

CITY HALL
EVANSDALE, IOWA, FEBRUARY 11, 2022
CITY COUNCIL
DEANNE KOBLISKA, MAYOR, PRESIDING

The City Council of the City of Evansdale, Iowa met in special session, according to law, the rules of said Council and prior notice given each member thereof, in the Council Chambers of City Hall of Evansdale, Iowa at 6:00 p.m. on the above date. Council members present in order of roll call: Beam, (via telephone) Seible, Osborne, Smock, (via telephone), and Nichols. Quorum present.

Nichols/Seible to approve the February 11, 2022 agenda. Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

Seible/Beam to approve the request to purchase one (1) heat pump for the Community Response Center in the amount of \$6,380 with Aire Services as budgeted for FY22. Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

FY2023 Budget Workshop: Mayor Kobliska stated that we had budgeted extra in the parks department using a comparison from last year when the public works department was active in removing playground equipment and helping with the installation. So, we had reduced the wages in the parks department. Councilor Nichols questioned what the agreement with Elk Run Heights entailed. Chief Dean responded that the contract was 25 hours per week. Nichols questioned if they were charged extra after the 25 hours was achieved. Chief Dean responded no. Nichols stated that Evansdale residents are charged \$175.00 per resident and Elk Run Heights \$46.26 per resident for police coverage. Nichols also questioned why our residents are paying four times more for coverage than Elk Run residents. Chief Dean stated that if you compared it on a 100% basis of time then Elk Run Heights is only paying for 25% of the time, our residents are paying for 75% of the time. Councilor Beam stated that he was understood that we would close the margin between the cost to our residents compared to the cost to Elk Run residents. Mayor Kobliska questioned what type of increase council is considering. Beam stated a minimum increase should be 12%. Nichols responded that we should consider an increase to make it more equal. Chief Dean stated that the Evansdale Police Department had responded to calls before the agreement was in place. Councilor Seible stated that he would like to see more dialog regarding the issue and wanted to know what the savings would be if we didn't patrol Elk Run. Mayor Kobliska stated that the City of Evansdale has property on the other side of Elk Run and we patrol that area as well. Beam stated that maybe we could engage in a long-term agreement that would cover several years at once and no surprises. Councilor Smock stated that an agreement with an adjoining city is not always money, the money piece is important, however, it's a community helping another community, but if we can gain revenue, to assist with our expenses we have achieved our goal, but we need to have our mayor approach the Mayor of Elk Run Heights and negotiate from there and he believed an annual increase would be fair. Councilor Seible stated that we had the investment and the expense and we needed to figure that in the total costs. Nichols stated that we should at least be equal. Seible requested that the mayor put some numbers together so we can compare the numbers. Chief Dean stated that he would support a reasonable increase.

Chief Dean had approached the council to discuss eliminating one squad car. He stated that a squad car is a workhorse. The vehicle may be driven consistently at 100 mph for an hour at a time, they are stored outside, and they are used consistently throughout any given day. Reducing the number of vehicles doesn't change the amount of use the vehicles would be used, actually by reducing a vehicle from the force the vehicles on patrol will be utilized more. Councilor Osborne questioned if we were to remove one vehicle from the fleet would it be one of the Chargers. Chief Dean responded that the Charger would be his choice. She also stated that she was grateful that the Chief gave his perspective on the elimination of a squad car. Councilor Seible questioned why the Charger, that was being sold, was at the auto shop. Dean responded that to de-commission the vehicle we had to have it transported to Racom and then have it towed to Advanced Automotive to have battery and rim replaced.

Councilor Seible questioned what the FY23 levy rate would be once library and parks were added. Kobliska responded that we would be around 7.97 a .03 cent increase. Kobliska went over a couple examples and explained that the roll back had went down which will naturally decrease a resident's taxes. Seible questioned if we were giving funds to the Evansdale Chamber and questioned if they had been active in the community. Councilor Osborne questioned if we would donate to the Boys and Girls Club again. Kobliska responded that we had received an audit comment about giving to them again and it wasn't budgeted. Councilor Nichols questioned what the wages for the library would be. Kobliska responded that we haven't received their requested budget. Nichols also stated that the building inspector position was costing the city money and not enough in return, when the full-time position was established, the inspector wore several hats to justify the wage. Osborne questioned the different items in the parks budget. Kobliska explained the total project cost and how they were budgeted. The council also discussed future projects. Seible questioned if the public works director wages would remain in the wastewater budget. Kobliska responded that it was reduced to \$10,000 from the 50% of the director's wages. Chris Schares, Public Works Directors stated that a certain wage needed to go to wastewater as he was overseeing the collection system. Councilor Smock questioned when the library budget would be received. Kobliska responded within the next week.

Council discussed offers that were made on Eagles Landing and how to proceed. Councilor Seible questioned if we were ready to move forward and if the design standards were completed. Kobliska responded in agreement with moving forward and we were on the final revisions for the design standards. Councilor Beam stated that we need to have the design standards in place before we move forward with an offer acceptance.

There being no further discussion, Seible/Nichols to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m. Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

DeAnne Kobliska, Mayor

Megan Cross, City Clerk