

Mayor Dave Olson called the Council meeting to order at 6:00 pm on December 10, 2018 with the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance were: Mayor Dave Olson, Councilors Kevin Knutson, Matt Schutte and Emily Krage. Absent: Cheryl Sanden. Staff in attendance: Chris Peterson, Randy Thesing, Ed Jacobs, and Brett Hurley.

Public Comment:

On behalf of the Friends of the Nature Center, Karla Bloem presented a \$1000 donation towards nature center operations. The donation was made possible by the profits from the Rattlesnake Jubilee Event.

2019 Final Budget and Final Property Tax Levy (Resolution 2018-26) – Truth in Taxation Hearing:

Peterson went through the 2019 budget report. The highlights included: No change to tax levy amount from last year, LGA only changing \$400, no change in employee health insurance rates, cost of living increase 2%, shift more wages from general fund to water and sewer fund to more accurately match work tasks . Peterson also gave an overview of current and future project list.

Proposed Tax Levy for 2019:

General Fund	221,815
Library Fund	37,275
Fire Fund	50,000
Park/Rec Fund	5,000
Nature Center Fund	38,000
Infrastructure Construction	50,000
2011 Sherman Street Bond	58,000
2016 Ellsworth Street Bond	10,000
2017 Street & Utility Improvement Bond	10,000
Vehicle Fund	<u>17,000</u>
	\$497,090

A city taxpayer questioned why there was such a variance in the tax increase and change in property values that were shown on the preliminary tax estimate sent out by Houston County. Peterson explained that the City has a meeting in April that reviews property values. Questions can go directly to the County, and if the question isn't answered, taxpayers can come to City Board of Appeals meeting in April. As far as tax amount, the City, County, and School, set a preliminary levy which is reflected on the preliminary tax statement. In December the final amounts are approved. The school district had proposed a large increase in their preliminary, but likely approved something much less for the final. When the final tax statements come out, the amount should be significantly less than the preliminary. No further questions.

MOTION BY SCHUTTE, SECONDED BY KRAGE TO ACCEPT THE 2019 FINAL BUDGET AND PROPERTY TAX LEVY COLLECTALBE IN 2019; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Certify Unpaid Utility Bills to taxes – Resolution 2018-24: MOTION BY KNUTSON, SECONDED BY SCHUTTE TO CERTIFY UNPAID UTILITY BILLS TO TAXES; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Certify Unpaid City Charges – Resolution 2018-25: MOTION BY KRAGE, SECONDED BY SCHUTTE TO CERTIFY UNPAID CITY CHARGES TO TAXES; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Appoint Assistant Fire Chiefs:

At the November meeting, Steve Skifton was appointed Fire Chief, so his assistant position opened up. Therefore, there were two assistant chief positions open and two applicants, Jay Wheaton and Ken Witt. MOTION BY KRAGE, SECONDED BY KNUTSON TO APPOINT JAY WHEATON AND KEN WITT AS ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEFS; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Existing Playground Equipment:

Peterson handed out photos of the existing playground equipment and stated the new playground project is a go for May 1-5, 2019. In order to clear the site by April, discussion should occur about where the existing equipment should go. Peterson stated that she did speak with a certified playground inspector and it was suggested the existing merry-go-round not be reused on city property. New merry-go-rounds are reasonably priced and meet current safety guidelines. It was noted that the swingsets are OK but the chains and seats would probably need to be replaced if reused. Thesing said the spring toys are shot. The equipment is all being stored until a decision can be made.

Peterson asked if the City would want to re-use the main playground structure? Peterson and Thesing recently looked closer at the structure and found it was in good shape. The new playground project does still have a gap of funding, so putting the items up for bid could help the playground fund. Thesing stated that the ballfield committee was not interested in planning for a playground project at this time. It may be easier to start new if and when the time comes to add a playground near ballfield. Money Creek Township Playground committee members were present at the meeting and expressed interest in the equipment. Peterson said no commitment was needed from Council at this meeting. The Council could decide later after bids to keep the equipment, sell it, or donate it. There was further Discussion on requesting bids for the equipment and timing of the process.

2018 Street & Utility Project – Pay Estimate #2 Zenke, Inc.:

MOTION BY SCHUTTE, SECONDED BY KNUTSON TO APPROVE AND PAY ESTIMATE #2 TO ZENKE, INC.; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Water Treatment Facility – Pay Estimate #2 Wapasha Construction:

MOTION BY KRAGE, SECONDED BY SCHUTTE TO PAY ESTIMATE #2 TO WAPASHA CONSTRUCTION FOR SERVICES RENDERED FOR THE WATER TREATMENT FACILITY; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Gambling Permit – Sheldon Valley Sportsman’s Association, January 18, 2019 & March 30, 2019:

MOTION BY KNUTSON, SECONDED BY KRAGE TO APPROVE GAMBLING PERMITS; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Appreciation for outgoing Council Member Kevin Knutson:

Mayor Olson noted the City’s appreciation for Kevin and said that he would be missed. A Certificate of Appreciation was given to Kevin in recognition of his continued service since April 12, 2010 as city council member.

Minutes:

MOTION BY SCHUTTE, SECONDED BY KRAGE TO APPROVE NOVEMBER 13, 2019 MINUTES.; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Financials:

MOTION BY KRAGE, SECONDED BY SCHUTTE TO APPROVE FINANCIAL BILLS/REPORT; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Department Reports:

Public Works/Randy: Water plant construction has started. Forms up, ready to pour footings. Added rock to alleys after ice event.

Police/Brett: New part-time hire Matt to start, first shift solo will be Dec 22. Councilmember Knutson said he noticed warning stickers on cars that need to be moved for plowing. Hurley confirmed issuing the warnings.

Emily Krage: Tree board will be reapplying for tree city designation.

Adjournment: MOTION BY KNUTSON, SECONDED BY SCHUTTE TO ADJOURN AT 7:40 PM; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.