

CITY HALL  
EVANSDALE, IOWA, JANUARY 19, 2016  
CITY COUNCIL  
DOUG FAAS, MAYOR, PRESIDING

The City Council of the City of Evansdale, Iowa met in regular 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: Nichols, Seible, Dewater, Loftus, and Walker. Quorum present.

Dewater/Seible to approve the January 19, 2016 agenda. Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

Walker/Loftus to approve the following items on the January 19, 2016 consent agenda. a) Approval of January 5, 2016 regular meeting minutes. b) Resolution 5912 authorizing payment of bills and transfers. c) Liquor License: Dollar General – Ownership change only. d) Accept and place on file the minutes and reports from the following Departments, Boards, and Commissions: Ambulance & Fire Report (Dec), Building Inspection Report (Dec), Clerk/Treasurer Report (Nov), Parks & Rec Dept. (Dec/Dec Budget), Police Dept. (Dec), Library (Nov/Dec), Water Works (Dec), Evansdale Municipal Housing (Nov/Dec), and Storm Water Commission (Oct). Roll call vote: Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

Walker/Seible to approve request for funding with the Cedar Valley Alliance in the amount of \$2,500 for budget years FY16 and FY17 funding. Representative Sue Beach from the Cedar Valley Alliance reviewed the mission of the Cedar Valley Alliance and that the Alliance is striving to improve economic development with all the surrounding cities in the Cedar Valley. Councilman Nichols questioned past development efforts. Beech responded that there hasn't been representation for several years with the Alliance and the city, but the Alliance is already working with businesses in Evansdale to help improve economic development. Councilman Seible stated that he wasn't in favor of supporting the local chamber if they weren't going to be active in our community. Beech recommended working with the local chamber in efforts to provide economic support. Roll call vote: Ayes-Four. Nays-One (Loftus). Motion carried.

Nichols/Seible to approve request from Chuck Rowe of the Boys and Girls Club to include funding for the Evansdale Boys and Girls Club in the FY 2017 budget in an amount not to exceed \$2,500. Councilman Seible asked what fund would support the club. Mayor Faas responded that it would be the same as last year under the hotel/motel fund. Seible also asked what the club offers to our residents. Council Walker responded that the club currently supports 95 children from both Bunger Middle and Poyner Elementary schools. The club is self-funded and only requires a \$25 stipend per child. Roll call vote: Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

Dewater/Seible approved the request to purchase the following: Four (4) – 16"x 50' canvas flood tubing for \$650.00 each, along with five (5) couplers for \$220.00 each, and nine (9) bands at \$80.00 each, in the amount of \$4,420.00. Mayor Faas stated that the canvas tubing was approved by council at the last meeting in December, however, we were not informed that we needed to purchase the couplers and bands. The couplers and bands are a one-time purchase, the tubing will have to be replaced periodically. Councilman Nichols questioned why we needed to purchase the tubing, couplers, and bands as we have used the pump in the past. Councilman Walker stated that the last Crisafulli pump we utilized was provided by Peterson Contractors and we purchased our pump several years ago, but never used it. Roll call vote: Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

Discussion: Sanitary Sewer with Elk Run Heights and Raymond-meeting recap. Mayor Faas gave highlights of the meeting with the Mayors from both Elk Run Heights and Raymond in regards to the possibility of combining sewer systems and asked the council to approve seeking an estimate on a preliminary study of the systems. Councilman Nichols stated that it would be an increase in capacity and doesn't want the Evansdale residents to have to fund the expansion. Councilman Dewater stated that he would also like a feasibility study on the cost to connect with the City of Waterloo. Nichols stated that he would in no way be agreeable to combining with Waterloo. Mayor Faas stated the study is needed to address the needs for our own sewer infrastructure. Councilman Walker stated that we need to look at our own system, so it wouldn't cost us anymore to address the possibility of merging with Elk Run Heights and Raymond. All councilmen agreed to proceed with a cost estimate for the study.

Discussion: Suspension Bridge at Bunger Park-direction from council on lease/buy option and cost sharing of legal costs involved. Mayor Faas questioned council after meeting again with Elk Run Heights if they wanted to proceed with the lease or buy option of the bridge. Park Board Member Tom Nichols stated that the park board is in favor of repairing the bridge. It is a landmark and we don't want to see it torn down. The council agreed that they didn't want the liability costs associated with the bridge in its current state, but were in favor of the lease option instead of the buyout option.

Appointments:

Walker/Dewater to approve appointment to the Planning and Zoning Commission: Sandy Clements-term expiring 12-31-20. Roll call vote: Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

Dewater/Walker to approve appointments to the Storm Water Committee as follows: Char White-term expiring 12-31-17, Kenny Loftus-term expiring 12-31-17, Richard Clements-term expiring 12-31-17, Rick Reuter-term expiring 12-31-17, and Brian Wirtz-term expiring 12-31-17. Councilman Seible questioned why Kenny was appointed when he stated he didn't want to be on the committee at the last meeting and why so many city officials are appointed to this committee. Mayor Faas asked Kenny again if he was willing to be on Storm Water Committee, and Kenny responded yes. Roll call vote: Ayes-Three. Nays-Two (Nichols and Seible). Motion carried.

