Public Hearing and Regular City Council Meeting

Carnegie Library

November 7, 2022

Mayor DeBoer opened public hearing at 6:30pm and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Others Attending are:

Council: Justin Ferguson, Linda Brunckhorst, Ken Rockeman, and Leonard Woehler.

City Attorney: Jim Lippert

City Staff: Hope Mosness, Clerk/Treasurer, Kris Novotny, Public Works Director

City/County Staff: Alan Ronneberg, County Sheriff

Public: Jeff Cowell, Bud Pile, Angela Selby, Mike Shirley, Barbara Selk, Kayane James, Justin Cowell, Norene Brown, Greg Beling, Oren Swopes, Nathan Myrstol, Austin Thompson, Jeremy Frisk, Cherrlynn Riekert, Mark Stephens, Barry Coy, Catherine Metlock

Councilwoman Brunckhorst gave the Invocation.

Mayor DeBoer opened the discussion on the proposed amendment to the fireworks ordinance for public comment.

Citizens that spoke in favor of the amendment were Bud Pile, Catherine Metlock, Kayene James, Barbara Selk, and Cherrlynn Rickert. They expressed concerns about the noise from the fireworks, the trash that is left behind and the fire danger. They also said the 4th of July is one day and so it should only be celebrated for one day. Several citizens spoke against the amendment: Jeff Cowell, Justin Cowell, Austin Thompson, Norene Brown, Jeremy Frisk, and Nathan Myrstol. They spoke of their right to celebrate their freedom, and it also allows those who must work on the 4th of July other days to be able to light off fireworks. They also expressed concern that if it’s only one day in the city, that people would go out to the county to light them off causing a higher fire risk. Mark Stephens who also spoke against the amendment, presented a petition with 306 signatures of city and county residents who are against the amendment. He also showed a poll from Facebook with 63% voting against the amendment and 37% voting for the amendment. Kris Novotny, Fire Chief said he is worried about more fires in the county if it’s banned in the city. Sheriff Ronneberg also said it’s harder to police the entire county if we were to ban it in the city. Councilman Woehler would like to see the safety issue of fireworks addressed and Councilman Ferguson would like to see the ordinance enforced more and stiffer fines for those who break it. He encouraged citizens to talk to their neighbors or file a complaint with the Sheriff’s Department. Councilwoman Brunckhorst would like to see the ordinance amended due to the complaints that she has received from the citizens.

Mayor DeBoer closed the Public Hearing and opened the Regular City Council Meeting at 7:15pm.

Councilwoman Brunckhorst moved to approve the Regular City Council Meeting of October 17, 2022, seconded by Councilman Ferguson. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Sheriff Ronneberg reported that there were 359 calls, 21 cases, and 45 offenses for the month of October. Six cases involving juveniles were started, most of which are sexual assault cases. They are working with the county to switch to a .gov email account so they have better access to criminal justice information. The new body cameras should be up and running this month.

Kris Novotny, Public Works Director, reported that the department has been preparing for winter. The service lines have been installed for two of the units at the Hart Street Subdivision. There are about 10-15 meter replacements happening each month. There was a sewer backup in August in the Triangle Communications building. The city did a claim through MMIA and had to pay a $1500 deductible. The plows and sander are ready to go. Dornix Park has a power pole to an old cabin that is rotten, so they took the pole down. There has been no service to the building for a long time. Friends of Dornix Park is now wanting to put the electric underground, but the city would have to put a new service on the building with permits. The Council would like to leave it without service.

Mayor DeBoer read the proposed amendment to the fireworks ordinance (Ordinance #492). The City Council discussed the amendment to the Fireworks Ordinance. Councilman Woehler would like to see safety addressed no matter the outcome of the vote. Councilman Ferguson would like to see more enforcement done. Councilwoman Brunckhorst made a motion to approve the amendment to the fireworks ordinance, the first reading, seconded by Councilman Woehler. Councilwoman Brunckhorst and Councilman Woehler voted aye. Councilman Ferguson and Councilman Rockeman voted nay. Mayor DeBoer voted nay due to the majority of the citizens being against the amendment. Safety and fines concerning fireworks will be discussed at the next City Council meeting.

Oren Swopes asked the city for permission to keep an existing shed that encroaches on a city right of way. He stated that it is not permanent and can be moved. Jim Lippert, City Attorney, said that this shed is more of a permanent situation on city property. Councilman Woehler made a motion to deny the application for the land use permit to allow for the shed on city property, seconded by Councilman Rockeman. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

City Attorney, Jim Lippert, presented the council with an extension of the existing interim marijuana ordinance for 60 days until a permanent ordinance is in place. Councilwoman Brunckhorst made a motion to approve the extension of the interim marijuana ordinance as outlined by Jim, seconded by Councilman Woehler. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Raymond Porter was unable to be at the meeting so his item on the agenda was not discussed.

Public Comment: None

Council Concerns: Councilman Woehler expressed his appreciation that we were able to discuss the fireworks ordinance cordially.

Councilman Rockeman made a motion to approve the claims approval list, payroll, and overtime for the accounting period October 2022, seconded by Councilman Ferguson. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

There being no further business to go before the Council, Councilman Ferguson moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:55pm, seconded by Councilman Rockeman. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

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Greg DeBoer, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Hope Mosness, Clerk/Treasurer