

Regular City Council Meeting

Carnegie Library

February 7, 2022

Mayor DeBoer opened the meeting at 7:00pm and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Others Attending are:

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

City Attorney: Jim Lippert

City Staff: Nadine Stosich, Clerk/Treasurer, Kris Novotny, Public Works Director

City/County Staff: Sheriff Alan Ronneberg

Public: Barbara Selk, Mike Shirley, Angela Selby, Raymond Porter, Lee Andreas, Page Dringman, Justin Arlian, Amanda Dunwald

Press: Chelsa Nickell

Councilwoman Brunckhorst gave the Invocation.

Councilman Ferguson moved to approve the minutes from the 1/17/22 Public Hearing & Regular City Council Meeting, seconded by Councilman Woehler. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

Sheriff Ronneberg reported that there were 261 complaints made, 10 cases opened, and 24 citations written in the month of January. His employee numbers are getting back to normal, and he is hopeful that things are starting to smooth out. The Sheriff's department bought 10 new body cameras in May or June and those are being finalized for usage. Councilman Woehler asked about security at the courthouse. Sheriff Ronneberg told him about the portable metal detector that was purchased 8 years ago. It was recently decided to use it more. They are also using a closed camera security system and have several panic alarms that will be hard wired at certain points within the courthouse. Our City Judge, Jessie Connelly uses dispatch for her security and is granted more security when she requests it. Policy states that her security is up to the Chief of Police.

Kris Novotny, Public Works Director, reported that the DEQ did an inspection at the end of December (sanitary survey – done every three years). They found no discrepancies. He also informed the Council that new lead and copper rules from the state might go into effect in October of 2024. Kris did some research and discovered that the City is responsible for the street signs on 1st Ave and Big Timber Loop Road. Many of them are faded and need to be replaced. He has ordered new ones and hopes to have them up within the next couple of weeks, depending on the wind. The W 9th Street sewer project is not complete. We are waiting for the Contractor (Lyle Stenberg) to do the work.

Public Works Director, Kris Novotny, asked the Council for permission to sell, through the bidding process, the 1998 Ford Ranger, regular cab with 84,000 miles. The Blue Book value is \$3642.00.

Councilman Ferguson moved to direct Kris to sell the 1998 Ford Ranger, seconded by Councilman Woehler. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

Public Comment: Raymond Porter from the Chamber of Commerce informed the Council that the Chamber Awards Banquet will be held on March 9th at the Legion.

Justin Arlian, owner of Iron Star Pizza, came to ask the Council when he could expect the Bramble Street water project to begin. He was told by Kris Novotny that things are expected to start in April. Once it is started, the construction company has 105 calendar days to complete the project. Justin is concerned about the parking for his business on the corner of 1st and Bramble Street. There will be a pre-construction meeting before work begins that Justin will be invited to attend. His concerns can be addressed at this meeting. Justin also asked about the possibility of putting a crosswalk across 1st Ave by the Bramble Street intersection. Kris will talk to the highway department to see if this is a possibility. The drain on the Ullman's side of Bramble St. was also mentioned. Kris assured Justin and the Council that something will be done with the drain to make it more affective.

Mayor Greg DeBoer presented the Council with his suggestions for the Council Committees. Councilman Woehler moved to approve the Council Committees of January 2022, seconded by Councilwoman Brunckhorst. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

Councilwoman Brunckhorst expressed concern with the amount of investments verses pledged securities in American Bank. Nadine informed the Council of the lack of desire from American Bank to maintain and acquire more of the city's investments. Councilwoman Brunckhorst moved to approve the Pledged Securities for the 4th quarter 2021, seconded by Councilman Ferguson. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

City Clerk, Nadine Stosich asked the Council for permission to open a checking account at Opportunity Bank. A money market account with Opportunity Bank will earn .55% interest as opposed to the .02% that we were getting from a Money Market account at American Bank, but in order to open this money market account with Opportunity we also need to open a checking account. Councilman Ferguson moved to direct Nadine to move the money from American Bank to Opportunity Bank, seconded by Councilman Woehler. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

On Dec. 20, 2021, Mr. David Chase drove his vehicle into a sewer manhole on 7th Ave. Its lid had been taken off accidentally by a plow truck earlier that morning. The claim was turned into MMIA and denied. Councilman Woehler believes that the insurance should have paid this claim. Kris Novotny said that in the past we have run into this on several occasions and MMIA has always refused to pay these types of claims. It was decided that budgeting money for these types of situations will be discussed during budget time. Jim Lippert advised the Council to make it clear that we are not admitting guilt and that the City will not be held accountable for any future liability if they decide to pay this gentleman directly. Councilman Woehler moved to have Jim write a cover letter absolving us from any future liability and then pay the damages, seconded by Councilwoman Bruckhorst. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

On November 4, 2021, it was decided by the City Council to change the way multiple dwelling units with 1" water lines were being charged. Upon further investigation by the Deputy City Clerk, those changes would not be possible in the software program that is used, and the City would lose \$39,183.96 per year. Councilman Woehler moved to rescind Councilman Thomasson's motion to change the city's

policy for charging 1” meters, seconded by Councilwoman Brunckhorst. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

The Council asked Republic to gather data from the new scales at the transfer site so that a decision for garbage rates could be made. Some information was gathered, but because it was not complete, it was decided that an interim price would be set until such time that complete data could be gathered. Different scenarios and examples for charging were presented to the Council by Amanda Dunwald, Republic Scale House Operator and the City Clerk. After much discussion, Councilman Ferguson moved to charge \$.10 per pound, seconded by Councilman Woehler. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

Public Comment: Chelsa Nickell from the Big Timber Pioneer wanted to know if Chad Bauer from Republic has followed through with all the promises he made at the last meeting. The City Clerk told Chelsa that the only promise he made with an end date was to have the phone calling system in place by this meeting and it was half-way done as of this morning. All the numbers are in, just not the routes. She also asked the Mayor if a time line has been set for Republic to complete the promises they have made. Lee Andreas asked if a City employee could work at the transfer site.

Councilman Woehler moved to approve the claims, payroll and overtime for the month January 2022, seconded by Councilman Ferguson. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

There being no further business to go before the Council, Councilwoman Brunckhorst moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:41pm, seconded by Councilman Woehler. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council present.

Greg DeBoer, Mayor

ATTEST:

Nadine Stosich, Clerk/Treasurer