

City of Wabasso
City Council
Monday, September 14, 2020
6 pm

The meeting opened with recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting was called to order at 6 pm by Mayor Carol Atkins with Council Members Rachel Ingebretson, Carole Remiger, Steve Burns and Wade McKittrick present.

Also present were Pat Eichten, Matt Novak, Larry Thompson, Mike Remiger and Paul Plaetz.

The agenda with the addition discussion of the community center rental, appointment of Joyce Plaetz to the Library Board under the consent agenda, and the addition of the payment of a bill for Heggies Pizza (\$6,024.00 – Ambulance fund raiser; and Visa bill (\$45.00) was approved on a motion by Ingebretson, seconded by Remiger.

Atkins-yes, McKittrick-yes, Ingebretson-yes, Remiger-yes, Burns – yes.

Pat Eichten provided an update on the EDA. The major focus has been construction of the duplex on May Street. The EDA will be receiving construction pricing in the near future, but the main concern is finding a suitable financing program to avoid income restrictions. The lots remaining lots on May Street will be advertised for sale. The covenants for May Street will be discussed at the next regular board meeting.

No Public Comments.

Mr. Thompson indicated that it was not anticipated to bring the furloughed part time employee back until he was comfortable with the operations of the Clerk/Treasurer's office. In the mean time former Clerk/Treasurer Mary Smith has been helping train Mr. Thompson. The part time position should be redefined once Mr. Thompson is comfortable with the operations.

Motion by Ingebretson, seconded by Remiger to change the regular office hours from 8:00 – 5:00, Monday through Thursday and 8:00 – 12:00 on Friday.

Atkins-yes, McKittrick-yes, Ingebretson-yes, Remiger-yes, Burns – yes.

Motion by Remiger, Second by McKittrick to Adopt Resolution No. 10-2020 Accepting a 2020 CARES Election Grant from Redwood County and authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to sign the agreement.

Atkins-yes, McKittrick-yes, Ingebretson-yes, Remiger-yes, Burns – yes.

It was noted that there appeared to be a potential conflict between a party that wished to rent the Community Center Parking Lot and a party that had rented the Community Room. The Council reaffirmed that anyone who rents the Community Center facility regardless if it is only the parking lot must pay a fee and damage deposit, would need a beer license if there were beer sales, and have a COVID plan filed and posted. Mr. Thompson will contact both parties

Mike Remiger presented the Street Report for the month. The trees have been trimmed. He will be gone next week. Steve Burns requested a clarification regarding lot lines/easements in his areas as it related to tree ownership and maintenance. Most of the roof work has been repaired and cleaned up – contractor will return soon to finish up. Discussion regarding trucks parking on residential streets – Mike and Larry to discuss parking and weight restrictions and report back at the next meeting.

Paul Plaetz presented the Water and Wastewater report for the month. Paul informed the Council that the Sewer grant had been submitted and it appeared the city would be in line for a 75% grant with work to start next year. The lift stations were inspected today. Jetting will take place next week. Staff has been working with a water tower company on a maintenance program and will be discussed as part of the 2021 budget. Paul asked if the city should charge the school district for the \$1,600 hookup fee since the school already had done most of the work associated with the fee. It was agreed to place it on the next meeting agenda. Paul is starting to flush hydrants and will be televising sections of the storm sewer that have had problems.

Carole Remiger noted that the baseball season was mostly done. Wade McKittrick said football may still be played this fall but a decision has to be made by Friday. No decisions have been made regarding winter sports. Larry indicated the state had said it was ok to repurpose the tennis/basketball courts to a parking lot so long as the parking lot was used for sports activities. Larry also noted the repurposing could mostly be done by city staff. Wade indicated the Football Booster Club would be willing to purchase the shed on the compost site for \$500 and the club would move it. Motion by McKittrick, Second by Ingebretson to repurpose the tennis/basketball courts to parking for the football and softball fields.

Atkins-yes, McKittrick-yes, Ingebretson-yes, Remiger-yes, Burns – yes.

Motion by Ingebretson, Second by Burns, to sell the shed at the compost site to the Wabasso Football Boosters Club for \$500.

Atkins-yes, Ingebretson-yes, Remiger-yes, Burns – yes. McKittrick- abstain.

The Council set a special meeting for September 23, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Center to discuss the preliminary 2021 operating budget and setting the preliminary 2021 tax levy.

The council considered a proposed CARES Small Business Relief Program. It was agreed that Mayor Atkins and Clerk/Treasurer Thompson would review the applicants and if they could award the grants recipients and report to the council. The council would review if there was any concerns by Carol or Larry. Motion by McKittrick, Second by Remiger, to adopt Resolution 11-2020 establishing a CARES Small Business Relief Program and outlined in the draft proposal. Atkins-yes, McKittrick-yes, Ingebretson-yes, Remiger-yes, Burns – yes.

Motion by Ingebretson, Second Remiger to approve the consent agenda:

1. Approve minutes of the August 10, 2020 meeting.

2. Approve the closing Cedar Street between Main and North Streets on September 19, 2020 for Union Kitchen (the county will also be closing Main between Oak and Cedar Streets at the same time.)
3. Appoint Joyce Plaetz to the Library Board effective October 1, 2020.

Atkins-yes, McKittrick-yes, Ingebretson-yes, Remiger-yes, Burns – yes

Wade updated the council on the status of the new City web page. It was indicated the site should be up and running prior to the next council meeting.

Bills. The council discussed the Library Board minutes relating to salaries. It was noted the Library Director would be at the budget meeting to answer and questions and discuss operations. Motion by McKittrick, second by Remiger to approve the bills as submitted with the addition of the Heggies Pizza bill (\$6,024.,00 – Ambulance fund raiser); and Visa bill (\$45.00).

Atkins-yes, McKittrick-yes, Ingebretson-yes, Remiger-yes, Burns – yes

Motion by Ingebretson, second by McKittrick to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

Atkins-yes, McKittrick-yes, Ingebretson-yes, Remiger-yes, Burns – yes

Larry J Thompson
City Clerk/Treasurer Administrator