

Mayor Connie Edwards called the City Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were: Kevin Knutson, Cheryl Sanden, Matt Schutte and Tony Schultz. Also present were: Chris Peterson, Audrey Hegland, Randy Thesing, Ed Jacobs, Interim Police Chief Brett Hurley, Sarah Wexler-Mann, Marlene Schultz, Karla Bloem, Joe Krage, and Eric Leitzen.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Fire Department Standard Operating Procedures: Fire Chief Joe Krage presented copies of the recently revised Fire Department Standard Operating Procedures, stating that a copy of this revised SOP will be given to every firefighter to read and sign that they have read and understand it. Changes made in the revision were: Fire Marshall position eliminated; Meeting nights changed from Tuesday nights to Wednesday nights; EMR certification requirements for firefighters (includes Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs as well as any new firefighters); Required attendance and training hours will be documented and violations enforced (after receiving a warning from the Chief, any repeat violations will be referred to the City's Personnel Department and then to the Council); LEC contact (formerly the original SOP's stated that only the lead officer could radio to the Law Enforcement Center, "LEC". The revised SOP states that anyone can now contact LEC); Check for valid driver's licenses (this will be done by the City's Personnel Department). MOTION MADE BY SCHULTZ, SECONDED BY SANDEN TO APPROVE THE REVISED FIRE DEPARTMENT STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES AS PRESENTED; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

City Park Tree Carving – Owl: Karla Bloem requested Council's permission to have an owl carved into one of the partial tree trunks in the City Park that remain after most of the tree was cut down due to the emerald ash borer. These tree trunks were left for carving purposes whenever the money is available. Bloem will fundraise for the money needed for the carving, which will be done during the International Festival of Owls in March. MOTION BY SCHUTTE, SECONDED BY KNUTSON TO APPROVE THE INTERNATIONAL OWL CENTER RAISING THE FUNDS NECESSARY FOR THE CARVING OF AN OWL INTO ONE OF THE PARTIAL TREE TRUNKS IN THE CITY PARK DURING THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF OWLS; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Selection is on a first-come, first-served basis, and so far Bloem's request is the first received.

Annexation – Update: Peterson summarized the recent annexation preliminary court ruling by the Chief Administrative Law Judge, whereby five out of the six properties included were ruled in the City's favor for annexation. Excluded from the annexation was a small undeveloped parcel owned by Green Acres. On or before November 1, the City has to provide an accurate and certified map of the actual boundaries of the City. Cost for producing the map will be approximately \$2,500, and once completed, Peterson expects the map to have other valuable uses for the City. The City will also provide proof of Statute §414.036 regarding the reimbursement from the City to the Township for all or part of the taxable property annexed.

Drinking Water Treatment – SCDP Grant Application: Peterson reported good progress is being made in raising the necessary funds for the radium treatment plant. A request will be made of the MN DEED's Public Facility Authority and their Small Cities Development Program (\$600,000 for water treatment plan and \$343,000 for housing rehabilitation). CEDA and SEMCAC will be assisting with these DEED proposals; cost for their assistance are being factored into the administrative fees associated with the grant. This proposal needs to be submitted by November 11; the final grant application is due on February, 2017.

Ellsworth Street Project – Contractor Pay Request #3: The contractor is requesting payment of the third phase of the project; it includes seeding the boulevard areas, which has not as yet been done. \$4,800 had been budgeted for this portion. MOTION BY SCHULTZ, SECONDED BY SANDEN TO PAY THE CONTRACTOR THE THIRD PAYMENT BUT WITHHOLD \$4,800 UNTIL THE SEEDING HAS BEEN SATISFACTORILY COMPLETED; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Community Center – Long-Term Users: Peterson explained that there are groups who use the Center for sometimes as long as three months at a time or longer. At this time, if this involves weekdays there has been no charge,

provided it is a nonprofit or a community service event. If such events are held on weekends, then they will pay the standard rental plus security deposit, as do all other users. After discussion, it was confirmed to require all long-term users to fill out the rental form and pay \$100 security deposit, which will be returned after the event.

