

City of Vernon Center
4-5-22 Reg Council Meeting

Council Present: Wendy Bennett, Eric Pederson, Mayor Dana Ziegler, Lisa Peterson, Emily Edwards
Staff: PW Supervisor Mark Willette, Clerk Diane Roelofs
Others present: Engineer Chris Knutson, Jennifer Brookens-MR Messenger

Mayor Dana Ziegler called the meeting to order at 7pm.

Agenda: Public Works added 201 East N sewer and easements for a temporary road for GMS access through Schmiesing. Councilor Edwards made a motion to approve the agenda with the additions. 2nd by Councilor Peterson, all approved, motion carried.

Public Comment: none

Public Safety: A report from Deputy Blakesley showed 37 calls for the month of March, resulting in 9.48 hours per week average for patrols.

201 S Centre St.: Mr. George Smith was present and stated to council that he will soon be purchasing 201 S Centre St. He wanted to know what would be involved in getting a connection for the sewer and water for this property. Council responded to him that the city is responsible for providing him with a hook-up to his property line. The 2022-23 project will only bring the sewer connection to the edge of the alley right-of-way off of East St. The city will draw up a letter to give to George Smith. The letter will confirm that the city will provide a hook-up to the property line of 201 S Centre St. when he notifies the city that he will be hooking up the sewer at a future date. An easement will be presented to Mr. Smith for him to sign in order for the city to complete the work to cap off the sewer lines on this property.

Infrastructure Project: Engineer Chris Knutson was present and reviewed the Blue Earth County agreement draft. County and Council will look to approve this at the May meeting. Eng. Knutson reported that the county will have more funds available if bids come in higher than expected.

WTP, WWTP, Well#3: The advertisements were drawn up and can be published if the city council is willing to submit them with an "at risk" basis because the Office of General Council of the USDA-RD has not replied with an approval that the City has the financial right to proceed with the project. If the 45–60-day review from OGC is not received before the city would want to award the bids (60 days after opening), then the city would have to pay to have the projects rebid. The wastewater & well should bid out for 4 weeks, the water treatment plant for 5 weeks and the street bid should be last due to alternate bidding if the first 3 projects are over budget. The bidding documents will not show requirements to stop working before 7pm for 4th of July celebrations.

Temporary Road Access for GMS: The city will be having the attorney draw up easements to install and remove a temporary road. The city will be getting bids after Mark gets dimensions for the road installation which will include a culvert, 15' to 20' wide and be at least 1' in depth. Clerk was instructed to proceed with easements for work to be done by the end of June 1st or 15th.

Public Works: City Shop—Quotes from VC Lumber for a U drain in the amount of \$2025.91, Peterson Motor Grader for sewer install and cement removal of \$6260 and Topete Construction for cement and labor for \$12,120 were presented. After discussion, Councilor Peterson made a motion to proceed with Mark's timeline. 2nd by Councilor Pederson, all approved, motion carried. Written agreements stating what is covered and a completion date from all parties will be required.

Summer Hire: The city received one applicant; therefore, the personnel committee will need to meet for an interview including the PW Supervisor and applicant. A meeting will be set up.

201 East St. N Sewer Replacement: It is unknown where the sewer comes out of this house property. Council directed the clerk to compose a letter to the property owner that the city is giving him an extension to wait until after the project comes by his house.

Consent Agenda: The consent agenda included 3-3-22 minutes, checks/deposits for the Month or March, cash balance investment report, January and February bank reconciliations, April & May calendars, Allpaid fee price increase notice, 2021 Water Conservation Report, clerk's conference and public works supervisor report. Clerk gave a quick review of the MCFOA conference. Councilor Edwards made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. 2nd by Councilor Bennett, all approved, motion carried.

Additional Bills: the additional bills were presented; Councilor Peterson made a motion to approve the additional bills. 2nd by Councilor Edwards, all approved, motion carried.

LJP Waste-fuel Surcharge: Council reviewed a letter from LJP Waste & Recycle that stated there will be an additional fuel surcharge added to each month based on gasoline prices \$3.50 or above. Councilor Peterson made a motion to approve the temporary fuel surcharge based as per the letter. 2nd by Councilor Bennett, all approved, motion carried.

Appliance & Electronics Recycling: The city will not sponsor this collection this year due to the infrastructure project. Councilor Peterson made a motion to withhold having the appliance & electronics recycling, but to educate the residents by newsletter and the city website. 2nd by Councilor Pederson, all approved, motion carried.

Spring Clean-up: LJP Waste is only offering dumpsters for curbside clean-up to be parked at City Hall. Residents will be required to bring their unwanted items to the dumpsters on Saturday, June 25th from 8am to noon.

Res. 2022-10 Resolution to approve the Standard Allowance Reporting for Revenue Loss: Councilor Peterson made a motion to approve Res. 2022-10 allowing the city to report the standard revenue loss. 2nd by Councilor Edwards, all approved, motion carried.

Res. 2022-11 Approval of Fireworks Display: Councilor Peterson made a motion to approve Res. 2022-11 approving the fireworks for 2022. 2nd by Councilor Bennett, all approved, motion carried.

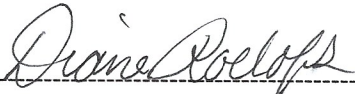
Rollings Burn: Council reviewed a letter and map from John Rollings asking for permission to burn his CRP and the native prairie. After discussion, Councilor Bennett made a motion to approve the controlled burn. 2nd by Councilor Edwards, all approved, motion carried.

Fire Department: Councilor Pederson reported no calls for the month of March. Pancake breakfast was the best it has ever been. They are waiting on notification of the grant for the fire truck. Staff is not complete yet.

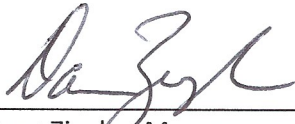
Miscellaneous: It was noted there have been discussions on a local Facebook page of allowing chickens in town.

Next Meeting: Special Meeting called for 5:30pm Monday, April 11th, next regular council 7pm-Tuesday, May 3rd.


Adjourn: Councilor Peterson made a motion to adjourn at 8:17pm. 2nd by Councilor Pederson, all approved, motion carried.



Diane Roelofs, Clerk-Treasurer



Dana Ziegler, Mayor



Date approved