

City of Vernon Center
PH-Infrastructure Project, PH-Ord. #84, Reg. Council Meeting
8-2-22 7pm

Council Present: Mayor Dana Ziegler, Emily Edwards, Eric Pederson, Wendy Bennett, Lisa Peterson
Staff: PW Supervisor Mark Willette, Clerk Diane Roelofs
Others: Eng. Chris Knutson, Wayne & Pat Krosch, Jennifer Brookens MR, Vince Pentico, Jane & Jay Kienholz, Karen Swenson, Calvin Baarts, Crystal Valley Rep. Ben Buie, Karen Lachmiller & Vicky Wiederhoeft

Public Hearing: 2022 Sanitary Sewer and Water Line Project and 20-23 Project, meeting was called to order at 7pm. Mayor Ziegler gave an update on bids, changing language for bonding bill with legislature, DEED grant deadlines. He then turned the public hearing over to Short Elliot Hendriksen's engineer Chris Knutson. Eng. Knutson went through a power point explaining the project needs, funding, bidding info and legislature bonding bill status. The city acquired a DEED grant for \$580,000 that will expire in Sept. 2022. If the city can bid and award a smaller project using that \$580,000 (construction costs) before Sept. 30, 2022, DEED will extend the grant for another year, expiring in Sept. 2023. The project must be complete when finished, meaning that if the water and sewer lines replaced in a street that is paved, it must be completely paved when finished. The city opted to include 4 gravel allies, Railroad St./Main St-3rd St., and Hilltop St. water line directional drill only. Additional neighborhood meetings will be required with the final assessment hearing for spring of 2024. It is required to have a public hearing within 6 months of a feasibility study which was done in 2020. Railroad street will be open cut for sewer and will directional drill water lines, while Hilltop will have no sewer improvements and will directional drill water lines. The allies will be pipe burst for sewer mains. The only assessments will be for sewer services according to the city assessment policy. The public hearing was then opened for questions. The only questions were regarding procedures on Railroad Street and the width of driveways on County Road 10. The public hearing was then closed at 7:38pm.

Public Hearing: Ord. #84 Salaries for Mayor & Council—Mayor Ziegler called the public hearing to order at 7:38pm. The changes to the existing Ord. #84 were reviewed. Those changes included dropping off the Tri City Police Department and using the Repeal & Effective paragraph for the new version of the ordinance. There were no public comments. The hearing was then closed at 7:40pm.

Mayor Ziegler then called the regular council meeting to order at 7:40pm.

Agenda: Mayor Ziegler asked for the cash investment report to be pulled from the consent agenda for review but can still be approved in consent agenda and to move public works down to after additional bills. Councilor Peterson made a motion to approve the agenda with the changes. 2nd by Councilor Bennett, all approved, motion carried.

Public Comment: none

Public Safety: The calls were reviewed for the month resulting in 41 calls, averaging 9.99/week. Properties and citizen concerns were discussed. Deputy Blakesley had reached out to the resident at Hilltop St. that has been contacted in the past regarding correction of several ordinance issues. Dept. Blakesley's report stated that the owner had already taken care of mattresses and cushions in the yard, a snowmobile, dog feces on the deck while the enclosed trailers are not in city limits. He agreed to fix the following by August 8th: garbage laying around the house, partially built pole building, 2 plastic utility sheds and he will cut the long grass. The owner stated that the 2 garden tillers, snow blowers and 2 lawn

mowers sitting by the house run and he uses them. The council will look for a report back from the deputy for the next council meeting. If these things are not corrected, the council will need to take further actions. Deputy Blakesley should also be made aware that rodents have been cited from this property. The other property mentioned in the citizen concerns will be sent a letter of violations.

Garden City Rod & Gun Club: the club has received all of their licensing and no longer needs paperwork signed by the city. They have set 3-18-23 as the next raffle to be held at D Bar 169 in Vernon Center. Future notice of these raffles can just be a note to the clerk to add to the agenda packet instead of a personal appearance.

Infrastructure Project:

Res. 2022-28 Ordering Improvement and Preparation of Plans—After review of the document and public hearing information, Councilor Peterson made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-28 ordering improvements and preparing of plans. 2nd by Councilor Edwards, all approved, motion carried.

