

CITY HALL
EVANSDALE, IOWA, JANUARY 29, 2019
SPECIAL 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: Walker, Loftus, Dewater, Seible, and Bender. Quorum present.

Walker/Loftus to approve January 29, 2019 agenda. Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

Mayor Faas stated that he would go over each page of the budget and ask for comments. Councilor Seible questioned the general fund revenue for A park grant and the budgeted expense for replacement of park equipment. He felt the best approach to replacing equipment was make a five-year plan. Mayor Faas responded that if the grant wasn't received the project would not move forward. He also stated that he had met with Mark Boland, Boland Recreation, and he would put a plan together for equipment replacement. Councilor Walker stated that the council would have to approve any improvements that would be made to the park system. Councilor Dewater stated that the city's share regardless is \$50,000, are we all in agreement to spend that. Councilor Bender responded that we had to make the necessary upgrades.

Councilor Bender questioned if the sick/vacation/holiday pay was included in police regular wages. Mayor Faas responded yes. Councilor Seible questioned the increase in overtime. The Mayor responded that holiday overtime was included in overtime budget. Bender questioned why the sick time budget was so high. The Mayor responded that Chief Jensen would be retiring in FY20 and the budget item included his retirement payout for both sick and vacation. Seible also questioned the total that would be spent on the squad car. Chief Jensen responded that we will seek the state bid and accessory replacement by Racom, but it is an estimate. Seible also questioned the overtime budgeted for building inspection. The Mayor responded that the city will begin their sump pump inspection program and that Schares, Even, Even, and Wirtz were spearheading the program.

Councilor Seible questioned the increase in the library personnel wages, library hours, and budget for books. He stated that we shouldn't be increasing their budget but find ways to reduce the budget in order to remain fiscally responsible. Councilor Bender questioned the activity in the library and if we could cut the book budget by half. The Library Director Shannon Jensen responded that the Library Board had made the decision to increase hours and make her position full-time and if we don't continuously update our books and materials to be checked out there would be no need for a library. She also stated that the library averages between 700-1,000 books, DVD's, etc. that are checked out every month and people don't want to read the same books/DVD's all the time they want new and recent product. Mayor Faas stated that a new hard cover book retails for \$25-\$30, it can be checked out for 2 weeks for free. We must look at the service we are providing for our residents and the quality of life in our city. Seible responded that we have a good quality of life in this city, but we need to reduce the budget and these departments need to be accountable. Councilor Walker stated that the library is one of the greater services that we offer in our community and to not update our product would be unfavorable to the residents that utilize the service. Mayor Faas stated that not everyone uses the library but not everyone uses the ambulance service, police services or park system but they are services that pertain to quality of life. Seible requested time with each department head to go over their budget. Bender stated that the budget is laid out in front of us, the department heads are here and can answer any questions we have.

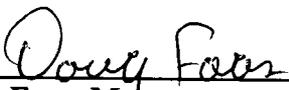
Councilor Seible questioned the budget line item for flood in parks department. Mayor Faas responded that we are removing almost \$50,000 from reserves to replace panels from the flood event last season. Councilor Walker stated that he thought we replaced the panels with removable panels after the 2016 flood. Mayor responded that FEMA would not reimburse the city for preventative maintenance and the budget was hit hard from the flood event. Seible questioned the full-time seasonal hire for the parks department. Mayor responded that the position long-term would save the city money and benefit our parks system. Councilor Walker stated that the previous park personnel handled all of Deerwood Campground maintenance, mowing, and camp collecting, now we need seven (7) employees to do the same thing. Seible responded that maybe we should be looking for similar staffing at previous levels. Walker responded that council didn't have jurisdiction over hiring, just the budget.

Mayor Faas discussed the two general fund levy rates of 8.10 and 9.7 with a deficit of \$174,000 at 8.10 and surplus of \$26,493 with levy rate at 9.7. He also discussed road use budget showing a deficit of \$158,000, however, some budgeted expenses for FY19 were postponed until FY20 so the reserves would be available. He also discussed employee benefits that were levied and reserves that would be utilized as well as lost funds. He also explained that we would need to increase the levy for employee benefits/property insurance for fiscal year FY2021. He discussed TIF, capital projects, waste water, garbage/landfill, and storm water. He also discussed addressing waste water rate increases later this year as we prepare for the waste water treatment plant upgrades. He also addressed the issue with increasing costs for recycling and that Black Hawk Waste would address the council at the next meeting to discuss possible increases in our rates. Councilor Walker stated that he was concerned about increasing the levy rate as we are potentially looking at doubling our waste water fees. Chris Even, Waste Water Foreman suggested incremental increases to help with waste water upgrades.

Mayor Faas gave the council a review of cities with similar populations and where their levy rates are at this time. Councilor Walker responded that he understood. Councilor Dewater stated that even with increasing the levy rate it's a minor increase to our reserves. Faas stated that every financial person he spoke with recommended a minimum of four to six month in reserves for expenses in the event of a disaster which would equal around \$1,000,000 and we are a long way away from that figure. Councilor Seible stated that he wouldn't support the 9.71 levy rate increase and also questioned if it would be feasible to combine our waste water system with Waterloo and Cedar Falls to cut costs. Mayor Faas responded that he was very involved in the discussions on the regional waste water plant and AECOM's best-case scenario for the centralization cost would be upwards of \$28,000,000 for our city and Waterloo would maintain full power of the plant and for our city, it is not an option. Councilor Dewater stated that the comparison of other city's levy rates was indeed helpful as the cities in the comparison are all relatively well-run cities, we aren't just making this up, this is what it cost to do business in the city, and we have under-funded the city in the past.

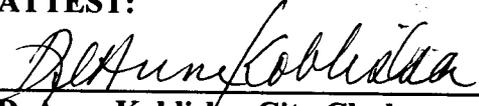
Mayor/Council Reports: Mayor Faas stated that the Lake Shore Place storm water outlet issue was repaired and the invoice for \$13,404 will be on the next set of bills to be paid.

There being no further discussion, Walker/Loft to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m. Ayes-Five. Motion carried.



Doug Faas, Mayor

ATTEST:



DeAnne Kobliska, City Clerk