

CITY HALL
EVANSDALE, IOWA, FEBRUARY 4, 2020
CITY COUNCIL
TROY BEATTY, 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: Dewater, Seible, Walker, and Beam. Absent: Bender. Quorum present.

Beam/Seible to approve February 4, 2020 agenda. Ayes-Four. Motion carried.

Walker/Beam to approve the following items on the February 4, 2020 consent agenda. a. Approval of January 21, 2020 regular meeting minutes. b. Liquor License Renewal: Lofty's – LC0021911 – effective 03/28/2020. c. Liquor License Renewal: Ray's Supermarket 2 – LE0003189 – effective 02/14/2020. Roll call vote: Ayes-Four.

Walker/Beam to approve appointment of Kent Patterson to the Utility Board of Trustees with a 6-year term from 01/01/2020-12/31/2025. Ayes-Four. Motion carried.

Walker/Beam to approve appointment of Jackie Wilson to the Board of Adjustment to fill a vacancy of a 5-year term from 02/04/2020-04/01/2023. Ayes-Four. Motion carried.

Seible/Dewater to approve Resolution 6380 authorizing payment of bills and transfers. Councilor Seible questioned the amount paid for the approved quote to service the generator. Clerk Kobliska responded that it was within approximately \$27 as a special part was required. Roll call vote: Ayes-Four.

Dewater/Beam to approve Resolution 6381 approving property tax abatement for 1712 Enid Street. Roll call vote: Ayes-Four.

Seible/Beam to approve request to approve the audio/video system in an amount not to exceed \$13,888 with ProSound of Ames. Councilor Beam stated the system quoted also included phone connectivity which would allow a council member to be a part of the meeting if they were away. Councilor Dewater stated that it seemed like a lot of money for a PA system. Ayes-Four. Motion carried.

Dewater/Seible to approve request from Wastewater Foreman to replace Waste Sludge Pump in the amount \$7,448 from Electric Pump or the repair of Waste Sludge Pump in an amount not to exceed \$5,134.88. Mayor Beatty stated that one of the issues that caused replacement/repair is that Electric Pump broke the impeller when trying to replace the seal, we received a concession and they issued a lesser quote. Councilor Beam questioned if the repair would be warrantied. Chris Even, Wastewater Foreman responded that he didn't think the quote stated a warranty. Even responded that there should be a warranty on the parts and this company was fair to work with. Councilor Walker stated that he didn't see a warranty and the new pump was only \$2,300 more to replace. Beam stated that the warranty was important to the consideration of the repair or replacement. Councilor Seible questioned what option would be less expensive in the future if there was a failure with this pump again. Beam stated that we need to get the pump replaced right away as we are running on one pump. Ayes-Four. Motion carried.

Dewater/Seible to approve request from Public Works Director to have stump removal hauling assistance in an amount not to exceed \$4,000 and the placement of 400 ton of rip rap along the Elk Run Creek in an amount not to exceed \$17,000 as part of the Army Corps of Engineers Levee

Compliance maintenance. Chris Schares, Public Works Director explained the repairs that had been required by the Army Corps of Engineers to the levee creek shoreline on the south portion of the Elk run Creek Bridge. He also stated that they had been working at another retention pond behind Bunger School that had in excess of 225 ton of tree stumps that had been cut down as part of the project for the levee maintenance and the crew had been working on the repairs required while the ground is hard. Councilor Dewater questioned the tonnage of the stumps and Schares responded that they had been working on the project for several months. Schares stated that they were purchasing the material and would place the rip-rap into the locations necessary as the Army Corps required he also stated that the city had also looked into different alternatives but that the expense was higher and it didn't suit the need. Ayes-Four. Motion carried.

Seible/Beam to approve request from Mayor to enter into an agreement with the City of Elk Run Heights for Animal Control in an amount of \$2,284 annually. Mayor Beatty stated that the agreement has been approved by the City of Elk Run Heights. Chris Schares, Public Works Director stated that we would implement the same program as the City of Evansdale utilizes and that most of the programs were already in place. Councilor Walker stated that there was an additional stipend built into the agreement if exceed the average number of calls. Ayes-Four. Motion carried.

