

Mayor Dave Olson called the City Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. February 10, 2020 with the Pledge of Allegiance. Council present: Mayor David Olson, Emily Krage, Cody Mathers, Tony Schultz and Cheryl Sanden. Staff present: Suzie Peterson, Randy Thesing, Ed Jacob, and Michelle Quinn.

Public Comment: None

Lamp Post Flowers: Margaret Carlson representing hometown pride group spoke in support of the lamp post flowers. She shared how the appearance of our downtown is important and compliments about the flowers are received. The group had heard the flowers may not go up in 2020 due to financial limitations. Sanden reported the flowers are already on order and would be on display. The flowers come from Roger Colbenson in Rushford. The cost of the flowers and care was discussed. The City would gladly accept volunteers to care for the flowers or donations to defray the cost however Council remains committed to the display and care of the flowers.

Owl Art Banners: At this time Karla Bloem presented information related to the Owl Art Banners. Council approved the display of 8 of the banners last year. Ms. Bloem indicated one banner is on display outside the International Owl Center and encouraged those in attendance to drive by and look at it. Craig Stanislowski, Wild Exhibit, reported the banners are made of 24 gauge material which doesn't flex as much as vinyl, the print life is expected to be 5 to 7 years and will be displayed utilizing the hanging fixtures currently located on the lamp posts. The banners cost approximately \$450 each. Krage questioned the weight of the new banners as weight was a concern during initial discussion and approval. It was noted lamp posts are adequate in strength for the weight of the new banners. Motion by Krage, seconded by Schultz to approve the display of the International Children's Owl Art Banners. Motion carried unanimously.

Lincoln Street Project: Matt Mohs provided information related to the Neighborhood meeting hosted last Thursday, February 6th. He reported he is currently finalizing design and preparing for bidding. Mr. Mohs recommended the bid opening be held on Thursday, March 5th at 10:00 a.m. The bidding will be an online process. This is a simple and efficient means and should result in reduced errors. The bid recommendations and final assessments will be presented to Council at its regularly scheduled meeting to be held on Monday, March 9, 2020. It is a goal of the project to save as many trees as possible. There is a need to plan in case a tree remains and subsequently dies as a result of construction. Mr. Mohs intends to plan for extra tree removal as part of the project contingency funds. This will ensure no added costs to residents. The next neighborhood meeting will include assessment discussion. It was noted the current plans do not include cost for tree replacement. Motion by Sanden, seconded by Schultz to adopt Resolution 2020-04 Approving Plans and Specifications an Ordering Advertisement for Bids. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Facility Restroom Facility Cleaning: Mayor Olson discussed the possibility of entering into an arrangement with ABC Works for the cleaning of the Nature Center and also Central Park restroom facilities. Motion by Krage, seconded by Mathers to engage ABC Works for the cleaning of the Houston Nature Center and the Central Park restroom facilities three times weekly being Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Motion carried unanimously.

Houston Nature Center Staffing: Mathers indicated he attended the Friends meeting and they appreciate the consideration being given to staffing. The Friends of the Nature Center expressed strong support for the employment of a Naturalist. Karla Bloem expressed concern for the huge diversity of

plants and the ability to properly care for them. Significant time goes into planting, pruning and weeding. Discussion was held regarding training for staff in the identification and care of the plantings. Motion by Schultz, seconded by Mathers to accept the position descriptions with the addition of plant identification knowledge preferred and to advertise for a Nature Center Lead and Attendants. Motion carried unanimously.

Maintenance Department Summer Help: Discussion was held regarding a recent PERA audit and how summer help should be considered going forward. Motion by Krage, seconded by Schultz to advertise for seasonal employees to assist with summer maintenance duties. Motion carried unanimously.

Advertising for Various City Positions: Motion by Mathers, seconded by Schultz to advertise for summer rec help. Motion carried unanimously.

City Facility Rental: Motion by Sanden, seconded by Schultz to approve assigning rental of all city facilities to the Custodian, to adopt the revised rental agreement form and increase park shelter rental to \$50. Motion carried unanimously.

Appointment of Election Judges: Motion by Schultz, seconded by Mathers to adopt Resolution 2020-05 Appointing Election Judges for the 2020 Presidential Nominating Primary Election. Motion carried unanimously.

Water Treatment Facility: Motion by Schultz, seconded by Sanden to pay estimate #16 to Wapasha Construction in the amount of \$71,670.85. Motion carried unanimously.

Local Board of Appeal and Equalization: Motion by Mathers, seconded by Sanden to schedule the LBAE meeting on April 13, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes and Bills: Motion by Krage, seconded by Sanden to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2020 meeting and the bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Department Reports: Randy Thesing reported there is a need to replace the small mower. The small mower could be utilized for the flower cart. The cost for a replacement mower is estimated to be less than \$3,000. Mr. Thesing commented with the WWTP project it is a good time to begin planning for the future with regard to staffing. Fall may be an ideal time to discuss future maintenance staffing. Discussion was held regarding the diesel generator which was used for Well #1. The maintenance department has no use for the generator. Motion by Schultz, seconded by Sanden to sell diesel generator on Minnbid. Motion carried unanimously.

Mathers reported on LMC training which he recently attended and found to be hugely informational.

Quinn's department head report is on file.

Public comment: None

Adjourn: Motion by Krage, seconded by Sanden to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.