OCTOBER 17, 2023

The Newell City Council met in special budget workshop session on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 6:30 pm at City Hall with Mayor Brian Puhrmann presiding. Council Members present Chelsee Bohe, Pamela Wilken, Ana Johnson, and Steve Smith. Henrich absent. Bohe moved to approve the agenda, 2nd by Johnson all ayes.

Tanya, Library Board President: FY24-25 draft budget discussed, no major capital projects planned. Few wish list items they may ask NHS kids. Lib allocation from City is up, asking for inflation increase going forward. Restricted funds are for large projects, which is majority of their funds.

Bohe moved to approve $100 donation to NF Athletic Boosters 2nd Smith all ayes. Wilken moved to approve the Health insurance renewal for 2024, 2nd Johnson all ayes. CRS contract up for renewal 2024, asking for a few changes in contract and will report next meeting. Rates are increasing, Clerk to run garbage and other utility budget numbers for utility increases needed. Bohe moved to approve the MA streetlight addition to East 5th Street, 2nd Wilken all ayes. The library adopted the City personnel policy.

Capital improvement plan discussed. Butch would like to continue street blacktopping. Sand truck could be replaced in future, and road grader upgrade not needed at this time for the high cost. Council agrees with these, plus would like to purchase a city trailer for hauling equipment- up to $15K. Golf Course improvements include seed and sewer upgrades ($20K). Park improvement wish list discussed, including shelter house renovation/expansion in future. Council wants to look at age and condition of water tower, and new well water pump.

Lyman, Police Chief: asked plan for patrol vehicle, it will be out of warranty in 100mi. Council asked him to get numbers.

Personnel committee discussed adding budget for overlap when hiring for Butch’s upcoming retirement. Est $36K additional salary plus benefits.

Open forum 9:08, no comments, closed.

Bohe moved to adjourn at 9:08 pm, 2nd Smith all ayes.

Sierra Olsen, City Clerk Brian Puhrmann, Mayor