FEBRUARY 6, 2023

The Newell City Council met in regular session on Monday, February 6, 2023, at 7:00 pm. 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 Smith all ayes. Bohe moved to approve the consent agenda including minutes, bills, and receipts Wilken 2nd all ayes.

Tanya Landgraf present for library, continuing ed done during last meeting about open meetings law for the board. Starting some new programs for middle and high school.

Butch said still waiting for water meters, supposed to be here within next 3 months. They are working on all golf course and park equipment. Water tank for golf course fairways purchased and ready for spring. Storm pump at wastewater plant has bearing seal fail, working on it.

Chief Lyman reported over 60 calls including one arrest.

Pat present for FD, been quiet and still looking for more firefighters.

Max present for ambulance, 2 calls last mo and EMT classes done end of month.

Mayor Puhrman attended 911 mtg and park board. ISG will be visiting soon to get pool assessment.

Olsen presented Park Board proposed 2023 rates for golf course, shelter, and cemetery. All rates will remain the same, no increases except driving range balls going to $5/bucket. Punch card will be added to early bird special for $10 off, any new memberships in 2023 will get $10 gift card to clubhouse, and all memberships purchased in 2023 will receive drink tokens (2/family 1/indiv). Wilken moved to approve the 2023 rates as presented, 2nd Bohe all ayes. Park Board will think of ideas to improve shelter house with $1K donation by Good Sam Helpers Club. Suggestion is to make bathrooms ADA compliant, perhaps with help from grant funding. Summer help advertisements out, still looking for help.

Olsen presented Treasurer’s report, Bohe moved to approve 2nd Henrich all ayes. Fire Department budget presented for 2023-24, Henrich moved to approve barring the FD/Board approves at their mtg 2/15/23, 2nd Wilken all ayes. IMFOA Clerk Certification application sent in, which is a 3-year job requirement and classes completed. Chickens are NOT allowed in city limits, many have asked.

Open forum at 7:31, no comments, closed.

Public hearing opened at 7:32 for SF634 Maximum tax rate dollars for FY24, one question asked regarding the 8.10 rate for general, nothing further and closed at 7:33pm. Resolution #01-23 Maximum Property Tax Dollars for FY24 moved for approval by Smith, 2nd by Johnson, RCV Johnson, Henrich, Smith, Wilken, Bohe ayes, 0 nays. Wilken moved to set the Public Hearing for FY2024 Annual Budget on 3/6/23 at Newell City Hall 7:00pm, 2nd Bohe all ayes.

Public hearing for sale of partial lot to Newell Food Pantry opened at 7:34pm, no comments, closed. Bohe moved to approve resolution #02-23 for sale of real estate owned by the City of Newell to Newell Food Pantry for $400, 2nd Johnson, RCV Johnson, Henrich, Smith, Wilken, Bohe ayes, 0 nays.

Public hearing opened for Newell Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program at 7:35pm, statement read as follows: This status hearing is being held in accordance with the requirements of Section 508 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1987 notifying the public of the status for the Newell Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program. This public hearing is an opportunity for citizens of the community to comment on the progress, status, and activities that have occurred, to date, in the City's housing rehabilitation program. On August 2nd, 2019 the City of Newell was awarded a housing fund grant in the amount of $222,000 to complete the rehabilitation of six (6) homes in the City of Newell. The project location included only residential properties located within a target area. The target area is defined as bound on the North by Jensen Street, on the East by Rogers Road, on the South by 5th Street and on the West by Sievers Street. To date, the rehabilitation program has completed the rehabilitation on four (4) properties. One hundred percent (100%) of the funds benefited low to moderate-income homeowners. The rehabilitation program has expended $94,609 of the total grant award. Furthermore, the City has expended $4,500 in local matching funds. A contract amendment for a time extension was submitted June 22, 2022 and approved June 27th, 2022. A contract amendment has been submitted and the city is awaiting final approval to extend the contract end date out to December 31, 2022. Council asked about homes completed, and where the remaining funds go since not expended. Nothing further, public hearing closed at 7:38pm.

Wilken moved to approve the city to apply for GC Class C Liquor License, Sunday Sales, and Outdoor Service Area for 8 months and Restaurant License, 2nd Henrich all ayes.

Two of our reserve officers asking for IPERS, so make them “part-time” as needed to be eligible, as they are certified police officers. Council wants to look into Fire and Ambulance first before deciding. Tabled until next month.

Pool discussion continued; Council reviewed the initial pool assessment from Beck Engineering. Beck estimated a few of the damages totaling appx $250-500,000 for pool repairs, which may involve becoming ADA compliant by adding an ADA chair and remodeling the bathhouse. The North wall of the 12-foot is the worst, caving in and potentially has no support left from erosion. The pump house and pool deck is required by state public health to be fixed and updated before re-opening. ISG going to be providing their input and assessment soon as well for comparison. These required repairs by the state will more than likely not allow the pool to open this year, as well as funding needed to update.

Ordinance #289 Dog Tag/License update moved for approval of 2nd reading by Wilken 2nd Bohe, RCV Bohe, Wilken, Johnson ayes, Henrich and Smith nay. 2nd reading approved 2/6/23.

Bohe moved to adjourn at 8:09 pm, 2nd Johnson all ayes.

Sierra Olsen, City Clerk Brian Puhrmann, Mayor