February 14, 2022

City Council Meeting Minutes

The February 14, 2022 Regular City Council meeting was called to order at 6:00PM by Mayor Knepper. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Delaney, Kelchen, Oliphant and Rausch answered roll call.

Motion Oliphant, second Kelchen to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Mayor asked if anyone from the floor would like to address the council. Terri Wollenberg wanted to know why crews were working on the sewer in the Tyler Street area. Administrator Ball said he would address it later in the meeting. No further comments.

Council reviewed the items in the consent agenda including City Council minutes 1/24/22, Park Board minutes 2/7/22, CMU minutes 2/8/22, Library Board minutes 2/9/22, January Financial Reports, Fund Balances and February Claims. Motion Delaney, Second Oliphant. All aye.

Motion Rausch, Second Kelchen to open the Public Hearing at 6:02pm for the FY23 Max Levy. All aye. Ball explained the notice and process for approving. The Mayor asked for comments and received none. Motion Delaney, Second Oliphant to close the Public Hearing at 6:03pm. All aye.

Council reviewed **Resolution #06-22**, Resolution approving the Total Maximum Property Tax Dollars for FY2023. Motion Delaney, second Oliphant to approve **Resolution #06-22**. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Motion Rausch Second Delaney to open the Public Hearing at 6:04pm for the Buchanan Street Project Plans and Specs. All aye. Jake Deaver from MSA presented and asked for comments. Motion Delaney, Second Kelchen to close the Public Hearing at 6:05pm. All aye.

Council reviewed **Resolution #07-22**, Resolution to approve plans, specs, cost est. and contract for the Buchanan St. Reconstruction Project. It was requested by the property owners to set up a meeting to go over the plans. Oliphant requested we contact the nearby owners and invite them to a meeting on Friday Feb. 18th at 3pm to review and request a change order to the current plans if any are needed. Motion Kelchen, second Delaney to approve **Resolution #07-22.** Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Council reviewed the Gazebo site plan. Ball stated the Park Board reviewed the different site plans and recommended the 19’ by 32’ plan submitted in the packet. MSA will complete the drawings and specs for the flood wall and coordinate with the Corp of Engineers. Motion Delaney, Second Oliphant to approve site plan recommended by the Park Board. All aye.

Phil Gehl, Public Works Superintendent presented quotes for a new zero turn mower and hot water pressure washer. After discussion, Rausch motion and Oliphant Second to purchase Bad Boy Outlaw Rogue 2022 for $10,741 and Mi-T-M HHS-3004 for $6,000. All aye.

Ball presented on the new hire for the Public Works and recommends Greg Schmidt to be hired at $20 per hour. Motion Rausch, Second Oliphant to approve the hire. All aye. Rausch asked council to consider a compensation grid for all city employees. Ball was instructed to do some research.

Ball presented a pay schedule for pool employees for the summer of 2022. The Park Board researched the pay scale consulting towns nearby and recommends such pay scale. Motion Oliphant, Second Delaney to approve the recommendation by the Park Board for pool employees pay and to begin advertising. All aye.

Mayor announced five applications have been received for the City Administrator position. Kelchen recommends we proceed as quickly as possible. Mayor requested the council review the applications and get their recommendations to him as soon as possible. The council requested a closed session meeting on March 7th to interview candidates.

Mayor announced the floor was open to nominations for appointment to fill the vacant council seat. Ball announced letters of interest were received from S. Keyron McDermott, Sue Knepper and Bill Hosch. John Bessinius asked to be considered for appointment. He went on to endorse Bill Hosch if the council did not seat himself, listing Hosch’s experience. Sue Knepper asked to be considered for the appointment. Sue read a statement which is attached to the public record. Bill Hosch asked to be considered for the appointment. Hosch delivered a statement to the council, which is attached to the public record. Hosch went on to list his experience and what he believes the city needs from his leadership. Susan Brinksmen endorsed Bill Hosch’s appointment stating Hosch’s experience as a reason to appoint. In addition to his experience, he received the most votes of those not elected. Terri Wollenberg spoke in favor of Hosch citing the number of votes he received. Wollenberg urged the council to respect the voters and appoint Hosch. Kelchen stated he was appointed before winning election for his current seat. Pat Kearney spoke requesting the city council appoint someone rather than go to a special election. Terri Wollenberg spoke also in support of an appointment and not for a special election.

Motion Kelchen, Second Oliphant to appoint Sue Knepper to the vacant council seat. Knepper was appointed unanimously by roll call vote. Knepper thanked the council for their appointment. Knepper thanked Hosch and the others for their help. Rausch thanked Hosch for his service on the council and support. Rausch stated the majority of calls he received were in support of Knepper and that’s the reason he voted in favor of appointing her.

No Police Report Received from Chief Heim.

Ball reported on a sewer backup at the area of Tyler Street. There are some old clay sewer lines. The city hired Municipal Pipe to jet and camera the lines. It was found there are root balls in the lines. We are waiting on a report from Municipal to see what problems can be addressed. Ball suggested lining the sewers may be a good idea pending the report from Municipal. Ball reported on two water main breaks this past week and reported some trees have been taken down in the park. We still need 4 or 5 more trees taken down, one is damaged, and the others are Ash Trees that are dying from the emerald ash bore. Trees like these represent a liability to the city. Rausch inquired about the ACH payments to vendors.

With no other business, motion Oliphant, second Kelchen to adjourn the meeting at 7:24p.m. Motion carried.

Chris Ball, City Administrator Steven Knepper, Mayor