

CITY HALL  
EVANSDALE, IOWA, JULY 12, 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 5:30 p.m. on the above date. Council members present in order of roll call: Bergman, Nichols, Seible, and Osborne. Smock Absent. Quorum present.

Discussion: City Representation presented by Josh Moon, City Attorney. The City Attorney requested that the council comes up with formal process to request legal counsel to be mindful of spending city funds for his time. He suggested going back to the traditionally used process of having the mayor contact the attorney. Nichols asked why it must be the mayor who contacts the attorney when council has just as much authority. Mayor Kobliska pointed out that it's generally a council consensus to contact the attorney and even in a disagreement amongst council members, council can still agree to contact the attorney for legal advice.

Discussion: Law Enforcement presented by Tony Thompson, Black Hawk County Sheriff. Mayor Kobliska informed the council that she received a resignation from an Evansdale officer, two officers are currently looking for new opportunities of employment, one officer is currently on leave, and one applicant rejected the city's extended job offer. She invited Sheriff Thompson to speak to the council about strategies the county has implemented to obtain and retain officers. Sheriff Thompson pointed out that this situation is a common issue in law enforcement now. The Black Hawk County Board of Supervisors issued substantial wage increases in the last year and it still did not compare to other wages set by other entities across the state. There is also competition with private businesses offering better wages and benefits. Seible questioned if the County would be able to extend help to the city in lieu of hiring officers. The Sheriff pointed out that he is also 10% down in staff, his current staff is getting burned out due to the amount of overtime, and he cannot staff Evansdale's staff shortages. Chief Mike Dean presented wage and benefit suggestions to the council. He requested assistance from council to save the department. Seible questioned if wages and benefits are the only issue he is facing. Chief Dean responded that another issue is the frustration towards the council's focus of reducing resources to save money when there is already such a large staff shortage issue. Sheriff Thompson stressed to council that even as of right now, applicants would need to complete close to six months of training and education before starting employment. Seible would like more time to think about the suggestions before placing on the agenda. The mayor stated that this will be placed on the next agenda to avoid delays. The city will also reach out to the union to discuss negotiations.

Discussion: City Planning. Chris Schares, Public Works Director presented five years of requested capital improvements that included necessary repairs to streets, sidewalks, trails, buildings, manholes, and stormwater intakes. Along with street light replacements, vehicle replacements, and generators for lift stations. Bergman requested that Schares prioritize the items to assist in the planning process. Seible requested that Public Works staff perform work in-house instead of outsourcing to save money. Schares assured council that the department has done their best to perform duties within the department, however, he is also dealing with a staffing shortage. He

pointed out that larger entities surrounded Evansdale are enticing current staff because they can offer higher wages and enhanced benefits. Chief Dean informed Council that the Police Department will need to get a new camera system, speed signs, and there are flooding issues in the basement. Bergman expressed that it was important to move forward to obtain and retain staff but also managing necessary repairs and updates. Mayor Kobliska suggested putting together a Capital Improvement Plan and using American Rescue Plan funds to offset the city's costs. Seible questioned if the city would raise the levy rate for these projects. Mayor Kobliska said that a Capital Improvement Plan does not raise the levy rate because you are planning projects based off the amount of funding you receive that year.

With there being no further discussion, Seible/Bergman to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 p.m. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

---

DeAnne Kobliska, Mayor

---

Dana Laidig, City Clerk