

Mayor Dave Olson called the City Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. August 12, 2019 with the Pledge of Allegiance. Council present: Mayor David Olson, Tony Schultz, Matt Schutte, and Emily Krage. Council absent: Cheryl Sanden. Staff present: Randy Thesing, Ed Jacobs, Chris Peterson, Brett Hurley, and Brett Levin.

Public Hearing – Small Cities Development Program: Cindy Viste from SEMCAC was present to give an update on the funding and the housing rehabilitation project. There were no questions from the public.

Public comment: Marlene Schultz requested that the hanging flower baskets stay up through September 21st. Thesing agreed to keep them up provided they remain healthy. Marlene also asked what the rule is for golf carts to pull off to the side to let cars pass. The golf cart regulations say they must follow rules of other vehicles on the road. It can be suggested to golf cart operators to pull aside and let cars go by when appropriate.

Holly Westby asked what the minimum age was to drive a golf cart and was told 16 with a valid driver's license. Inquiry was made about the trailer of debris parked at corner of Maple and Ellsworth. Mayor Olson told Hurley that the City will need to address the garbage issue.

Lincoln Street Reconstruction Project: Brian Malm stated that after review of project needs, Lincoln Street, Spruce Street Utilities, and Jackson Street were discussed. The first priority is Lincoln Street, and Brian presented a work order to authorize beginning the project. Brian also discussed the funding options and placement on the state priority list. The budgetary project cost estimate is about \$740,000. MOTION BY SCHULTZ, SECONDED BY SCHUTTE TO APPROVE THE WORK ORDER FOR ENGINEERING RELATED TO LINCOLN STREET RECONSTRUCITON; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Westgate Drive Repair: There is a bad spot on Westgate Drive in front of loading dock for Flexcraft. Approximate size of area is 20ftx30ft, and it is predicated it would need to be dug out 3ft deep and rebuilt. Administrator Peterson noted that Adam Olson has given a proposed solution and would work on a time and materials basis. MOTION BY SCHUTTE, SECONDED BY KRAGE TO APPROVE THE REPAIR WORK ON WESTGATE DRIVE UP TO \$10,000; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Property Liability Insurance Renewal: The insurance renewal was presented with cost and details of coverage for property and vehicles. Total premiums have not changed much over the years, and many of the items have been reviewed by Tom Danielson Insurance and Peterson to minimize cost. MOTION BY KRAGE, SECONDED BY SCHULTZ TO APPROVE THE INSURANCE RENEWAL AT PREMIUM OF \$36,992; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Water Treatment Facility - Pay Estimate #10 Wapasha Construction: MOTION BY SCHUTTE, SECONDED BY SCHULTZ TO PAY WAPASHA CONSTRUCTION'S ESTIMATE #10 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$331,804.60 FOR WORK DONE ON THE WATER TREATMENT FACILITY; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Animal Control: Several residents were present to express concern over sightings of rats on the east side of the city. There was also concern that use of poison could affect other animals. It was suggested that the keeping of chickens at a property on Chase Street may be attracting the rats. The City Code only allows farm animals if they are on a 10+ acre lot with a setback to residential property. Since the property with chickens had been in the township a few years ago, the city had not yet enforced the city ordinance. The Mayor stated we need to enforce it now that we have an issue. He will contact the landowner. Karla Bloem showed an example of an electric rat trap and gave information on the risks of using poison and the harm to other animals.

Franchise Agreements: Tabled.

Purchase of Real Estate – Sanden Building Offer: Peterson reviewed the purchase agreement and pointed out the following items for discussion: Closing Date, Survey, and Contingencies (including inspection and financing). The inspection contingency allows for the city to collect cost information to ensure the minimal improvements could be made for \$100,000. Peterson suggested having a committee to help her look into the cost and type of improvements. Peterson noted that the MiEnergy loan applied for is for \$300,000, so another \$200,000 (\$100,000 remainder of purchase price and \$100,000 minimal improvements) must be raised prior to December 31, 2019. Peterson asked when the council would like to finalize and sign the purchase agreement. The contingencies would allow for time to complete the inspections and financing. Krage said she would like to wait until after the budget meeting and Peterson noted we would also know the results of the MiEnergy loan by the end of August. The Mayor appointed Schultz and Krage to assist Peterson with gathering cost estimates and creating a list of minimum improvements.

Council Member Appointment: The Mayor stated the Connie Edwards had expressed interest to be on council. MOTION BY KRAGE, SECONDED BY SCHUTTE TO APPOINT EDWARDS. Discussion occurred on how much the vacancy was publicized. Peterson noted that it was put in the Banner and posted at City Hall. It was not put on Facebook. Schultz stated he would like to see more time allowed for people to express interest. Peterson reminded the council there is a motion and second, so it could go to vote or the motions could be rescinded. KRAGE AND SCHUTTE RESCINDED THEIR MOTIONS; NO ACTION.

Matt Schutte Recognition: Mayor Olson read a Certificate of Appreciation for Matt Schutte's service to the City of Houston, since February 13, 2012.

Brett Levin Recognition: Hurley recognized Levin for his lifesaving efforts for his response and care for an unresponsive person on his second shift working for city.

Brett Levin Swearing-In: Brett Levin was sworn into office by Mayor Olson

Financial Report, Bills, and Minutes: MOTION BY KRAGE, SECONDED BY SCHUTTE, TO APPROVE CONSENT ITEMS; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Department Reports: Thesing requested approval from the Council to sell the GMC pickup. MOTION BY SCHULTZ, SECONDED BY KRAGE, TO APPROVE THE SALE OF THE GMC FOR \$2,500; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Thesing is formulating a plan to investigate and repair a portion of sewer in Chase Street. Due to the many locate requests for the utility projects going on, a tablet would be helpful, so they can pull up the GIS mapping or city utilities. Council requested he bring back prices.

Peterson reported on upcoming meetings including August 19th with MnDOT. Requested to schedule a budget meeting with Olson and Krage.

Hurley noted that National Night Out was a success and they served over 500 people.

Adjourn: MOTION BY SCHUTTE, SECONDED BY SCHULTZ, TO ADJOURN MEETING AT 7:29 PM; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.