

CITY HALL
EVANSDALE, IOWA, JULY 15, 2014
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: Loftus, Walker, Seible, Nichols, and Dewater. Absent: None. Quorum present.

Loftus/Walker to approve the July 15, 2014 agenda. Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

Dewater/Walker to approve the following items on the July 15, 2014 consent agenda: a) Approval of July 1, 2014 regular meeting minutes b) Resolution 5702 authorizing payment of bills and transfers c) Accept and place on file the minutes and reports from the following Boards, Departments and Commissions (n/a = Not Available): Ambulance (June), Building Inspection (June), Clerk/Treasurer (n/a), Fire Dept (June), Parks & Rec (June), Police Dept (June), Library (n/a), Water Works (June), Cable TV Commission (n/a), Evansdale Municipal Housing (n/a), Hardship & Grievance (n/a), Planning & Zoning (n/a), Storm Water (n/a) d) Liquor license renewals: Evansdale Chamber Mud Volleyball – August 2, 2014 (one day only). Councilman Loftus asked why several of the June reports were noted as unavailable. The City Clerk explained that the Clerk/Treasurers report was unavailable because it was fiscal year end and would take some time to finalize. The minutes and/or reports from Library, Evansdale Municipal Housing, Planning and Zoning were not received by that committee's secretary at the time the packet was sent. And there were not any reports or minutes listed for Cable TV Commission, Hardship and Grievance, and Storm Water because those committees don't have regular monthly meetings where there would be minutes each month. Roll call vote: Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

Consent
Agenda

Seible/Loftus to approve Tom Nichols' re-appointment to the Board of Adjustment with a term expiring on 04/01/2019. Councilmen Loftus and Seible asked if City Code would allow Nichols to serve simultaneously on Park Board and Board of Adjustment. City Clerk Becky Walters responded that though Planning and Zoning has restrictions on holding any elective office within the City, she didn't see anywhere in the City Code that that has restrictions for serving on Park Board and Board of Adjustment. The Mayor stated he would further look into it. Roll call vote: Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

Board of
Adjustment

Dewater/Walker to approve request from City Attorney Craig Ament for funds to attend PERB workshop in the amount of \$600. The Mayor explained that \$600 would cover the registration fee of \$195, 2 nights lodging at \$125 per night, gas, and meals. He added that Ament would donate his drive time and meeting time. The Mayor explained that union negotiations for a contract renewal will start early next year. Since laws and practices change, it would be a small price to pay to have the City Attorney attend this conference. Councilman Loftus stated that he was opposed to the notion because we hire an attorney that should have the knowledge without the City paying him for training. Councilman Nichols stated that the City shouldn't have to pay for his education for this since we are paying him for his knowledge as an attorney. Councilman Walker stated that though he understood where Nichols was coming from, he has served on negotiating committees in the past, and it's crucial to keep up with the changing laws. Councilman Dewater stated that this would be money well spend and Craig represented the City well with both unions during negotiations. Loftus asked Ament if attending the class would be beneficial. Ament responded that he learned about the conference through an administration law judge and he would prefer to spend his own money geared toward the needs of 85-90% of his law practice. He added that the City could either pay him now for the conference or end up paying later in research fees. Councilman Walker told Ament that during negotiations, he is considers his primary role as negotiator. Councilman Seible asked if the City paid for classes in the past. Ament responded yes, but on another topic which was condemnations. He added that at the time, the City was looking at acquiring 6 or 7 properties, which ultimately all got resolved. Loftus stated that he wasn't opposed to the motion after hearing discussion. Roll call vote: Ayes-Four, Nay-Nichols. Motion carried.

City Attorney
request

Discussion: The Mayor reported that the 2004 Crown Vic, which was the Code Enforcement vehicle, was recently sold for \$1,051. The Mayor also reported that the 28E agreement with the City of Elk Run Heights will be complete in the next couple weeks. He added that Elk Run agreed to pay 18.5% of the southern bridge cost. Councilman Seible asked for an update on Natel. The Mayor responded that they are having some hardware delivered to City Hall and they are going to start the installation tomorrow with the first priority being Water Works, and Parks being last.

Discussion

Seible reported that there are many vehicles being parked in yards and motorized vehicles behind houses. Specifically, there is a house on Wema with a vehicle and junk behind the house. In addition, there are many cars parked in yards that are for sale. The Mayor responded that he has had many discussions at department head meetings and concluded that it would be impossible to enforce cars parked in yards that are for sale. He added that he has instructed Rick Reuter to watch them to see if they are truly for sale and if the grass around them is being maintained and if so, the City would give the homeowner the

opportunity to sell their vehicle. Councilman Seible asked why the ordinance would not be enforced. The Mayor responded that it could be enforced; however it would take Code Enforcement an inordinate amount of time enforcing it, and as long as the grass around the vehicles would be maintained, giving a bit of leniency would help give an opportunity to sell their vehicle. Seible stated that since he is notified every time his vehicle is partially in the grass, so should other offenders. Councilman Walker pointed out that Seible's neighbor has a semi parked on the grass for at least three weeks. The Mayor stated that if an illegally parked vehicle is making our City look bad, it should be addressed, however if it's a nice looking car that someone is trying to sell, the City should give them some leniency to get rid of it. Nichols pointed out that a vehicle on the corner of Morrell and Evans has been sitting next to the garage for over a year with weeds growing up around it and a truck on Evans has been sitting in the yard for a week. The Mayor stated that Reuter doesn't see them all but asked those with complaints to let himself or Reuter know so they could check on the possible violation.

Councilman Walker stated that he heard after the campground closed due to flooding, that some campers parked the driveway of a local resident were asked to leave. Walker stated that if that were true, he didn't appreciate them being told that because those campers generate a lot of revenue for the City and that's no way to build a rapport with its patrons. The Mayor responded that directive didn't come from his office. He added that if those folks were living in the campers, they were made clear it's not allowed by ordinance.

Councilman Nichols asked for an update on Love's. The Mayor responded that a closed session may need to be scheduled next Tuesday. He added that the City Attorney gave the legal opinion that a closed session for such discussion was allowed under Iowa Code.

John Peverill stated that Planning and Zoning didn't specify how much gravel would be permitted as an approved parking surface and as a result some residents have a tiny amount of gravel and call it permissible. He asked if the committee could revisit the subject. The Mayor responded he would discourage from getting so particular on these types of items.

Loraine Atkins reported that the Annual blood drive at the Amvets is on July 31, 2014. She added she was disappointed in the Evansdale Chamber for this summer's lack of events. Sharon Loftus stated that it's not necessarily fair to the Evansdale Chamber because in order to keep putting on events, it needs support from its citizens.

There being no further discussion, Walker/Seible to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 p.m. Ayes-Five.

Adjourn

ATTEST:



Doug Faas, Mayor



Kelley Rouchka, City Clerk