

Mayor Dave Olson called the City Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. October 15, 2019 with the Pledge of Allegiance. Council present: Mayor David Olson, Tony Schultz, Cody Mathers, and Emily Krage. Council absent: Cheryl Sanden. Staff present: Randy Thesing, Chris Peterson, Suzie Peterson, Ed Jacobs, and Brett Hurley. City Engineer Brian Malm present.

Public comment: No Comments.

Scout Camping Event at Trailhead Park – Arlin Frauenkron asked for permission to bring in about 100 scouts on May 1-2, 2020, for a program on wilderness first aid and camp overnight at trailhead park. It was suggested that the city could come up with a couple of work items for the scouts to complete at trailhead park in exchange for their stay. **MOTION BY SCHULTZ, SECONDED MATHERS TO APPROVE THE EVENT; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.** Arlin was told any approval was subject to the agreement the city is working on with the International Owl Center.

Traffic Regulation Request: Steve Carlson was present to give a proposal on his ideas for traffic safety. He noticed an uptick in speeding in the south and west end of town. He submitted a written proposal which was included in the council packet. His suggestions focused on school zone signage and speeds near the school. He noted his research found that cities can reduce speed limits without a traffic study. Houston School Superintendent Krin Abraham commented that the speed limit in the school zone is 15 MPH. She added that many of the school zone signs are very old and faded. Some locations such as the preschool are without school zone signs. She requests the city do what they can to improve the signage. Carlson requested the school zone be made symmetrical by extending it one block west and one block north. Schultz asked Police Chief Hurley what he observes. Hurley presented maps and photos of signs, and said he agrees there are inconsistencies.

Carlson suggested the City could reduce the speed limit to 25 MPH throughout the city. City Engineer Malm noted there is some uncertainty in the authority of the City to reduce speed without minimal study based on city safety engineering and traffic analysis. If speed was reduced to 25 MPH, the city would need to add signs at the end of each street. City does not have authority over Spruce Street (County) or state roads.

The Council ended discussion on lowering the speed limit and focused on improving the school zone signage. It was estimated that a minimum of sixteen signs would be needed. Further discussion occurred regarding specific locations and observations of traffic. Schultz stated further study is needed. Council agreed to have Hurley and Thesing study the issue and bring back a proposed plan.

Water Treatment Facility - Pay Estimate #12 Wapasha Construction: MOTION BY SCHULTZ, SECONDED BY KRAGE TO PAY WAPASHA CONSTRUCTION'S ESTIMATE #12 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$139,543.12 FOR WORK DONE ON THE WATER TREATMENT FACILITY; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Lincoln Street Reconstruction Project: Brian Malm from Bolton and Menk presented a report on the proposed Lincoln Street Project, including options for design and funding with options for assessments. A public hearing is proposed for November 12, 2019, when the engineer will present project information to the property owners and public.

MOTION BY SCHULTZ, SECONDED MATHERS TO APPROVE RESOLUTION ORDERING PREPARATION OF REPORT ON IMPROVEMENTS; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION BY MATHERS, SECONDED KRAGE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION RECEIVING THE REPORT AND CALLING HEARING ON IMPROVMENT; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION BY MATHERS, SECONDED SCHULTZ TO APPROVE REVISED WORK ORDER FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trailhead Park – Legal Description Gap: Peterson showed a drawing with an area in Trailhead Park that has a legal description issue. There was a gap in the legal descriptions when the property was transferred to the city. There are a few ways to clean this up, but a quit claim deed from the previous owner would be the simplest.

Waste Water Treatment Plant – Proposed Quiet Title Action: Peterson reported that the surveyor had conflicting information from past surveys and title searches and is not able to determine a clear boundary survey for the Wastewater Treatment Plant property. The surveyor recommends starting a quiet title action to establish a property boundary. The neighboring property owners would have the same difficulty in establishing their property lines and legal descriptions, so Peterson suggested the City is in a position to help out the adjacent property owners since city surveyor has already done most of the research. Peterson is hoping to meet with the property owner to work on both the Trailhead Park issue and the property boundary at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Job Descriptions: Peterson presented a draft job description for the Clerk/Administrator position. A few minor suggestions were noted and revision will be made. **MOTION BY SCHULTZ, SECONDED KRAGE TO APPROVE THE JOB DESCRIPTION WITH THE MINOR CHANGES; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Nature Center Staffing: Sue Fletcher has given notice that she can no longer act as the interim manager of the Nature Center. Connie Verse is available to cover the shifts through October and Fridays/Saturdays throughout the winter. The hours will need to be reduced to only being open on Fridays and Saturdays for the winter. The Council will work on a plan for the spring. Peterson suggested the council should consider the cleaning demand at the Nature Center when making decisions.

Gambling Permit: MOTION BY SCHULTZ, SECONDED KRAGE TO APPROVE THE GAMBLING PERMIT FOR THE FIRE RELIEF ASSOCIATION GUN RAFFLE; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Additional Council Meetings: Peterson recommended two additional council meetings for 2019 be added: October 28th and November 25th.

Financial Report and Bills: MOTION BY KRAGE, SECONDED BY SCHULTZ, TO APPROVE CONSENT ITEMS; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. (Minutes will be included for the next meeting)

Department Reports: Thesing noted a part needed for the Wastewater Plant in the amount of \$1900. Leonard has been trained on the street sweeper. Thesing stated he may need to be at Water Plant two hours a day and wants to make sure there is help for snow plowing. Peterson will place an ad to see if anyone beyond the existing part-time help would be interested in helping the city with snow removal. Since snow removal will be varying hours and not guaranteed hours, Peterson suggested paying more than the rate for summer help. GMC truck is still available and he will try an auction site to get it sold.

Adjourn: MOTION BY KRAGE, SECONDED BY SCHULTZ, TO ADJOURN MEETING AT 8:23 P.M.; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.