

Regular City Council Meeting

City Hall

January 20, 2025

Mayor DeBoer opened the Regular City Council Meeting at 7:00pm and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Others Attending are:

Council: Kerri Baird, Jeff Davis, Justin Ferguson, and Leonard Woehler

City Staff: Hope Mosness, Clerk/Treasurer, and Jim Lippert, City Attorney

Public: Brian Mosness, Linda Brunckhorst, Anita Dore, Todd Nevin, and Justin Arlian

Mayor DeBoer announced that we are still looking for two applicants for the Airport Board and one applicant for the City/County Planning Board. He also announced that we received a \$2.6 million grant from the Economic Development Administration for the water storage tank project.

Councilman Woehler made a motion to approve the Regular City Council Meeting minutes for January 6, 2025, as amended, seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Councilwoman Baird presented information on the city's current trash rates^{and} presented new information on proposed rate increases for trash services. She explained that we will be losing money if we don't raise our tote rates. Discussion was held about the trash service situation as well as the possible rate increase. Councilman Woehler suggested that we start doing incremental increases each year rather than waiting to do one big increase. Councilman Woehler also proposed increasing the cost of commercial totes more than residential totes stating that he feels they have more trash than residents. Councilman Davis would like to see us raise rates at the transfer site to help make up some of the difference rather than raise the tote rates substantially. He also believes that a cost study should be done to see what it would cost the city to collect their own trash, and he volunteered to put that together. Councilman Woehler stated that we should raise residential totes to \$39.00 and then adjust all the other rates to meet our bottom line. Councilman Ferguson would like to see an across-the-board rate increase. He thinks it will be an easier sell to the public. Councilwoman Baird will make the adjustments and then bring it back to the next meeting. Public Comment: Linda Brunckhorst stated that 61% is hard to swallow but understands that we need to raise rates. She would like to see rates raised equally across the board. She does not think that the city should be paying for the site attendant at the transfer site. Jim Lippert explained that Republic Services was firm about paying for a site attendant in the contract. Todd Nevin stated that we need to have language in the contract to be able to hold Republic Services responsible for their terrible service. He suggested the city and county work together to provide our own trash services. He also thinks we need to do incremental rate increases each year. Brian Mosness stated that it is only going to get more expensive. We should invest the money now to do our own trash services. Justin Arlian stated that he also agrees that the city and county work together. He also agrees that the residents need to pay more than \$1.20 a year for their trash.

Justin Ferguson with Power of Attorney for Doug Ferguson asked the Council to reduce the past due amount owed on Doug Ferguson's utility bill from \$947.22 to \$566.04. He would like to reduce the charges by removing \$60 in late fees and changing the base rate from a 1" base rate fee to the ¾" base rate fee. Public Comment: Todd Nevin and Linda Brunckhorst both spoke in favor of reducing the water bill for Doug Ferguson. Councilman Woehler made a motion to approve the utility bill adjustment for 602 Harris Street as stated in Mr. Ferguson's letter, seconded by Councilwoman Baird. Motion carried by Councilmembers Woehler, Davis and Baird voting aye. Councilman Ferguson abstained from the vote.

Mayor DeBoer presented the contract proposal from Amatics CPA Group to perform the audit for the city for FY25, FY26, and FY27. Councilwoman Baird made a motion to approve the audit contract for FY25 to FY27 from Amatics CPA Group, seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Mayor DeBoer asked for the Council to increase the monthly contribution to the city employees' health insurance from \$900 to \$1010. Public Comment: Linda Brunckhorst asked how many employees the city had. She also asked where the prorated share of the insurance costs of the three part-time employees not participating in health insurance goes to. Hope Mosness stated that it goes into a deferred compensation plan. Councilwoman Baird made a motion to approve the increased contribution to city employee's health insurance, seconded by Councilman Ferguson. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

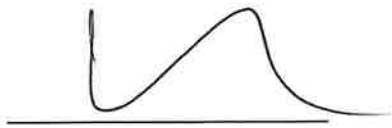
City Clerk/Treasurer, Hope Mosness, asked the Council to approve Disposition of Records form RM88 #13. Councilman Ferguson made a motion to approve the Disposition of Records Form RM88 #13, seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Councilman Woehler made a motion to approve the claims for the second half of December, seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

Public Comment: Justin Arlian stated that snow plowing around the school needs to be better. Buses and parents were getting stuck, and we just need to do a better job. Todd Nevin asked Justin Arlian where he would like them to put the snow. Councilman Ferguson called a point of order and Mayor DeBoer asked the public to please direct all comments to him. Councilman Woehler stated he received several complaints as well. He stated that we need to look at removing the snow at certain places around town. Todd Nevin stated that he has been plowing snow for 25 years and it doesn't matter how you do it, you are going to get complaints. He states there is a process that you have to do and it's hard because a lot of private contractors just make piles in the city streets and the city employees have to remove the snow. Mayor DeBoer stated that public safety is number one and we need to focus on certain areas in town like the schools, post office and Pioneer Medical Center. He will discuss it with the Public Works Department so they can come up with a plan.

Council Concerns: None

There being no further business to go before the Council, Councilman Ferguson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50pm seconded by Councilman Woehler. Motion carried by unanimous vote of the Council.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Greg DeBoer', written over a horizontal line.

Greg DeBoer, Mayor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Hope Mosness', written over a horizontal line.

Hope Mosness, Clerk/Treasurer

