

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING ----- MARCH 6, 2023

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Karst. The following Council members were present: Austin, Carr, Heitman, and Ozark. Council member Nistler attended via conference call. Council member Koski was absent. Also present were Chief Weber and DPW Skubinna. City Clerk Amundson, City Attorney Pekovitch, Sarah Stranger from Anderson Zuermuehlen, and City Grant Writer Beyers attended via Google meets. Ben Kompel and Sam Tryan were also in attendance. There was no media representation.

Council member Austin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment on any Agenda Item: There was no Public Comment.

Council member Austin made a motion approving the consent agenda including the payment of claims for March 6, 2023 in the amount of \$88,018.45, the Valley Court Apartment claims in the amount of \$1,662.74, the minutes of the February 21, 2023 Regular Council Meeting and the minutes of the February 21, 2023 Executive Session minutes. The motion was seconded by Council member Carr and carried unanimously.

Sarah was in attendance to talk to the council about the fiscal year 2021-2022 audit. She stated since the city did not spend over \$750,000.00 in federal funds this year, a single audit was not required. She then reviewed the independent auditors report. Sarah also explained this year's audit findings. There were four (4) repeat findings and one new one. Finding number 1 is the segregation of duties – since the city has hired a part-time administrative assistant in August of 2022, the city should not have this finding next year. Finding number 2 is in regards to GASB 73 which requires the city to obtain an actuarial valuation study on the fire relief association, since the amount of money it costs to have one completed, it's not financially feasible to have it completed. Finding number 3 is because of the timing of the reimbursement requests for the grants. Finding number four is the required reserve amount each fiscal year for the Valley Court Apartments. The city spends the money that should be transferred into the reserve on renovating each apartment when they become vacant, instead of transferring the money to the reserve account, and spending it from there. Finding number 5 is related to the 2020 water system bonds. It requires the net revenues in each fiscal year to be at least equal to 110% of the maximum amount of principal & interest payable on all outstanding bonds. Since the city has implemented a base rate increase of 2% for a five-year period, the city should come into compliance by the end of next fiscal year. Since the council didn't have any questions, Mayor Karst asked for a motion to approve the audit report. Council member Carr made a motion approving the 2021-2022 fiscal year audit. The motion was seconded by Council member Heitman, and carried unanimously.

Council member Nistler made a motion to appoint Pam Heikens to the Police Commission to fill the remaining term of Emery Brelje until July 20, 2024. The motion was seconded by Council member Austin, and carried unanimously.

Council member Carr made a motion reappointing Todd Young to the Police Commission for another three (3) year term effective March 7, 2023. The motion was seconded by Council member Heitman, and carried unanimously.

Council member Austin made a motion approving the extension of Trint Gamas' excess vacation hours of 16.13 until June 30, 2023. The motion was seconded by Council member Ozark, and carried unanimously.

Council member Austin made a motion ratifying his motion from the February 21, 2023 council meeting to allow the committee to build a skate park on city property, but they would have to work with DPW Skubinna and Street Foreman Runningen, he would also like to include Recreation Director Casterline. The motion was seconded by Council member Nistler, and carried unanimously.

Council member Austin made a motion appointing the following members to the City Planning Board effective March 7, 2023: 1 year term – Nanci Schoenfelder, Dan Durell, Casey Burke (County Representative), 2-year term – Rene Clampitt, Jon Bengochea, DPW Skubinna and Council member Heitman's term will be until December 31, 2023. The motion was seconded by Council member Ozark, and carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business:

-Levee Safety Committee Report – DPW Skubinna talked about the letter that was mailed to the Corps. He did receive a follow up phone call about the letter. Also, there has been talk with USDA RD on possible funding opportunities. The next Levee meeting is next week.

Mayor Karst gave some legislative updates he has received.

Committee Reports: There were no reports for personnel, water, cemetery, or ordinance. City Grant Writer Beyers went over her grant report and what applications she will be submitting in the near future.

Department Head Reports:

DPW Skubinna stated that he is pretty much done with his equipment replacement schedule and would like to have a meeting with either the full council or a work session, this will need to be reviewed in a couple of meetings as it's a lot of information.

Chief Weber said the hiring process is set for Wednesday March 8th, and currently there is one candidate.

City Clerk Amundson mentioned she had talked with City Attorney Pekovitch about the updates that MMIA was requesting for our Personnel Policy manual. Since we are already in compliance, no further changes need to be made, so she will email the documentation to Derrek at MMIA for the city's Employee Practices Coverage. She also updated the council on HB76 Baarsa money. They are looking at making this payment a monthly basis and there will not be a match required.

Public Comment: NONE

Council member Austin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council member Carr the meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

ATTEST:

Stacey A. Amundson

Stacey A. Amundson
City Clerk - Treasurer

Rod Karst
Mayor