**March 6, 2023**

The Independence City Council met in regular session on Monday, March 6, 2023 at 6:15 p.m. in the Council Room of the City Hall.

Mayor Baecker presided. Roll call was taken as follows: Deb Marsolek, Jason Ekern and Cleo Skroch. Rich Theisen was absent. Also Present were Attorney Michalak, City Clerk Lenice Pronschinske and Julie Dick from the Trempealeau County Times.

**Public Notice was given.**

**Approval of Agenda** Motion by Ekern and seconded by Marsolek to approve agenda. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes** Motion by Marsolek and seconded by Ekern to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2023 City Council meeting with the corrected wording under Lake Project Update. Motion carried.

**Public Comments**

Mark Marsolek – Legion Post 186 would like to meet on Thursday, March 30th at 10:00 a.m. Lenice will check with the Lions Club and the Rainbow Community Club to see if we can get a representative from each able to attend this meeting.

**Old Business:**

**Lake Project Update**

Nothing – put back on the next agenda.

**Nature Energy Update**

Nothing this month.

**Parsons Energy Group Update**

This will be discussed later on the agenda.

**Firefighter, EMT and 1st Responder Service Program**

Put back on the next agenda.

**New Business:**

**Work Platform in Clock Tower**

Motion by Marsolek and seconded by Skroch approve the bid from Miemietz Construction in the amount of $3,840.00 to build work platform in the clock tower. Motion carried with Deb Marsolek, Jason Ekern and Cleo Skroch voting aye. Rich Theisen was absent for the vote.

**Kayla Mathson – Library Update**

Librarian Kayla Mathson handed out a flyer with the 2022 Library at a Glance and gave an update of plans for 2023 in the library.

**Discussion/Possible Action on Board Compensation**

This will be put on the April agenda for discussion and possible action.

**Discussion/Possible Action on ARPA Fun**

Motion by Skroch and seconded by Marsolek to use the remaining ARPA Funds (approximately $42,000.00 left) for tuck pointing the brick on the city hall. Motion carried with Jason Ekern, Cleo Skroch and Deb Marsolek voting aye. Rich Theisen was absent for the vote.

**Tree Donation**

The Wanek Foundation will be donation up to 50 trees to the city and help with the trimming. This is a 5-year program. This project will be turned over to Eli Castleberry to work with the Wanek Foundation on the placement of trees within the City and Jason Ekern will help with 4-Seasons Park.

**License & Permits:**

There were no licenses or permits this month.

**Request for Vacation Carry Over Hours**

Motion by Marsolek and seconded by Skroch to approve the carry over of vacation hours up to 4 days for Eli Castleberry due to the excessive snow removal this season. Motion carried.

**Dates for Open Book and Board of Review**

Open Book is scheduled for Monday, May 15th from 3 to 5 p.m. and Board of Review is scheduled for Tuesday, May 23rd from 6 to 8 p.m.

**Committee Reports**

* **Water & Sewer –** Bids are out for sewer line and manhole repairs on Hwy 121.

Ken passed his 1st sewer test. SEH will be at the next utility meeting so we can get some basic information on proposes upgrades to the sewer plant.

* **Street Committee –** Duane from SEH should be here on Wednesday or Thursday to shoot the grades on the Block 1 Alley. We are waiting on prices for the Maple Street project.
* **Property Committee –** The license plates on the Ford Taurus have been changed from \*Municipal (star, aka law enforcement municipal) to Municipal-General use.

**Approval of Invoices & Payroll** Motion by Skroch seconded by Ekern to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried with Cleo Skroch, Deb Marsolek and Jason Ekern voting aye. Rich Theisen was absent for the vote.

**Correspondence**

The city received a letter from the Trempealeau County Ag Society asking for a donation for the upgrades being done at the fairgrounds. Attorney Michalak will check into the legality of giving a donation. This will be put on the April agenda. The Council suggested that a donation collection can could be put on the counter in the clerk’s office for donations.

**Items for next Agenda**

Lake District

Nature Energy

Parsons Energy Group

Firefighter Retirement

Board Compensation

Block 1 Alley

Maple Street

Legion Greenspace

Trempealeau County Fair Donations

**Future Meetings**

LEP – April 15th @ 6:30

Garbage/Trash – March 21st @ 5:15

Property and Aesthetics – March 22nd @ 5:00

Ordinance – March 22nd @ 6:00

Legion (Green Space) – March 30th @ 10:00 am

City Council meeting Monday, April 3, 2023 at 6:15 pm. (Zoom Meeting)

Motion by Ekern and seconded by Skroch to move to closed session pursuant to Sect. 19.85 (1) (g) Wi Stats for the purpose of conferring with legal counsel. The City Attorney will be providing legal advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the City in regard to litigation in which the City is likely to become involved. Motion carried with Deb Marsolek, Jason Ekern and Cleo Skroch voting aye. Rich Theisen was absent for the vote.

Motion by Marsolek and seconded by Ekern to return to open session. Motion carried.

No action reported taken from closed session.

**Adjournment** Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Lenice Pronschinske

City Clerk