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

Stacey A. Amundson

Stacey Amundson
City Clerk-Treasurer

Rod Karst
Mayor