

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

MAY 13, 2019
203 Broadway Ave N

PRESENT:

Tom McCauley	Mayor	Regie Finney	Public Works Director
Michael Higbee	Council President	Scott Bybee	City Engineer
Pam McClain	Council Member	Eric Foster	Police Chief
Kyle Hauser	Council Member	Andrew Stevens	Fire Chief
Sue Gabardi	Council Member	Cynthia Toppen	Library Director
Elizabeth Barker	Treasurer	Concerned Citizens	
Karen Drown	Clerk		

REGULAR SESSION called to order at 7:00 PM.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM:

Karen Drown confirmed a quorum.

OLD BUSINESS:

- ... Minutes of April 22, 2019: Pam McClain moved to approve the minutes; Sue Gabardi seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.
- ... Monthly Claims for Payment: Pam McClain moved to approve the monthly claims for payment; Kyle Hauser seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.
- ... Monthly Reports: Kyle Hauser moved to approve the monthly department head reports; Sue Gabardi seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.
- ... Clerk/Treasurer Report: Pam McClain moved to approve the clerk/treasurer report; Kyle Hauser seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.
- ... Monthly Report: Scott updated Council members that the ICDBG sewer project is going through closeout and should be wrapped up shortly. He also noted he and Teresa would be attending an application training in June for the next application cycle. The deadline for that is the Thursday before Thanksgiving.

Planning and Zoning and Urban Renewal would be meeting on Wednesday, May 15th.

Scott also updated Council on the new plotter/scanner that was purchased in the building/planning and zoning departments. Along with some funds from Regie's GIS budget the city was able to trade in the plotter that we currently had and get an all-in-one unit which will save on space in the office.

NEW BUSINESS:

Door to Door Sales Application for Crazy Frog Pest Control: Karen explained this was the same company and contact that had the door to door license last year. She added that city hall did not receive any complaints last year. Michael moved to renew the door to door license for Crazy Frog Pest Control. Pam seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

Consideration of Engineering Contract for the Burley Ave Project: Scott explained to Council that HMH Engineers had been selected through the process but they needed a contract signed to begin the engineering for the Burley Ave Project. He added the project is scheduled for 2024. He also introduced Aaron Wert with HMH who will lead the project. He noted Aaron has tremendous knowledge of the area which will be good for the project. Michael moved to approve signing the contract with HMH Engineers. Kyle seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

Consideration of Public Works Surplus Equipment: Michael moved to surplus the 1980 Chevrolet 2-ton flatbed truck from the public works department. Kyle seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

Budget Discussion – General Fund Projected Revenue Allocations for the Fiscal Year 2019-2020: Elizabeth began the discussion with information about revenue projections and the question that had been asked about increased need for increased growth. She noted one piece that shows the growth is the new construction roll of property taxes. That includes both commercial and residential. The commercial is added in pieces but on residential it is added occupied. These increased revenues do provide additional funds but not a huge amount.

She continued the discussion with information regarding the projected revenues for the 2019-2020 year. She noted that there is a 3% increase in property tax revenue each year and the other increases in revenue were in sales tax sharing and interest and investments. She stated the increase in revenues totaled \$114,771.00. She continued by reviewing the staffing and benefits and also operating and maintenance which are both ongoing expenses. After her projected figures of proposed salary increases and operating and maintenance costs it left \$190,000.00 for future needs/projects.

There was a discussion with Council members concerning the proposed increase for salaries. Elizabeth explained this would be an increase to the salary schedule for the positions not for the employees. Kyle commented it shouldn't be a full 3% but allow for room to advance. With the new salary schedules the city has moved away from merit increases. Michael moved to increase salary levels by 3%. Pam seconded the motion. The motion passed with Kyle voting no.

The discussion continued with the topic of mayor and council increases. Pam noted that the additional benefits of health insurance and PERSI are priceless. Michael moved to recommend a resolution be drafted to increase the mayor's salary to \$12,000.00 and council to \$6000.00 per year. The motion died for a lack of a second. Pam moved to recommend a resolution be drafted to increase the mayor's salary to \$12,000.00 and leave council at \$4,400.00. Sue seconded the motion. Elizabeth noted as council looks to the future of Buhl she truly believes there should be an increase for both mayor and council. With the discussion to have more planning meetings more time will be required of the elected officials. Chief Eric Foster commented that the work provided is great and Scott Bybee stated the proposed increases for leadership are less than 1% of the city's over-all budget. It was noted that these salaries are for elected officials in the future not just those in office now as they will not take effect until January 2020. There was a vote on the motion and it failed. Michael moved to recommend a resolution be drafted to increase the mayor's salary to \$12,000.00 and council to \$6000.00 per year. Pam and Kyle both seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

Based on the recommendation from Elizabeth the general fund has \$290,000.00 for one time expenditures. There was a discussion of all the proposed requests. Chief Foster noted the \$62,000.00 for the additional officer was the school resource officer that was included in the budget last year. Regie suggested the cost of the bucket truck could come from the street fund balance. With those changes there was enough to cover all other requests.

COUNCIL CONCERNS – Michael noted that tonight was in 14th wedding anniversary.

There was a discussion about the possibility of holding special meetings for the budget discussions on a different day to accommodate Elizabeth's schedule with her family. The possibility of 7 am meetings would work for everyone's schedule. She would offer that idea and get back to confirm if that would be the route to take. She thanked Council for understanding and staff for covering in her absence.

CITIZENS CONCERNS – There were none.

MEETING ADJOURNED – Pam McClain moved that the meeting be adjourned; Kyle Hauser seconded the motion and all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 PM.

Minutes prepared by Karen Drown, City Clerk