

Mayor Edwards called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were: Mayor Connie Edwards, Cheryl Sanden, Kevin Knutson and Tony Schultz. Also present were: Chris Peterson, Audrey Hegland, Randy Thesing, Ed Jacobs, Chief David Breault, Ellyn Baumann, Lisa Onsgard, Liz Gibson Gasset, and Joe Krage.

Public Comment: Lisa Onsgard came before the Council to voice a concern regarding the ongoing plumbing problems at the Community Center. The sewer has a tendency to back up and she thinks it is time something be done.

Thesing has been aware of the problem which he said has several causes, none of which has an easy solution, bearing in mind the costs involved and also the aging condition of the structure. One solution would be to add a grinder pump, costing around \$5,000. He will continue to work on the problem and in the meantime, signage will be placed in the bathrooms asking that no foreign substances be placed in the toilets. Also, signs in the kitchen will ask that people do not drain both sinks at once or put grease down the drains, as these have triggered overflow issues in the past.

2016 Appointments and Meeting Calendar: Peterson distributed a new City calendar and also the new City Council roster, which has remained the same as last year with the exception that Matt Schutte will serve as Vice Mayor for the year. Knutson suggested that since the International Owl Center is completely independent of the City, a Council liaison may be no longer necessary. He will discuss this with Karla Bloem. MOTION BY SCHULTZ, SECONDED BY KNUTSON TO ACCEPT THE 2016 ROSTER AS PRESENTED; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. A second MOTION MADE BY SCHULTZ, SECONDED BY SANDEN, TO ACCEPT THE 2016 CITY CALENDAR AS PRESENTED; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Repair: Thesing said the grinder at the treatment plant needs to be replaced and the bearings are wearing out. Alternatives at this time are to purchase a \$4,500 repair kit and do the installation work needed or buy a new unit which will cost \$15,000. After discussion, MOTION WAS MADE BY SANDEN, SECONDED BY SCHULTZ THAT THESING ORDER THE GRINDER REPAIR KIT FOR \$4,500; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Thesing will get the information to the City office.

Summer Rec Director Position: Jason Carrier has applied and was selected to serve as the 2016 Summer Rec Director; MOTION BY KNUTSON, SECONDED BY SANDEN TO APPROVE JASON CARRIER AS THE 2016 SUMMER REC DIRECTOR; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Donations: Peterson presented a Resolution 2016-1 to accept donations given to the City for various purposes, including the memorial benches, the Ambulance and Fire Departments, Summer Rec, the Nature Center and Ballfield. MOTION BY S-ANDEN, SECONDED BY SCHULTZ TO ACCEPT THE DONATIONS AS PRESENTED ON BEHALF OF THE CITY; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Library Message Sign: Friends of the Library and its Board are seeking funds to purchase and install a new public marquee on the blank wall space on the north side of the Library to serve as an important communication tool for the entire community. Toward this end, to date they have received a \$2,500 grant from Acentek and additional funds have come in, leaving a balance of \$462 still needed for the sign, which costs over \$4,200. The Friends have submitted a request to the City's EDA for additional financial support. The City was encouraged use the sign, when it is up, by sending word of community events to the Library.

Annexation Update: An annexation public hearing was held on Wednesday, January 6; Council members attending were Edwards, Schultz and Schutte, with Chris Peterson also present. The proceedings were audio taped and these, as well as well as transcribed minutes, will be sent to the judge for consideration. An official court hearing was held in the City Hall conference room on Friday, January 8; testifying was John Beckman, Mayor Edwards, Chris Peterson

and Larry Jerviss. The judge personally drove around town to view the properties being considered for annexation. It could take up to three months to learn the outcome depending on the judge's schedule.

Community Center Rental: Fees being charged to rent the Community Center were discussed. It costs the City at least \$8,000 annually to maintain and operate the Center. Little of that cost is recouped through the modest rental fees currently being charged. Larger events are usually held on weekends although Yoga classes are held during the week and are growing in size and popularity. As an alternative to consider, Peterson suggested that from Monday morning through Friday noon, nonprofits can use the Center at no charge; however, from Friday noon through Sunday, everyone, including nonprofits, will be charged the standard rate, with the exception of the Scouts who have long used the facility on Sunday afternoons. Weekend reservations, especially if a wedding, occasionally need Friday afternoon to decorate, and then host the event all day Saturday, and then need Sunday morning to clean up. In such instances, they will be charged for a partial day on Friday (likely \$50), pay the normal rate for Saturday, and then no charge for Sunday clean-up.

Everyone who uses the Community Center will be asked to sign the rental application form for every event, such as the Scouts. A deposit will be required for everyone who uses the Center, including nonprofits; the deposit will be returned if the Center is left in the condition it was originally found. MOTION MADE BY SCHULTZ, SECONDED BY KNUTSON, TO APPROVE THE NEW COMMUNITY CENTER RENTAL POLICY AS PRESENTED BY THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Minutes: MOTION BY SANDEN, SECONDED BY KNUTSON TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER, 2015 COUNCIL MINUTES AS PRESENTED; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Department Reports:

Maintenance: Thesing reported that during the last big snowfall, the plant's clarifying drive broke, requiring his total attention; Jacobs and Chief Breault plowed snow to keep the City streets open during the storm.

Thesing stated that Jacobs will be attending training to learn how to work with Davy Engineering reports and tests which will now be sent electronically.

Police: Chief Breault said the new software is progressing well.

City Administrator: Peterson reminded the Council of the Chamber meeting on January 27 at the Legion, and stated she would appreciate some of them attending. Taylor Laschenski has been setting up the Chamber email list. Peterson is hopeful that a new part-time Chamber director will soon be hired.

MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 6:45 PM MADE BY SANDEN, SECONDED BY SCHULTZ; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Fire Board and Council met directly after the adjournment.