Dewater/Walker to approve Resolution 5913 approving property tax abatement for 631 Home Acres. Roll call vote: Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

Seible/Loftus to approve Resolution 5914 to approve final payment to Baker Concrete & Excavating of Waverly, IA, for the W. Gilbert Drive/River Forest Road Intersection Project in the amount of \$5,029.51. Councilman Seible asked if Kwik Star would be providing reimbursement on the project. Mayor Faas responded yes. Roll call vote: Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

Dewater/Loftus to approve Resolution 5915 to approve 3rd payment to Peterson Contractors, Inc. of Reinbeck, IA, for the Norma Avenue Extension Project in the amount of \$13,840.92. Roll call vote: Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

Loftus/Walker to approve Resolution 5916 fixing compensation for Waste Water Foreman. Roll call vote: Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

Walker/Dewater denied Resolution 5917 rescheduling the February 2nd Council meeting for February 3rd, 2016 due to the Special Waterloo School Bond Election as there wouldn't be a quorum on the date requested. Loraine Atkins, 625 River Forest Rd., stated that the Waterloo Schools has always held their school elections at the Community Response Center. City Clerk, DeAnne Kobliska stated that the attachment sent for the elections highlighted city hall as the location for these elections, but that we would check with the elections office tomorrow.

Dewater/Walker to approve request to replace (20) city hall light fixtures with LED retrofit fixtures in an amount not to exceed \$3,700. MidAmerican Energy offers a rebate in the amount of \$50 per light which we will apply for in the amount of \$1,000. Roll call vote: Ayes-Three. Nays-Two (Nichols and Seible). Motion carried.

FY 2017 Budget Workshop: Councilman Seible stated that the budget format received last year was much easier to understand. The council asked that the budget be placed in a spreadsheet for easier viewing. Mayor Faas stated that the reason you received the complete budget as it is prepared in the accounting software was to insure that all the department head requests were received and that you could see what the full budget entailed. Mayor Faas addressed the following items: the capital budget will show a deficit in the capital fund but we could utilize grant money in the amount of \$20,000 that was received back in 2014 to offset the capital fund; the general fund also includes budget cost sharing for the police, fire, and ambulance services with Elk Run Heights; in addressing the overall deficit we could utilize reserves or increase the levy rate. The city prepared a levy rate comparison, so council could review levy rates statewide. Councilman Walker asked that the levy rate comparison be narrowed down to cities in our area with similar size.

Councilman Seible questioned the increase in wages for the EMT and City Clerk. Mayor Faas responded that the FLSA (Fair Labor Standards Act) is in the process of changing the floor rate for exempt status employees

(salaried employees) from \$23,660 to \$50,440. However, salaried employees can be switched to an hourly basis. City Attorney, Mike Young, stated the proposal from FLSA, as Mayor Faas explained, it is on hold in congress right now but chances are likely that it will become policy before the end of the year. Mayor Faas explained that keeping the EMT position as a salaried position will be advantageous to the city as currently the EMT is on call from 5-8 a.m. and as an hourly position we would have to pay for standby time, plus if called out we would have to pay overtime at 1 ½ times the wage. Councilman Nichols stated that we would be better off outsourcing some of these positions. Councilman Dewater stated to Nichols “you don’t want to outsource our sewer, but you want to outsource our help?” Mayor Faas stated that we need to budget for these changes. Councilman Dewater and Nichols stated that we should see how it plays out and not budget for it. Tom Nichols, 616 Grand Blvd., stated that we could review the ambulance reports to determine how many times that the EMT had been called out after hours and calculate the difference in time if he were placed in an hourly position, it may turn out to be a wash.

Public Discussion: Mayor Faas stated that part of the issue of keeping a low levy rate is we don’t have the opportunity to build up reserves. We need to start working on a capital improvement plan for the city and its infrastructure and equipment replacement needs for all departments. Councilman Nichols stated that these infrastructure needs will have to be taken into consideration when we are talking about working with the other cities with waste water needs. Nichols also stated we need to work with business owners in the business district and move forward on downtown improvements for the future of our city. Mayor Faas stated that there may be grants that we could obtain for future development. Councilman Seible questioned the building inspectors hours and if it would be more advantageous to hold regular city hours in order to better serve the community. Councilman Nichols questioned what the building inspector does. Mayor Faas responded, his job.

Loraine Atkins, 625 River Forest Rd., announced a blood drive at the Amvets and stated that the Red Cross is in desperate need for donors right now. Atkins also handed out a copy of the planning and zoning code to the council and mayor and questioned again why planning and zoning is not involved in the city planning as it states in the code. Councilman Seible also questioned why we haven’t been complying with our own code. Councilman Dewater stated that the code doesn’t state that planning and zoning have the right of approval for all city business. Mayor Faas stated that he is aware of the code and can’t change the way things have been in done in the past, but is aware of the code for future projects.

There being no further discussion, Loftus/Seible to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Motion carried.

**ATTEST:**

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**Doug Faas, Mayor**

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**DeAnne Kobliska, City Clerk**