APRIL 8, 2024

The Newell City Council met in regular session Monday, April 8 2024 at 7pm at City Hall with Mayor Wayne Westergaard presiding. Council members present Steve Smith, Bill Henrich, Pamela Wilken, Dennis Zeigler. and Ana Johnson. Wilken moved to approve the agenda, 2nd by Henrich, all ayes. Henrich moved to approve the consent agenda, 2nd by Johnson, all ayes.

Public Works, Daryl Seivert- March sewer high from recent rainfalls. Meters continue to be installed by Doug, appx 200 in. City has taken down appx 20 trees in recent weeks and had 73 stumps removed. 11 trees to come down in park yet, then will get to work on the ROW trees again. Golf course shelters to be built soon, been working on trees heavily. Looking for a hand tiller to replant grass seed. Requesting golf course purchase small tractor mower for range, council approves. Sewer at clubhouse brought up, Butch will inquire with Randy Pedersen about running cameras.

Police Chief Lyman – 63 calls last month.

Fire Department, Chief Bruce Erie- New app, background check approved, FD approved for Thomas Cowell. Wilken moved to approve him for 1-year probationary period, 2nd Johnosn all ayes.

Ambulance- 6 calls in March. Ambulance Director, Laura Degner, was unable to be at meeting but submitted a letter to council regarding the inquiry to dispatch Rescue on ambulance calls. Degner also provided state code and the appropriate approval steps to have the Rescue unit be dispatched within regulation. This includes having certified EMRs to staff the rescue unit, and state/county approvals.

Clerk, Olsen- Henrich moved to accept the treasurer’s report, 2nd by Smith, all ayes. City Hall closed April 17-19 for IMFOA conference in DSM, and part time hours 22-26 due to vacation. Council will hold a special work session May 6 at 6:00pm to review city code updates.

Tom Grau present from Storm Lake United to discuss “Keep Iowa Beautiful” Program. He is gathering 6-10 local communities to apply for the program for the next 5 years, which will give us access to increased grant opportunities for local projects and fundraising. Newell is interested.

Brad Mahler present for Congo Church. They plan to move water and sewer lines so the parsonage is separate from church. Possible sidewalk and street replacement to be done. They will need an approved ROW permit and appropriate Water/Sewer Permits. Council approved this project.

Roberta Westergaard present for the Community Garden. She gave a review and preview of the garden volunteers, happenings, and future ideas. Asked council for $1,000 for expenses, which Smith approved, 2nd by Johnson all ayes. Lyman said they plan to install an American flag and stone up there for Bill Wessendorf memorial.

Two surveys presented to the council for approval. Mitch Petersen re-drawn property lines at 265 E Walnut. Next one for Charlie Rasch family at 469 W Jensen St to parcel off the home from the farm ground. Wilken moved to approve surveys, 2nd by Smith all ayes.

Smith made motion to have a special council session at 12:00pm on 4/22/24 and public hearing for full budget adoption for fiscal year ending 2025, 2nd by Wilken all ayes.

Council was given a list of nuisance and abandoned properties for review. They suggested one more round of letters go out, then involve attorney.

Wilken gave notice of her council seat vacancy effective June 30, 2024. Discussion had on the process and who may be good candidates to appoint. Johnson made a motion to fill city council vacancy by appointment on 7/1/24 at regular council meeting, 2nd Henrich all ayes. Letters of interest are to be submitted to city hall by 6/28/24.

City property/Liability/Worker’s Comp insurance renewal presented.

Wilken moved to approve special 5-day licenses for lucky wife wine slushies for watermelon days in August, 2nd Johnson – Smith, Henrich, Wilken, Johnson ayes, Zeigler nay. Passed.

City-Wide Garage Sales May 17-19 and City-Wide Cleanup June 14 dates motioned for approval by Johnson 2nd Wilken all ayes. Pool Committee requesting 8, $20 Gift Cards for prizes for the pool puzzle, and the registered puzzle participants to be charged for beverages at cost. Wilken moved to approve this, 2nd Johnson – Henrich, Wilken, Zeigler, Johnson aye, Smith nay. Passed.

Resolution #06-24 Transfer of funds from City to Library for 2nd half FY24 allocation for $17,750 moved for approval by Henrich, 2nd Smith, Roll Call Vote: Johnson, Wilken, Smith, Zeigler, Henrich ayes, 0 nays.

Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:32pm, 2nd by Henrich, all ayes.

Sierra Olsen, City Clerk Wayne Westergaard, Mayor