

Council Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2013

Approved

Call to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Stanek

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call. Most in attendance, Krueger absent out sick

Garvin/Pfost to approve the minutes of the last meeting. All ayes. Carried.

Public Comment:

Ed Brown, remembers asking the City Council to have the City Administrator's position on the ballot as a referendum. New Lisbon and Viroqua have discontinued their City Administrator's and have gone a different way. Mr. Brown is asking for an advisory referendum to be on the ballot.

Garvin responded by saying the Council discussed it several times, had a public meeting, and the Council feels the referendum is not the way to go. Citizen input is important, but a referendum does not help the Council make the decision. City has to hire good people and only half of the department heads live in the City.

Helgerson feels the decision was made after the public meeting and future meetings to not have a referendum but have an administrator.

Mendum feels the City cannot afford to not have an administrator.

David Green feels the residents of the City should make the decision. He feels that the Administrator needs to be a property tax payer to be vested. The other communities are utilizing contractors and consultants to handle the bidding and grant writing.

Pfost says it is about the job the Administrator is doing and the experience he has. It is about job performance. The local employers can't get their employees to live here. The Board has to act on what is best for the City.

Communications:

Mayor: None.

Council: Helgerson heard comments about snow plowing, but there has been a lot of snow. Main Street has had a problem with snow plowing, especially with the combination of County and City.

Administrator: Steward updated on PEP Grant and March 22, open gym, need volunteers. Reminded the Council to inform him about Board of Review training in Tomah on April 18. Steward also mentioned that Bill Singletary passed away yesterday and the wake and funeral will be in Beaver Dam on Sunday and Monday, and the burial on Tuesday at Millard's Prairie.

Library Annual Report

Waarvik presented the Library's annual report.

Discussion and possible action on raze orders.

Jefferson reported that the 514 Franklin Street needs to be removed and we are waiting on a modified inspection report from the inspector. The resolution is ready to go but needs to be formally on the agenda. After resolution passed, the owners have 60 days to act on the Resolution.

Steward asked the Council about 1007 Academy to be offered and torn down using the Municipal Flood Control Grant or through City funds? The City needs to get rid of the old house and drums in back and the Fire Department can burn this down. The City will go through the raze order process rather than using flood control money.

Update on 205 Spring Street – there is an offer to purchase and the closing will happen in a week or two. The new owner will have to improve house according to a time frame established by the sellers. It will be contractual.

Discussion on proposal for a new website from GovOffice.

Steward presented the idea of using GovOffice to develop a new City website. The proposal is \$1475 this year and \$450 annually.

Garvin/Helgerson motion to approve the proposal from GovOffice in the amount of \$1475. Roll Call. All ayes. Carried.

Discussion on Expenditures:

Garvin/Mendum to approve March expenditures. Roll call. All ayes. Carried.

Update on Downtown Redevelopment Plan.

Garvin gave update and the first meeting is next Monday, March 18 at 5:45pm and will go until 7:30 at the Middle School common.s

Update on EAAC/Chamber.

There will be a small business appreciation dinner on Tuesday, April 16 at 5:30pm. There is interest in combining the two organizations together to better serve the business community of Elroy.

Update on Emergency Management Exercise.

There will be an emergency exercise on Saturday April 6 in the morning. There will be three incidents all in the City of Elroy to practice our response. It will be advertised in the newspaper and will last about 3 hours.

Steward handed out binders by Ward for emergency planning and action.

Update on Utility Commission

Steward updated the Council on phosphorus meetings and the well #4 has water quality issues where we are adding phosphate to take out the iron. In addition, Steward and Rinderer are going to LaCrosse to meet with DPC and UMPMA regarding the Brunner Interruptible Contract and other issues.

Update on Committee activities

Garvin reported on the Streets Committee. There will be meetings this spring on Hwy 80/82 construction projects. The Committee gave Ladwig a to do list.

Helgerson reported on the Ordinance Committee. There is still discussion on chickens in the city. There was discussion on junk vehicle ordinance changes. Council members need to give a list of potential citations to Steward so he can send out letters prior to the May 4 Spring Clean Up.

Garvin reported on the Finance and Personnel Committee. The Committee is focusing on a 5 year plan with hopes of a draft by May.

Garvin reported on the CDA. They will attend the downtown redevelopment meeting and the small business appreciation meeting.

Update on mobile home court.

Steward reported that he visited the site with Retzlaff and updated the report. Council would like Steward to work with McCluskey to repair his units. Council still is offering to remove units for Retzlaff if he is willing. Garvin would still like the inspector to walk through the units to determine habitability and dilapidation.

Administrator's report

Steward updated on the roof that it is all done.

Garvin/Mendum motion to go into closed session. Roll call. All ayes. Carried.

Helgerson/Garvin motion to reconvene into open session. Roll call.

Discussion and possible action on City Administrator's Contract.

Mendum/Helgerson to approve City Administrator contract with corrections as discussed and a salary of \$63,500. Roll call vote. Garvin – no; Mendum – yes; Pfof – no; Helgerson – yes. Tie 2 – 2. Mayor Stanek votes – Yes. Motion carried.

Next meeting date: April 9, then reorganization on April 16.

Pfof/Garvin motion to adjourn at 9:10 pm. All ayes. Carried.

Mark Steward
City Administrator