Seible/Beam to table request from Public Works Director to replace two (2) overhead doors on building #2. Chris Schares, Public Works Director discussed the hollow core doors that had rusted out and that he would like the same style doors as were replaced in building #1 as they have a higher "R" rating and the building is heated. Mayor Beatty stated that if we were still waiting for additional quotes maybe we should table this item. Councilor Seible requested comparable quotes for building #2. Mayor Beatty responded that they were comparable you just double the second quote to \$8,200. Ayes-Four. Motion carried.

Beam/Seible to approve request for formal approval of repairs completed to 2000 Sterling Dump Truck in an amount not to exceed \$3,000 with River Forest Truck Repair (approved verbally by Council 01/30/2020). Ayes-Four. Motion carried.

Walker/Seible to approve request for formal approval of snow blades purchase in the amount \$1,554 for the 2004 Chevrolet truck blades to be shared with Wastewater and Water Works (approved verbally by Council 01/20/2020). Ayes-Four. Motion carried.

Beam/Seible to approve use of 2020 Freightliner dump truck. Mayor Beatty stated that the vehicle was delivered last week and had asked Schares to park until meeting. Councilor Walker stated that the average use of this vehicle is 25 years which averages out to \$7,000 per year. He also stated that this truck has the option to unload the dump box with the sanding box within 7 minutes with one man while our last system took 3-4 hours utilizing three men. Councilor Seible stated he didn't agree with the purchase but was open to retaining the vehicle. Walker explained that the vehicle was purchased with Road Use Tax and not the citizen taxes and that he was glad the weather was holding out as we were having issues with another snow-plow truck. Seible questioned why the city is not using the wing plow on the loader as purchased. Schares responded that it was very slow and the amount of snow in an event didn't allow for its use. Loraine Atkins, 715 Central Ave., #203, stated that it might save time but this is their job. Mayor Beatty stated that the option before us is to place the truck in service or sell the truck. Beam stated that we should use the truck but be more frugal in the future. Ayes-Four. Motion carried.

Walker/Beam to setting the date for City-wide Garage Sale for June 5th, 6th, and 7th. Ayes-Four. Motion carried.

Dewater/Seible to approve setting the date for City-wide Cleanup for June 12th and 13th. Ayes-Four. Motion carried.

FY21 Budget Workshop: Lisa Smock, City of Elk Run Heights Park Chair to discuss the donations for the trail that would lead into and around Bunger Park in the amount of \$10,370. She explained the Dog Park Project and the trail that would lead from Bunger Park to Mayor's Park in Elk Run Heights. Mayor Beatty shared possible grant information that would be applied for to keep the project moving forward and that the City wants to continue to offer recreational facilities for the citizens of the City. Councilor Beam questioned the liability for the city as well as the citizens and who would be responsible for maintaining the park. Councilor Dewater questioned if Evansdale's percent would be 20%. Smock responded yes. Tom Nichols, Park Board Chair stated that liability falls on the owner of the dog, not the city as stated by Iowa Code and that the maintenance would be handled in the same fashion as the rest of the parks. Bill Nichols, 221 Oakwood Dr., stated that his daughter utilized a dog park in Cedar Rapids frequently and that it was a great program and thought an additional fee could be charged to help fund the park. Wanda Adams, Animal Control Officer, stated that the pets would have to be registered with the city in order to participate in the dog park. Councilor Walker questioned if the park board was behind the project. Nichols responded yes and that the area would be perfect for it.

