December 4, 2023

The Newell City Council met in regular session Monday, December 4, 2023 at 7pm at City Hall with Mayor Brian Puhrmann presiding. Council members present Chelsee Bohe, Pamela Wilken, Steve Smith, Stan Henrich, and Ana Johnson. Wilken moved to approve the agenda, 2nd by Henrich, all ayes. Wilken moved to approve consent agenda including minutes, bills, and receipts, 2nd by Johnson, all ayes.

Public Works-Nelson St. house and garage are taken down. Wheelchair swing is in and ready to use. New meters are being put in. Well #6 issue is resolved, after research and monitoring numbers.

Police-59 calls and 1 arrest. Light contest is ongoing. Will partner with Fire Department for a holiday event. Presented quotes for a new patrol vehicle; this will be revisited in 6-12 mo.

Fire Department-New member passed background check, will present to the department soon. Carroll rescue squad for sale, considering to purchase around 2025.

Library-Budget presented. Assistant librarian wage will be raised. Newell Library visits per capita is highest in BV county, mainly due to programming. Asking for 5% increase in city allocation and presented a 5 year projection for 5% yearly increasing. Wilken moved to approve the budget, 2nd by Smith. All ayes. Wilken moved to approve the 5 year projection, 2nd by Johnson. All ayes. Staffing during assistant maternity leave will be filled by director and volunteers.

Ambulance-8 calls in Nov.

City Clerk-Henrich moved to approve the treasurer report, 2nd by Bohe, all ayes. Official Election results shared. Upper Des Moines statistics were shared; assistance totaled over $46K last year. Smith moved to donate $800, 2nd by Bohe, all ayes. FY23 street financial report was approved by Henrich, 2nd by Wilken, all ayes. A dedication will be held for the wheelchair swing on December 29, 2023 at noon.

Mayor-Thank you to staff and council. List of ongoing projects was presented, including capital improvements, resurfacing project, flood plaining, removal of ash trees, golf course prep for the next season, cemetery mowing, new housing developments, and nuisance/abandoned properties.

Public forum was opened at 7:46pm. Bobbie Westergaard gave thanks to the community, recipients, and to the volunteers who helped and also committed to next year. Public forum was closed at 7:50pm.

Wilken moved to open the public hearing at 7:50pm for the sale of 216/218 W. 2nd St, 2nd by Smith, all ayes. $2,500 check given to city, and no comments at City Hall. Hearing closed at 7:52pm. Resolution #18-23 approving the sale of property was moved for approval by Wilken, 2nd by Johnson. Roll call vote, Johnson, Henrich, Smith, Wilken, Bohe aye, 0 nays, motion carried.

Resolution #19-23 for the intent to sell 219 S. Madison St. moved by Bohe 2nd by Smith. Roll call vote, all ayes 5-0. Motion by Wilken for Public hearing to sell property set for January 8, 2024 at 7:00pm at Newell City Hall, 2nd Johnson all ayes.

Resolution #16-23 for the intent of sale for 265 E. Walnut St. was moved by Bohe, 2nd by Johnson. Roll call vote, all ayes. Motion by Smith for Public hearing to sell property set for January 8, 2024 at 7:00pm at Newell City Hall, 2nd Henrich all ayes.

Food pantry would like to sell tool shed on city property. City gets first offer as discussed. Henrich motioned to offer $800 to purchase, 2nd by Smith. All ayes.

Utility rates were reviewed for water and sewer. Wilken moved to raise the rates by 3% on January 1, 2024 2nd by Johnson, all ayes.

Golf course end of year report was shared, both revenue and expenses increased. Calander report and fiscal year report were shown. The clubhouse sewer update was tabled for a special meeting to receive bids.

Personnel Committee-Vacation policy to be updated. Proposal from Wilken to pro-rate vacation time at start of employment and be used throughout year. Verbiage will be worked on and reviewed at next meeting.

Clubhouse manager contract for 2024 was reviewed. Existing contract does not take into account staffing challenges and extra manager hours. This will be tabled for the next meeting.

Resolution #20-23 for pay increases was discussed. Smith moved to increase the full and part time employee wages by 4.5% effective July 1, 2024, 2nd by Henrich. Roll call vote, 5-0 all ayes.

City & deputy clerk are working on putting together a new mayor/council orientation packet.

Resolution #21-23 for regular council meeting dates for 2024 moved for approval by Henrich, 2nd by Johnson. Roll call vote, 5-0 all ayes.

Bohe moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:59pm, 2nd by Henrich, all ayes.

Sierra Olsen, City Clerk Brian Puhrmann, Mayor