

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING ----- APRIL 5, 2021

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Mayor Erickson. The following Council members were present: Heitman, Karst, Ozark, Nistler, and Young. Council members Carr attended via conference call. Those also present were DPW Kompel, Compliance Officer Cook, Chief Gault, Captain Edwards, City Clerk Amundson, and City Attorney Sullivan. Curt Bass from Century Companies and Kaden Bedwell from Interstate Engineering were also in attendance. AJ Etherington and Chris McDaniel representing the Glasgow Courier arrived at 5:30 p.m.

Mayor Erickson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment on any agenda item: NONE

Council member Young made a motion approving the consent agenda including the payment of claims for April 5, 2021 in the amount of \$268,094.40, the Valley Court Apartment claims in the amount of \$2,268.01, and the minutes of the March 15, 2021 Regular Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Council member Carr, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Erickson stated the bid opening for the 2021 paving project will now take place. Council member Karst opened the one (1) bid received from Century Companies in the amount of \$225,506.00. Council member Karst made a motion to take the bid under advisement. The motion was seconded by Council member Young, and carried unanimously. DPW Kompel said this will cover two (2) blocks of 6th Street South and two (2) blocks of Laser Drive going up to the Highlands.

Council member Carr made a motion approving the February 2021 financials. The motion was seconded by Council member Nistler, and carried unanimously.

Council member Nistler made a motion to hire six (6) summer laborers. The motion was seconded by Council member Young, and carried unanimously. There will be two (2) in the cemetery, two (2) in the parks, one (1) for the street department, and one (1) for the levee.

Council member Carr made a motion renewing City Attorney Sullivan's contract for a three (3) year period effective May 1, 2021 through April 30, 2024, in the amount of \$79,000.00 per year. The motion was seconded by Council member Nistler, and carried unanimously.

The council reviewed the two (2) interest rate quotes received for funding the Armory purchase. One quote was from Independence Bank for \$300,000.00 and \$320,000.00 for a 15 year period at a 2% variable rate capped at 4.5%. The second quote was from First Community Bank for \$300,000.00 and \$320,000.00 for a 15 year period at 1.57%.

Council member Heitman made a motion to use First Community Bank for financing of the purchase of the Armory Building. The motion was seconded by Council member Ozark and carried unanimously.

Council member Karst made a motion accepting Judge Gilbert's resignation effective June 1, 2021. The motion was seconded by Council member Young, and carried unanimously.

Council member Ozark made a motion to start advertising for the City Judge position starting at an 8-1 on the wage matrix scale with a wage of \$19.79 during a six (6) month training period and assess the job performance after that time and move up on the wage matrix scale if approved by council. The motion was seconded by Council member Young, and carried unanimously.

There was discussion on retaining the current remote working positions until employees resign. Mayor Erickson stated that the job evaluations for both employees have been completed and there were no issues. She would like to retain both employees in the remote positions until they separate employment. A couple of the council members commented that the Clerk position should be opened and the grant writer position could be contracted. There was discussion on contracting both positions or opening the positions and hiring personnel that live within Valley County. A comment was made about having someone with experience in the positions or hiring someone just to have that person physically in the office. Discussion ensued further. Council member Young made a motion to retain the two remote positions until they are separated from employment. The motion was seconded by Council member Heitman. Council members Young, Heitman, Ozark, and Nistler voted for. Council member Carr and Karst voted against.

Unfinished Business:

-Levee Safety Committee Report – DPW Kompel said that there will be a conference call on April 13th from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

-Update on GNDC noncompetitive grant – No Updated Report

Mayor Erickson stated the Department Head job evaluations are almost complete. There will be an upcoming conference call with Senator Tester's Office on Wednesday afternoon. The underpass grant application has been submitted, the purchase of the Armory is moving forward and we should be able to receive the keys to the building

around the second week in June, there will be a meeting with the commissioners at 9:00 am on Wednesday and April 22nd will be community clean-up day.

Committee Reports: There were no reports for Personnel, Water, or Cemetery. Chief Gault mentioned the only grant that has been recently submitted is the VOCA. Council member Karst said the Ordinance Committee met before the council meeting and there will be two (2) new ordinances on the next agenda.

Department Head Reports:

City Clerk Amundson stated the new fiscal year health insurance rate will remain the same at \$833.00 per month, so on an upcoming agenda, the council will need to decide if they want to keep the cap on insurance the same. The elected officials training is coming up in May and will be a virtual training, so if anyone is interested to let her know and she will fill out the registration.

City Attorney Sullivan said she has some pending cases and a trial on Thursday.

Compliance Officer Cook mentioned he sent four (4) nuisance letters out along with nine (9) right-of-way violations, two (2) of the ROW violations have had no motion, so he will follow up with them. He's been attending virtual classes and a Safety Committee Meeting will be held the end of this month.

DPW Kompel told the council that he has been attending conference trainings and reviewing building permit requests.

Chief Gault reviewed the calls for service. Officer Dick will be attending the Academy starting next week and Officer Miller is on the FTO program.

Council member Karst said the pool has received a \$300,000.00 donation and the yard wars fundraising is going well.

Public Comment: NONE

Council member Young made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council member Heitman the meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

ATTEST:

Stacey A. Amundson
City Clerk Treasurer

Rebecca Erickson
Mayor