

CITY HALL
EVANSDALE, IOWA, JULY 19, 2022
CITY COUNCIL
DEANNE KOBLISKA, 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, Osborne, Smock, and Bergman. Quorum present.

Seible/Nichols to approve the July 19, 2022 agenda. Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

Nichols/Seible to approve the July 5, 2022 regular meeting minutes. Roll call vote: Ayes-Five.

Presentation: Grow Cedar Valley: Lisa Skubal with Grow Cedar Valley (GCV) discussed the benefits of partnering with GCV including working with Chris Fischels in the development of Eagles Landing, reaching out to current businesses regarding growth & retention, and work to gain workforce and talent in the community. Kelly Parker, 117 Marion St., questioned the cost of the membership. Ms. Skubal responded that the cost was dependent on council to work within their budget and GCV would over deliver on their services to ensure public monies were well spent.

Seible/Smock to approve the Consent Agenda – All items listed under the consent agenda will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a request is made prior to the time Council votes on the motion. a. Accept and place on file the minutes and reports from the following Departments, Boards, and Commissions (n/a = not available): Ambulance & Fire Report (June), Building Inspection Report (June), Clerk/Treasurer Report (June), Code Enforcement Report (n/a), Evansdale Municipal Housing (June), Library (June), Parks & Rec Dept. (June), Planning & Zoning (n/a), Police Dept. (June), Storm Water Commission (n/a), Wastewater (June), and Water Works (June). b. Liquor License Renewal: Amvets Posts #31 – LA0000332 Effective 07/22/2022. c. Request for road closure from Tyrell Carter to hold the Blessing Evansdale Day (Back to School Giveaway) on July 28, 2022 on Lafayette Road from Sippel Ave/Lafayette Road intersection up to Dollar Tree driveway. Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

Bergman/Seible to approve the Resolution Calendar – All items listed under the Resolution Calendar will be enacted by one vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a request is made prior to the time Council votes on the motion. a. Resolution 6623 authorizing payment of bills and transfers. b. Resolution 6624 approving annual salary resolution. Roll call vote: Ayes-Five.

Seible/Smock to open Public Hearing: Michigan Lift Station Rehabilitation Project at 6:16 p.m. Proof of publication on file no public comments received. Seible/Bergman to close the public hearing at 6:17 p.m.

Seible/Smock to approve Resolution 6625 approving final plans and cost estimates for the Michigan Lift Station Rehabilitation Project. Roll call vote: Ayes-Five.

Seible/Nichols to approve request to postpone the acceptance of bid for the Michigan Lift Station Rehabilitation Project. Alex Potter with McClure Engineering stated that our estimated cost of construction was at \$475,000 and that we had only received one bid that came in at \$594,000. We had discussed the bid received and reached out to contractors that had bid the project and those who hadn't. One primary reason the project wasn't bid was it is a relatively small project and lead time on some of the equipment for the project is over a year and that had made contractors leery about bidding the project. Mr. Potter discussed the options to council as follows: Reject the bid and re-bid at a later date; Reject bid and package with the wastewater treatment plant project; or accept the bid with Denver Underground and work with them on any items that may reduce the cost of the project. Councilor

Seible questioned if we move forward with the project would it be probable that we would save costs on some aspects of the project. Mr. Potter responded that there weren't any guarantees that the bid cost would be reduced, but it was likely that the project wouldn't increase. Councilor Smock questioned what the greatest risk would be to hold off on the project at this time. Mr. Potter responded that the project needed to be completed as we are maintaining the lift station daily to ensure it keeps pumping and material costs could continue to increase. Smock questioned if we could procure the pumps in advance to help limit the increases in cost. Potter responded that the city was going with Flygt pumps and wouldn't be able to secure a second quote. Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

Seible/Bergman to approve request from City Clerk to sign an annual agreement with Computer Troubleshooters in the amount of \$6,075 for IT services for City Hall and Public Works, as budgeted for FY23. Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

Discussion/Possible Action – Amendment to the Teamsters Contract. Mayor Kobliska stated that the city was concerned at the possibility of losing police staff due to wages. Councilor Nichols stated that the police department union had negotiated the terms of the contract and should uphold their end of their contract. Mayor Kobliska responded that the wages all around us have went up and that we had amended the IBEW contract just to reflect an increase in wages. Nichols stated that if your word is no good, what good is a contract. Councilor Smock stated that it wasn't an issue of living up to their contract it's that wages and cost of living has went up all around us. Nichols responded that they needed to live by the contract that they signed. Smock stated that we have an issue due to Covid and supply chain demands and wage increase all around us. Chief Dean stated that it appears that it was the city against the union, however, that is not the issue at all. The issue is we are having a difficult time attracting new employees for the police department and it is the city's obligation to have a police department. Dean also questioned how the city was planning to entice new employees to the police department. Nichols stated that his employees had been with him for several years and hadn't come to him for a raise. Dean responded that the departments issue is how to attract new employees. Nichols responded that staff aren't willing to stand behind the contract they signed. Dean questioned what the city would do when we don't have enough staff to offer the 24/7 service that we have an obligation to provide. Nichols responded that we would deal with the issue at the time it happened. Councilor Seible questioned if the force would be willing to go to eight-hour shifts. Dean responded that he had already implemented eight-hour shifts. Seible also questioned if sergeant Weber would be willing to stay on until a new candidate is hired. Dean responded that Weber wasn't willing to stay on. He also questioned council again how they planned on staffing the department. Kobliska stated that council was given a lot of information to ponder before the next council meeting, but ultimately, we need to be staffed to provide the required services for our city. Nichols stated that if we were to raise taxes you would have the residents to contend with. Smock responded that our goal wasn't to raise taxes but try to absorb cost in other ways. Councilor Osborne questioned if the police department came in under budget for FY22. Kobliska responded yes. Osborne questioned if we would utilize the reserve funds and look at ways to scale back on other expenses to offer an increase to not only the police department but public works department as well. Nichols stated he wasn't against the police department getting a raise, but the budget was passed, and contracts signed wages. Osborne stated that we should make a conscious effort to address the issue at hand.

Public discussion: None

Mayor/Council Reports: None

There being no further discussion, Seible/Smock to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 p.m. Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

DeAnne Kobliska, Mayor

Amy Schaefer, City Clerk