

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING –July 27, 2017 - GATEWAY- 5:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER – Acting Mayor Josh Williby called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

Roll Call of the Members of the City Council – Josh Williby, Brandon Oien, Deb Lohofener, and Rusty Addleman. Majority of the Body Present.

Absent: Mayor Ladd Wendelin and Jim Marchello

Others Present: City Attorney Steve Hirsch, City Administrator Troy Haas, City Foreman David Sporn, Water Supervisor Willard Perrin, Treasurer Steve Zodrow, Cynthia Haynes with the Oberlin Herald, Marilyn Black, Lavern Rippe, Heather McDougal, Dale Kempt, Law School Intern Isaac Wright, Ruth Miesner, Chris Miller with Miller & Associates and City Clerk Sandy Rush. At 5:50 p.m. Valisha Raile entered.

Public Building Commission Board Appointment

Addleman moved, second by Lohofener to appoint Derek Chambers to finish out the term of Ken Shobe, to end May 2019. **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ruth Miesner encouraged the council to consider allowing an amount in the 2018 Budget to apply for the Dane G. Hansen Community Intern Initiative Grant to help with community improvement projects. The City would be responsible for providing housing, office space, supplies and supervision of the interns.

Lavern Rippe discussed his concerns regarding the Gateway and what the plans are to fund it in the future since the Bremer money has been all but used.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of minutes – for July 6, 2017 regular Council meeting, July 13 and July, 14, 2017 Special Meetings.

Appropriation Ordinance - Payment of Bills.

Oien moved, second by Lohofener, to approve the Consent Agenda. **Motion carried.**

New Business

Library Request – Treasurer Steve Zodrow presented a written request from the Library Board to consider budgeting for improvements to replace the parking lot in front of the City Library and the southern sidewalk. A proposal from Oberlin Concrete was attached for a total of \$20,550, valid until December 31, 2017. Also the city's curb and gutter needs to be replaced, estimated at \$4,384. Council asked if city crew could do some of the work to reduce cost. Addleman asked if it would be possible to do the project in increments and was informed, yes it was. Mr. Zodrow explained that money in the Multi Year Capital Outlay Fund, the Community Development Fund and funds for the Sidewalk Rebate could be used to help with the project. A councilmember recommended them looking into applying again for a grant to help before anything was done.

Beekeeper Service Renewal – Chris Miller with Miller & Associates spoke regarding the BeeKeeper Service Program the city has maintained since the installation of five Solar Bee lagoon mixer units in 2009 for a total cost of \$178,905.85. The contract is for \$15,879 annually and the city staff had inquired if it was necessary or not. He said it was not required but a recommendation from Solar Bee. It resembled an insurance policy against weather and/or vandalism related damages. After a discussion, council requests before renewing the contract, Mr. Miller make recommendations after comparing the cost of

building a power line to supply electricity and providing insurance to aerated lagoons instead of the mixers. Mr. Miller said he had been working with KDHE to look at other choices overall for the city lagoons and he offered to look into other options for funding as well. All agreed to wait for his recommendations before paying or not paying the recommended contract.

OLD BUSINESS

Budget Discussion – Treasurer Steve Zodrow summarized the proposed 2018 budget for the council to review and discuss. The main budget items discussed were:

- 1.5% pay raise
- \$150,000 available for major street projects
- \$5,500 for Codification of City Ordinances
- Library Capital Projects of \$20,550 built in
- 5 yr. lease purchase of a new backhoe built in
- Library qualifies for state grant funding
- Total taxes levied is \$20 under the levy limit for the City. No election necessary
- No cuts to funding of outside organizations proposed

City Foreman David Sporn disagreed with not budgeting for the electric infrastructure. He stated even though the city repaired many sites when the storm hit, the infrastructure project was still very important. Administrator Haas told the council that he was working with an engineer company that would evaluate and assess the electric infrastructure and make recommendations.

In relationship to funding issues with the Gateway, Williby stated an option would be to close the Gateway or limit the use of it and move City offices downtown. He would leave it to the public to decide.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - #1 Acting Mayor Josh Williby called for a 10-minute Executive Session to discuss raises and salaries of the employees pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b) (1). To include acting mayor, administrator, city attorney, council and city treasurer starting at 6:40 p.m. Oien moved, second by Lohofener. **Motion carried.** Resumed at 6:50 p.m. with no action being taken. Oien recommends looking into 3% instead of 1.5% increase for salaries and wages for the budget.

After a long discussion Addleman moved, second by Oien to authorize the publication of the 2018 budget, with the public hearing to be held August 17, 2017 at 5 p.m. **Motion carried.**

Oien moved, second by Addleman to cancel the next scheduled meeting on August 3, 2017. **Motion carried.**

REPORTS

Administrators Report – Haas reported the next meeting would be held August 17, 2017.

Public Works Report

- City Foreman report is attached.
- Daily water usage has been in excess of 500,000 gallons per day and has triggered Stage 1 for the water watch. The council requested the newspaper be kept informed what the city is using in water.

Treasurers Report

- Cash Flow report attached for review
- Sales Tax report attached for review

ADJOURNMENT - At 7:10 p.m. Addleman moved, second by Lohofener to adjourn. **Motion carried.**

Sandy Rush, City Clerk

Ladd Wendelin, Mayor