FEBRUARY 5, 2024

 The Newell City Council met in regular session Monday, February 5, 2024 at 7PM at Newell City Hall with Mayor Wayne Westergaard presiding. Council members present Bill Henrich, Dennis Zeigler, Steve Smith, Pamela Wilken, and Ana Johnson. Wilken moved to approve agenda, 2nd by Henrich, all ayes. Zeigler asked for clarification on previous meeting minutes. Wilken moved to approve the consent agenda, 2nd by Smith all ayes.

 Mayor- Proposal for planting new trees at Golf Course & City Park. Research found Innova hybrid trees that have 75-year life expectancy and grow 4-8ft per year. It was proposed to purchase 5 trees for park and 20 for golf course at $40 per tree. Smith moved to purchase 25 trees, 2nd by Johnson, all ayes.

 Public Works- No issues to report on water/waste water this month. Ash tree timeline and budget was discussed. Taken down 30-40 down in right of way to date, with over 100 remaining. High priority trees will be dealt with first. Sievert will research prices for large saw and stump grinder. New meters have been going in daily. Frost and weather depending, might start on golf course shelters soon. A water meter complaint was brough to council attention, Sievert sent meter to DM Water Works to be tested, came back accurate. Old meter is being sent back and requested to be sent to another place to be tested at cost of citizen.

 Park Board- 2024 rates were suggested to council. Golf memberships increased 3%. Smith moved to accept golf course rates excluding clubhouse rental rate, 2nd by Henrich, all ayes. Zeigler moved to accept park shelter house rate with no change, 2nd by Wilken, all ayes. Wilken moved to accept cemetery rates with no change, 2nd by Johnson, all ayes.

 Clerk-Henrich moved to approve the treasurer’s report, 2nd by Smith, all ayes. New phone system was presented. Johnson moved to approve purchase of system, 2nd by Smith, all ayes.

 Police- 70 calls and 3 arrests in the month of January. Total 2023 calls were 776, which was 121 more than 2022, and 59 of which were ambulance.

 Fire & Ambulance-There will be a fire board meeting on Feb 7 at 6:30pm at fire station. 9 ambulance calls in January.

 Library – Working on FY25 budget, director evaluation was conducted and policy readings at last meeting. Trustees are educating themselves on new legislation concerning library boards.

 Mayor Westergaard opened public forum at 8:09PM, no comments and closed at 8:10PM.

 Public Hearing for the sale of 2 properties was opened at 8:10PM with no comments, and nothing received at City Hall.

 Res 03-24 to finalize sale of city property 219 S. Madison St was moved by Henrich, 2nd by Johnson. Roll Call Vote: Henrich, Zeigler, Smith, Wilken, Johnson ayes. 0 nays.

 Res 04-24 to finalize sale of city property 265 E. Walnut St. was moved by Wilken, 2nd by Henrich. RCV: Henrich, Zeigler, Smith, Wilken, Johnson ayes. 0 nays. We will look at other properties to be addressed next month.

 Golf Course updates- Contract, benefits, and salary was reviewed for superintendent. Courses, current/previous salaries and hours were compared. Smith moved to accept salary of $35-40,000 with benefits, no 2nd, motion failed. Henrich suggested changes to contract to the personnel committee.

 Public Hearing for FY 25 Property Tax Dollar Levy on April 8, 2024 at 6:30 at city hall, moved by Zeigler, 2nd by Johnson, all ayes.

 Wilken moved to donate $150 to Bohlmanns/Hwy 7 for Easter egg hunt, 2nd by Smith, all ayes.

 USDA grant reaching deadline, will be retracted.

 Pool Committee proposed investing $100,000 into a CD savings for 4.85% rate at FCB for 14 months. Johnson moved to approve investment, 2nd by Smtih, all ayes.

 Res 05-24 to transfer from library Warme savings to library checking for award books, moved by Smith, 2nd by Johnson, all ayes.

 Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:04PM, 2nd by Wilken, all ayes.

Sierra Olsen, City Clerk Wayne Westergaard, Mayor