

Mayor Dave Olson called the City Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on March 13, 2017 with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were: Mayor David Olson, Kevin Knutson, Cheryl Sanden, Matt Schutte and Emily Krage. Also present were: Chris Peterson, Audrey Hegland, Chief David Breault, Officer Isaiah Bunke, Randy Thesing, Ed Jacobs, Liz Gasset, Carol Meeks, Rick Frank, and Tom Wenthe of Smith Schaefer. **Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

2016 Financial Audit – Tom Wenthe: Tom Wenthe presented a summary of the 2016 Financial Audit, stating it was a clean audit, and all city bonds and installment notes were paid on a timely basis. The complete Financial Audit is available at City Hall.

Houston County Environmental Services Report – Rick Frank: Frank presented the annual Environmental Services Report that profiled fees charged and ending balance for the year. The florescent bulb collection will be on April 8 at the drop site from 8 – 3 p.m. and will accept bulbs from both businesses and households. Businesses will be allowed to come earlier on the 8th in order to prevent backup at the drop site. Hazardous waste collection will be on May 18, from 1:00 – 6:00 p.m. He has been made aware of a new state program called “Paint Care” that will reimburse the County for what they pay to get rid of the paint they receive, so there may not have to be a charge to people who bring their paint in. Another new program is “Ag Bag”: A business in Wisconsin will provide large containers to farmers to house the large white plastic tubes used to store silage, hay, etc. The business will pick up the containers at no charge and recycle the plastic.

Variance Request – 109 E. Elm Street: Tabled at the last Council meeting for further study; it has been determined that there is not enough room in the back of the lot to build the planned lean-to as was conditionally recommended by the Planning Commission. The property owner requests to put it in the front of the house; it will be 10x20 ft., attached to the house with a shingled roof that will follow the roofline. It will have six cemented posts and cement pad, and will not be enclosed. The Planning Commission recommends to the Council that they approve the variance request since it meets the variance criteria, with the condition that it not be used for storage and that any future modifications must first be approved by the Planning Commission and City Council. MOTION BY SANDEN, SECONDED BY KRAGE TO APPROVE THE VARIANCE REQUEST OF STACY VIX AT 109 S. ELLSWORTH ST WITH THE CONDITIONS AS SPECIFIED BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

City Safety Deposit Box – Authorization Resolution: MOTION BY SCHUTTE, SECONDED BY SANDEN TO AUTHORIZE CHRISTINA PETERSON, KEVIN KNUTSON, LARRY JERVISS AND DAVID G. OLSON TO HAVE ACCESS TO THE CITY’S SAFE DEPOSIT BOX; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Semi-Truck Parking – Possible Location: There are semi trucks and trailers being parked in the City limits overnight or for other lengths of time that sometimes cause traffic obstructions or other problems. The City ordinance does not allow for semi’s parking on City streets. Finding a place to park that does not cause problems is difficult so discussion was held whether the City could find a place that would work. After discussion, it was decided it would be best to have it be the responsibility of the trucker find a place to park that would not cause problems. Westgate was mentioned but it appears that truckers do not want their semi’s out that far. Chief Breault has talked with the truckers, saying they need to find a different place to park than where they are currently, and that he will be enforcing the ordinance.

Upcoming Training/Meetings: Peterson listed the upcoming training and meetings for the remainder of March through April. Included will be:

- March 16, 5:00 pm: Tree Board meeting plan to replace some of the trees that had to be cut down due to the ash borer and also discuss how to deal with the trees on Cedar Street that have grown too big and now are uprooting the sidewalks. It was noted that the Tree City USA designation has expired and should be renewed. The Committee needs to provide organization and direction as well as seek funds to purchase the new trees that are needed. Thesing said one of the remaining two tree stumps in the park that were not cut all the way down is diseased and will have to be removed. Suggestion was made that the remaining healthy stump could be made into a travelling little library site.

- March 20, 5:00 p.m: Special Council Meeting on Capital Improvements Financial Plan and Community Center Maintenance.
- April 3, 5:30 pm: Planning Commission and Public Hearing on adding meat processing/slaughter as a conditional use in Commercial District.
- April 12: MLC's Loss Control Workshop will be held in Rochester; Peterson and some City staff will be attending, and she extended an invitation to Council members to join them. Registration is \$20 each.
- April 26, TBD: Proposed date for an informational meeting regarding the Community Center.
- April 27, TBD: Proposed date for the first OHV Community Advisory Committee; more members are needed from the community.

Minutes: MOTION BY KNUTSON, SECONDED BY SANDEN TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 12, 2017 COUNCIL MINUTES; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Financial Report/Review of Bills: Question raised regarding the dumpster by the Community Center and how it is charged; the charge is split between two accounts – the City and the Community Center. The dumpster will be emptied only once a week until warmer weather arrives. MOTION BY SCHUTTE, SECONDED BY SANDEN TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT AND PAY THE BILLS; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Department Reports:

Library: New siding and overhang have been put on the Library, necessitated by water damage. Gasset would like to install a handicapped accessible door in the rear of the building should funds become available. The basket and quilt raffles realized nearly \$2,000 toward the Summer Reading Program. Little Free Libraries project going well; one is decorated and at the Library on display and four others are being painted by HARC artists to match their permanent homes; they will be placed at the ballfield, elementary school, nature center and city park. Circulation statistics were attached to her report, showing that the Library is well used by city and rural residents.

Maintenance: Thesing said they are preparing for spring and the lawn mowing season. The recent storm blew shingles off the roof of the Community Center; bids will be obtained for repair. The new mower has been received.

Police: Chief Breault and Brett Hurley attended a meeting on the LTG software. He stated that the software company has been sold so it is unknown what, if any, changes will occur.

MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 7:30 PM MADE BY SANDEN, SECONDED BY SCHUTTE; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.