Nature Center Resignation – Fletcher: Sue Fletcher has resigned as Assistant Manager of the Nature Center; Manager Sue Weigrefe, along with assistance once a month from Sarah Wexler-Mann and also help from Friends volunteers, will keep the Nature Center functioning, at least until spring. Connie Verse is working one day per week, mostly Sundays. MOTION BY SCHUTZ, SECONDED BY KNUTSON TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF SUE FLETCHER; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Stuttgen Feedlot Application to County – Update: Peterson updated the Council regarding public hearing held on September 29 regarding the feedlot variance application. Attorney Jed Hammell and Peterson attended, along with others, including County representatives from the Board of Adjustment and the County Zoning Administrator. Peterson provided the Council with a copy of Attorney Hammell's research and findings that was presented to the Board of Adjustment. Also included in the packet was clarification of the subdivision boundaries and timeline as they relate to the farm. The Zoning Administrator recommended tabling the matter until further details are available, including input from the Soil and Water Department for assurance that there will be no run-off problems, etc. On October 27, the Board of Adjustment will meet to determine whether to grant the variance.

Peterson stated that the City can appeal the ruling if the variance is granted, at which time it will come before the District Court. If this occurs, it may be in the City's best interest to hire an attorney who specializes in land use.

After further discussion, it was decided to wait until after the meeting on the 27th to determine what the next step will be. A special Council meeting may be necessary; Peterson polled the Council for the best dates most convenient for them.

Minutes: MOTION BY SANDEN, SECONDED BY SCHULTZ TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 12 COUNCIL AND PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES FOR THE 2017 BUDGET AND PROPERTY TAX LEVY; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Also, MOTION BY KNUTSON, SECONDED BY SCHUTTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE EMERGENCY CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 14; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. A third MOTION WAS MADE BY SANDEN, SECONDED BY SCHULTZ TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 26 SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Financial Report/Review of Bills: MOTION BY SCHULTZ, SECONDED BY KNUTSON TO PAY THE BILLS; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Department Reports:

Chamber: Sarah Wexler-Mann reported that there was a very good turnout at the recent Taste of the Trail event held at the Trailhead Park. Approximately 150 people attended, with local businesses well represented. The next Chamber meeting will be on October 20, 7 p.m. at the American Legion Club Room, with the Executive Committee meeting just prior to this. Chamber members are asked to bring nonmember guests to the meeting to encourage them to join.

Maintenance: Thesing reported sludge has been hauled, and will be flushing the mains. Had a water main break on Cedar Street which was repaired quickly. Summer help worked out well and are likely to reapply next year. He and Jacobs will be at training on Friday, October 15. They are making necessary preparations for fall, including sweeping the streets. A street light burned out by the corner of AcenTek and was replaced with a new LED light. Thesing asked Council to look at the light and let him know their opinion; if favorable, it will be used for future burnouts.

Police: Interim Chief Brett Hurley discussed an incident that occurred at the high school where terroristic threats were made; the perpetrator was apprehended and charged. Hurley and the Sheriff's Department will be

working with the school to set up a safety meeting. In view of this incident and other concerns, Mayor Edwards called for volunteers to walk the streets on Halloween to ensure the safety of the children while they are Tricks or Treating. Volunteers will wear a vest that identifies them as being a 'safe' person. The squad car and ranger will also be out patrolling the streets.

Schutte and Jacobs volunteered to help; Schultz will coordinate with the ambulance crew for additional help, and Schutte and Knutson will coordinate with the Fire Department. Once it is determined how many volunteers there are, they will let Hurley know. If more help is needed, Peterson will put an announcement of Facebook.

Library: Liz Gibson-Gasset obtained two quotes for the work necessary to repair two sides of the Library building that have rain water issues. The low bid was for \$13,680. She requested Council approval to move forward on the project before winter arrives, stating she has been building up her fund balance toward this expense.

Playground Project: Schutte spoke on behalf of the Park & Rec Department as well as the Class of 1966, stating the park playground fundraising is underway, and donations have already been received. A kickoff breakfast was held before the All School Reunion that went well, with free-will offering and pledges received. Grants will be written to assist in the fundraising, and the community has been very supportive.

MOTION MADE BY SCHULTZ, SECONDED BY SANDEN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:15 P.M; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.