Jan Nichols, Library Board President questioned the budget cuts anticipated for FY21 for the Library. Her first concern was cutting out the insurance for the library director she understood the cut to the wages as the library director isn't currently working full-time. Nichols stated that the director accepted the position back in 1997 where a single insurance policy was included as part of the benefits for the position and she has had no lapse in coverage. Mayor Beatty stated at the budget protest hearing back in April the issue was that she was going to full-time and that was the reasoning behind the insurance coverage and the mayor, at that time, stated that the only reason she would be the primary on the city policy was that her husband was retiring. When a statement like that is heard by the public it causes them to go sideways. The citizens of this city want to see budget cuts and each department has had their budget cut. Mayor Beatty stated that if we review the last three years the budget was at \$100,000 and now you are asking for a budget in excess of \$130,000 to cover benefits. Nichols questioned why the library is the only department that pays rent, she didn't see where the Water Works or other departments were paying rent. Councilor Dewater stated that we should remove the rent. Councilor Seible stated that he had been on council for over four years and the rent charge had been a part of the Library budget and that he had asked for budget cuts in this department as long as he had been on council. Mayor Beatty stated that the rent was set as a precedence as well. Loraine Atkins, 715 Central Ave., #203, questioned if the director was paying for her spouse's policy. Nichols responded that she believed the director was paying for her spouse's coverage. Clerk Kobliska stated that she wasn't paying for her spouse's coverage. John Peverill, 543 East End Ave., questioned how many people actually use the library in a month's time. Nichols responded that she didn't have that information. Mary Kettwig, Library Board Member, stated that we are talking about the employee instead of the director position. Bill Nichols, 221 Oakwood, stated that positions filled after his retirement made less wages and benefits. Mayor Beatty stated that if we are not looking at the person but the position, if the person working the position isn't working full-time, we do not have to provide insurance and we verified that with our insurance agent PDCM Insurance. Nichols stated the previous mayor quoted an amount of \$500-\$600 per month to cover her spouse's insurance. Clerk Kobliska asked to address the council and stated that she was told the director would become a full-time employee and that she was receiving full insurance benefits and she is still not working full-time. Kathy Johnson, Library Board Member, stated that if we had to replace our library director you can clearly see by the survey of comparable size cities that you would have to give the position full-time benefits. Councilor Beam questioned if they had researched the total budget of the cities they had researched. Nichols responded that we researched the City of Waterloo. Johnson stated that we can move money around from different budget line items to cover the insurance. Councilor Walker questioned how we have a director of our library that is not full-time. Mayor Beatty stated it wasn't consistent with other part-time employees as they didn't receive benefits. Beam stated that the issue was we were told that the director would become a full-time employee and it hasn't happened. Johnson responded that if you go back and realize she owes for insurance please don't take it in a lump sum but spread it out over a period of time. Mayor

Beatty stated that we are not approving any budget tonight but will have our max levy hearing at the first meeting in March and the final budget the second meeting in March. Jackie Wilson, 1023 Central Ave., stated that she was in favor of the library and didn't want to see it closed. Mayor Beatty responded that a \$100,000 budget does not in any way proclaim that we are closing the library.

Public discussion: non-agenda items: Bill Nichols, 220 Oakwood Dr., wanted to thank the street department for their outstanding job with all the snow events the city has had. Councilor Seible questioned why the street department wasn't utilizing the wing plow as it was used on Evans Rd. where he resided. Barry Bodecker, Public Works responded that the wing plow that was purchased was a bad investment for the city it was labor intensive and didn't accomplish the job in a snow event as promised. Seible responded that it was a waste of the city funds to sit there and not use it.

Mayor/Council Reports: Mayor Beatty discussed the Cedar Valley Water Trails Project and the signage that would be a part of the project and reviewed the areas today on how we would incorporate the project into our city. He has heard a lot of interest in the project and wanted to proceed with the project if possible. Councilor Walker stated that the council had reviewed it before and wasn't certain we could participate in the area they had designated. John Peverill, 543 East End Ave., stated that the area where they are planning for the boat dock was very shallow and access wouldn't work. Beatty responded that INRCOG would come to speak to the council regarding the project and that we may be eligible for a REAP grant upwards of \$75,000 toward the project. Councilor Dewater questioned the access if we would use the Deerwood access instead. Tom Nichols, Park Board Chair stated that the board was considering the project and would discuss it more in the future and that access to Deerwood access is available but have to call representative Denny Wilson for access. It was questioned if the public was aware of that. Councilor Seible stated that he was proud of the street department keeping up with all the snow events that we have had. Councilor Walker questioned what we would be doing with the dump truck we were replacing as it could be utilized for other uses. Beatty responded that there had been no discussion on the future of the old dump truck.

There being no further discussion, Walker/Seible to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Troy Beatty, Mayor

DeAnne Kobliska, City Clerk