

July 30, 2018
Council Workshop Minutes

The July 30, 2018, City Council workshop was called to order at 6:00PM by Mayor Staner. Hosch, Delaney, Rausch and Kelchen answered roll call. Knepper was absent. Kelchen moved and Rausch seconded to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Twice a year the City flushes fire hydrants to clean out the mains. There are a few parts of town that gets flushed more often since they have experienced smelly water. One area that we are experiencing smelly and rusty water is along 2nd Ave SE between Adams Street SE and Monroe Street SE. The main is small and old and we are having a hard time keeping residual at this point. Before and after this point the residual is fine. There is ammonia in the water and it can nitrify the chlorine. We have none showing up in our testing now, but we are certainly checking. We are now on an every two week flushing schedule for this particular main and it seems to be helping. To correct the problem, we will need to replace this water main so we can maintain the residual. This option will be looked at during budget discussions. Another option, which the whole town will benefit from, is adding a treatment plant to the well. The Council would like a list of the areas in town that are bad and we flush more often.

The Heart & Soul initiative is in full swing. The City Administrator also serves on the leadership core team for Heart & Soul and had each Council member complete a demographic survey and identify 3 informal and 3 formal groups that they associate with so we can have some more groups to reach out to. The Mayor attended the Lunch & Learn and was very impressed by the presentation and the group of people they have on the leadership team.

The City of Miles was dinged by auditors for using public funds to make donations to private nonprofit organizations. Since the City of Cascade makes contributions to civic organizations and other agencies, the City attorney is reviewing this to see if we need to make any changes. Once the attorney's gets back to the City Administrator, she will inform the Council.

The City of Cascade had a feasibility study for a hotel done in the fall of 2016. They were working with Cobblestone Hotel until we felt like the City had to provide a substantial amount of money upfront and get investors. The City had been under the impression that Cobblestone would seek out investors for us by us providing a list. Due to this the City has been laying low on the hotel idea. The City Administrator reached out to Boulders and Americinn hotels to see if they were interested. Boulders were interested but declined since there is one in Monticello. Americinn, a Wyndham hotel chain is interested. They are willing to come out and meet with the council. The City would only have to provide what they feel comfortable with such as TIF rebates and business incentives. They will also work with us to present to investors and to entice investors. The City Administrator will schedule a time for them to come out and present to the council.

The Council reviewed the Downtown Assessment Report which was done in September 2015. We highlighted accomplishments from the report such as assisting with the rehabilitation of the old bank building, starting an annual celebration, finally getting a coffee shop and bakery and a Dollar General. We are also starting to see some rehabilitation in the downtown by property owners. This led into discussion on bringing the property/business owners in the downtown to a workshop with Council to see what they need or what they would like to see from the City to rehabilitate their building or to get it rented or sold. Also, it was discussed about a grant that helps rehab 2nd floor apartments.

Annexation was then discussed. We should discuss getting water and sewer to the north. A map has been identified with property owners who are in the targeted area. This will be discussed further at a future workshop.

The library future building plans was briefly discussed including having a discussion with the library on this. Also, the park board needs to identify a five year plan.

With nothing further, Kelchen moved and Delaney seconded to adjourn at 7:31p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Deanna McCusker, City Administrator

Greg Staner, Mayor