JULY 5, 2022

The Newell City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, July 5, 2022, at 4:00 pm. at City Hall with Mayor Brian Puhrmann presiding. Council Members present Chelsee Bohe, Stan Henrich and Pam Wilken. Henrich moved to approve the agenda, 2nd by Bohe and all ayes. Wilken moved to approve the consent agenda including minutes, bills, and receipts Henrich 2nd and all ayes.

Puhrmann opened discussion for the council vacancy position; two candidates showed interest. Wilken moved to appoint Ana Johnson to the vacant position, 2nd by Bohe, RCV Bohe, Wilken, Henrich ayes, approved. Clerk swore in Johnson.

Butch reported usage for June, water well down 30 ft in 2 mo. Irrigation owners must restrict water use, and everyone should conserve when able. Blacktop everything south of 3rd St coming soon. Leak at Chuck Friday’s fixed, was bad connection from Palmer’s installation years ago.

Westergaard present for park board. Greens being watered additionally from sprinklers. Puhrmann also helping to get sprinkler head issues resolved.

Chief Lyman had over 60 calls in June, including 2 fire, 6 ambulance, and 3 arrests. Vacation in July, reserves and county will cover. On-call pay was discussed, council does not want to pursue that at this time. Pastor Ryan Helmkamp will be the city’s Chaplain. It is not paid position, and Ryan will study and help when needed.

Fire Chief Erie present for FD, has a new person interested. Expressed concern over firework safety in town.

Max present for ambulance. Need EMTs and drivers. Only need CPR certification to start as driver, with defensive driver course.

Mayor Puhrmann attended 911 board meeting last month. Thank you to Roberta and Wayne Westergaard for their hard work cleaning and taking care of the community garden. Kirk Brown donated raised beds to City.

Smith arrived to meeting 4:48pm.

Olsen gave Treasurer report, Wilken moved for approval 2nd Smith all ayes.

Marie gave library updates: 3rd librarian 10 hours/wk, reading programs underway and extended summer hours. Mayor asked the May library meeting minutes to be adjusted, as attorney did not suggest or inform the council to vacate and re-appoint Ron Day to the board. Puhrmann also informed council of the last library board meeting discrepancy to the president vacancy appointment of Tanya Landgraff. The board did not allow Tanya to become president in accordance with the Code. Follow up to happen soon.

Open forum 4:56pm. Puhrmann informed council the Tennis Court phase I project done. Huge thank you to Austin Walsh, foundation, and all involved. Olsen thanked Josh Walsh for assisting in setting up the foundation last fall.

Café on agenda, she was not present. Request to have carnival in city park Saturday, July 23rd. Bohe moved to deny this request 2nd Johnson all ayes. City will be preparing for RAGBRAI and permission was not asked.

Roger Sarchet, City foundation president, gave update on pickleball court proposed project. Estimated cost of $18K, to be paid for by foundation. Smith moved to approve Foundation to move forward with installing pickle ball courts to the east of the tennis courts, 2nd by Henrich all ayes.

RAGBRAI final map presented for an update. Council verified hourly employees to be paid for event. Bohe moved to approve Class B Permit 5-day event license for City of Newell for RAGBRAI, 2nd Wilken all ayes. Wilken moved to approve Class C Permit 5-day event license for Screwie Louie’s for RAGBRAI, 2nd Henrich all ayes. Smith moved to approve Class B Permit 5-day event license for Watermelon Days, 2nd Wilken all ayes. Rieman Memorial project presented as discussed last meeting. Materials to be ordered this week.

City met with Water association after doing rate review. Rates need to increase to cover costs, recommendation to get rid of estimate meter readings, and garbage rate increases to cover expenses. Council wants to discuss in budget meetings.

Golf Course Superintendent candidates given to council by Personnel committee. Bohe abstained from discussion and voting. Henrich moved to approve candidate A for $21/hr, then B and C, 2nd Smith, withdraw motion. Henrich moved to approve Candidate A starting at $21/hr, up to $24 if needed for negotiations, then B and C, 2nd Wilken, all ayes, 0 nays, Bohe abstain. Approved.

Smith moved to approve benefits from Mutual of Omaha for Life/ADD, ST and LT disability for $4,644.12/year, Henrich 2nd all ayes.

Wilken made motion to advertise for additional clubhouse employees, 2nd Bohe all ayes.

Mayor Puhrmann appoints Wilken as mayor pro-tem.

Bohe moved to adjourn at 6:19pm, 2nd Johnson all ayes.

Sierra Olsen, City Clerk Brian Puhrmann, Mayor