SEPTEMBER 6, 2023

The Newell City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, September 6, 2023, at 8:00 pm at City Hall with Mayor Brian Puhrmann presiding. Council Members present Chelsee Bohe, Stan Henrich, and Ana Johnson. Absent Steve Smith and Pam Wilken. Bohe moved to approve the agenda, 2nd by Henrich, all ayes. Henrich moved to approve the consent agenda including minutes, bills, and receipts, 2nd by Johnson, all ayes.

Fire Chief Erie – Application received for Tera Hanson, passed background, and approved by Fire Department with one year probation. Henrich moved to approve, 2nd by Johnson, all ayes.

Bruce Erie, Ambulance – 3 calls in July.

Tanya Landgraf, Library Board President – August annual report been submitted to the State, Statistics shared and mentioned online e-book resource. September will be back to regular library hours. Mayor reviewed closed session protocol.

Chief Lyman – 74 calls last month, including 5 arrests.

Public Works, Pat Cross – They have been mowing a lot, working on the new meters. Blacktop in September. DNR state inspection was good, no deficiencies.

Mayor Puhrmann – Welcome Jensen as PT Deputy Clerk to the team. Contacted railroad to fix/repair tracks on Fulton. The pool committee formed and has met twice. New council chairs were presented for $45 each. Bohe moved to approve and 2nd by Johnson. All ayes. Tree removal at the golf course is set for September 24th and 25th. Sign ups are at the golf course. Budget meetings will be in October.

Olsen - Treasurer Report, moved to approve by Henrich, 2nd by Bohe, all ayes. Auditors here next week. Election papers can be submitted until Sept 21st for mayor and council. A resolution was suggested to continue putting LOST percentage towards pool. VC3 bill was brought to attention, they have added a new service for email and cyber security for a one-time fee of $300 and appx $45/mo per user. Henrich moved to approve, 2nd by Bohe, all ayes.

Open Forum at 8:31. Closed at 8:32 with no comments.

A follow-up discussion was made on the utility bill rates. Geoff Smith from Ag State presented his concerns. The council will do more research before reaching a decision. Bohe moved to table the discussion for a full council, 2nd by Johnson, all ayes.

Golf Course – Pat requested to purchase grass seed 8.7 acres at golf course for $7,450. He will need to rent equipment to drill in the seed, and will be done after tree work in Sept/Oct. He asked for a budget of $8,300. Bohe motioned to approve, 2nd by Johnson, all ayes.

Cemetery – A letter was received concerning a damaged headstone with request for replacement cost reibursement. Olsen will check with the insurance company to see what is possible. Bohe moved, 2nd by Johnson, all ayes.

Nuisance Properties – The city has gained ownership over 219 S. Madison and 265 E. Walnut. The Nelson Street property is to be demolished.

Trick or Treat will be held on October 31, 2023 from 5-8pm. Bohe moved, 2nd by Johnson, all ayes.

The Personnel committee was tabled. Bohe moved, 2nd by Henrich, all ayes.

City Code update was shared for review.

Pool Committee –Met with two engineering companies and meeting this wkd.

Debt obligation report was shared for FY23. Bohe moved, 2nd by Johnson, all ayes.

Resolution #10-23, Hazard Mitigation Plan Bohe moved for approval, 2nd by Johnson, Roll Call Vote: Bohe, Henrich, Johnson ayes, Absent Smith and Wilken. Motion carried.

Henrich moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 pm, 2nd by Bohe, all ayes.

Sierra Olsen, City Clerk Brian Puhrmann, Mayor