Res. 2022-29 Approving Plans and Specification and Ordering Advertisement for Bids. —After review and public hearing information, Councilor Peterson made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-29 approving plans and specs and ordering advertising of bids. 2nd by Councilor Edwards, all approved, motion carried.

Consent Agenda: the consent agenda included minutes from 7-11-22 regular council meeting, checks for the month report with \$235,450.53 deposits and \$144,270.59 (this includes transfers), cash balance investment report (also pulled out for review), monthly project excel balances of project, June bank reconciliation reports, July revenue and expenditure guideline reports, calendar of events for August and September, LMCIT worker's comp quote, property casualty information and a clerk's report on the BEC Sheriff's city clerk meeting held on 7-26-22. Councilor Bennett made a motion to approve the consent agenda. 2nd by Councilor Pederson, all approved, motion carried.

Additional Bills & Info: the additional bills report included additional expenditures of \$4215.57 for July and upcoming bills for August in the amount of \$17,004.00. Councilor Edwards made a motion to approved the additional bills. 2nd by Councilor Bennett, all approved, motion carried.

Res. 2022-27 Resolution accepting a Donation: A donation of a used air conditioner was given to PW for use in the city shop by the family of Herman Speck. Councilor Peterson made a motion to approved resolution 2022-27 accepting the air conditioner donation from the Speck family. 2nd by Councilor Bennett, all approved, motion carried. Councilor Edwards abstained from voting.

Ord. #84 Establishing Salaries for Mayor and Council: After information from public hearing, Councilor Peterson made a motion to approve Ordinance #84. 2nd by Councilor Bennett, all approved, motion carried.

Public Works: PW Supervisor Willette advised the council that there will need to be a plan for route of travel during the DEED 2022 Sanitary Sewer and Water Line Project for the Schmiesing farming operation. Trees need trimming back in allies and even on the 2015 project route. Water Tower cleaning is set for the middle of August or beginning of September.

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WTP: GNE—Tonka, MDH and Willette met to go through the WTP and WWTP for ideas of how to move forward without these being included in the infrastructure project. Kyle from Tonka and Amy of MDH will be reviewing possibilities and will get back to the city. Improvements to the WTP will result in the plant being manually operated as it is now. Supervisor Willette stated that gravity filters would work well for the city. A home for all of the things in the room east of the current WTP should be found as the city will need the space.

WWTP: The new equipment that Sup. Willette discovered at his class was accepted as a possible pilot study by MPCA; but that it would need to go through the application process for pilot studies. The cost would be \$2500 to get the equipment up and running. In the event the equipment does prove to be effective in removing properties from the WWTP during the study, the purchase price was estimated at \$60-75,000.

Another property is looking at correcting their sewer and will be opting to open cut as well as line a portion of the sewer. A video copy of the correction will be given to the city to prove the correction was done properly.

Camera training will be tomorrow, August 3, 2022. The Contractor Sewer Permit that was updated by Clerk Roelofs and PW Supervisor Willette was presented to council. Councilor Peterson made a motion to approve the form. 2nd by Councilor Edwards, all approved, motion carried.

Elections: Reminder that city offices open today August 2, 2022 and end August 16th. Final day of withdrawal is August 18th.

FD: 2 medicals in July and no news on the truck grant.

Budget: Sept. 6, 2022 with regular council meeting.

Miscellaneous: Drug Free Workplace Awareness Program video title Drug and Alcohol in the Workplace was reviewed by council and staff.

Councilor Bennett reported about the research she has been doing on the sign for the park. She was given some additional resources and will report back.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 6, 2022, 7pm City Hall

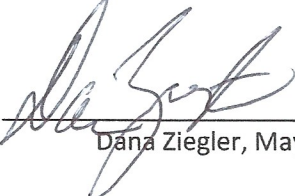
A map of fiber optics for the City of Vernon Center that will be submitted in a grant opportunity Consolidated Communications is applying for was reviewed. The city did supply a letter of support for this that was due by 8/1/22.

Adjourn: Councilor Peterson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55pm. 2nd by Councilor Edwards, all approved, motion carried.

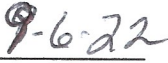
Respectfully submitted by,



Diane Roelofs, Clerk-Treasurer



Dana Ziegler, Mayor



Date Approved