SEPTEMBER 6, 2022

The Newell City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, September 6, 2022, at 7:00 pm. at City Hall with Mayor Brian Puhrmann presiding. Council Members present Chelsee Bohe, Stan Henrich, Steve Smith, Ana Johnson and Pam Wilken. Wilken moved to approve the agenda, 2nd by Johnson and all ayes. Bohe moved to approve the consent agenda including minutes, bills, and receipts Smith 2nd and all ayes.

Open forum was opened at 7:02pm, no comments, closed 7:03pm.

Tanya Landgraf gave library report. Continuing to see patron increases, RAGBRAI went well, Sept 26 staff out for hours, and board doing their education hours. Children’s Assistant position testing one more month. Puhrmann asked about May minutes that were to be corrected with the attorney statement, and July minutes are incorrect where mayor spoke, and Jim Temple’s verbal resignation was omitted from minutes. They will be fixed soon.

Westergaard present for park board. Repairs on bear at course happening. A handful of men on league have volunteered to assist the City in the removal of trees on the golf course. Mayor Puhrmann thanked Wayne and will contact DNR inquiring about updating tree inspection for GC and parks before cutting any down. City agreed tree removal to happen after course closure this season. Walsh project at Tennis/Bball courts completed except painted donors. Pickleball court project happening with the City Foundation.

Erie present for FD. New/Returning application from Cory Oakley, Henrich moved to approve 1-year probation 2nd Smith all ayes.

Max present and reports 4 ambulance calls last month. Susie Montag started and had 2 calls last night. Degner returned from medical leave.

Police chief Lyman gave his report that included appx 70 calls, including 3 arrests. One reserve officer is inactive, he would like to have a retired deputy be a reserve. Wilken moved to remove Eric Bruckner and replace with Tory Cudabeck as reserve at $20/hour, 2nd Bohe all ayes.

Butch gave W/WW use. Water main break 4th/Harrison last week 8pm-12:30am to repair. Eventually should replace the 2inch line there. Seasonal help done, guys will be mowing a lot more this fall. Last week the Iowa DNR was called by a citizen and DNR contacted City following that call. Individual claimed to be an employee and no water at golf course. DNR reiterated discussion that was had with citizen that called, but facts were not accurate. The issue is the new equipment in the system installed over the past fall/winter, not limited water. GC is legally allowed appx 7million gallons/year by law, but City cannot jeopardize drinking water until solution is decided upon. DNR agreed with the actions taken this year. City has been exploring options all summer to turn fairway waters on safely.

Mayor Puhrmann welcomed Patrick Cross to the City, has been here 6 weeks and doing a great job jumping in as the Golf Course Superintendent. Budget meeting workshops will be Sept 21, Oct 12 & 26 at 6:30pm. Attended Hazard Mitigation meeting with county, 5-year plan to be done by July. Once we in the NFIP again, we can get access to funds for water mitigation. Attended Mayors meeting online regarding hiring practices, which we do what was recommended. Staff meeting on 8/25/22 went well. Had meeting with Wayne on park board. Puhrmann and staff have had 3 field experts assessing GC fairway sprinkler system and water system this summer, all of them have concluded the fairway system should not be turned on the way it’s set up. Today Butch and Mayor Puhrmann met with Scott from Hawkeye electric and Jayme Richter. Scott with Hawkeye came up with the best and most cost-effective solution yet. The solution will be to add a holding tank next to booster pump that will work in conjunction with the fairway sprinkler system. The City’s best water well pump (#5) is 206ft in the ground. Scott confirmed the slow start on well pump 5 and confirmed starting system as is would jeopardize a 40-year old well pump. Quote for new well pump is $26k. The variable speed drive unofficial estimate is $6K. Butch agrees this is great way to remedy issue. Mayor Puhrmann and Butch agree the holding tank system will allow us to start fairway sprinklers for fall seeding and aerating. The variable speed drive will need to be added by spring. Wilken moved for Phase I of GC sprinklers to get holding tank system set up $5K 2nd Smith all ayes. Puhrmann waiting on response from attorney on nuisance properties and next steps for Food Pantry addition.

Olsen gave Treasurer’s Report, Smith moved to approve 2nd Wilken all ayes. The Good Samaritan Helpers Club donated $1,000 for interior improvements at the shelter house. Auditors here this week at City for annual exam. The Foundation is meeting next week but have pickleball court being built. Will be discussing fundraising for $10K to finish that project, and next project for 2023. Mayor and Council would like to see Splashpad be next project, as the pool’s life is limited and want a water feature in town while fundraising for new pool down the road. Olsen informed city any Newell citizen can be on the foundation.

Wilken moved to approve the Outstanding Debt Report, 2nd Bohe all ayes.

Housing Fund Grant status update public hearing opened 8:00pm, status read, and question asked where current round of homes are. No other comments, closed.

Pool End of Year Report showing $21,000 loss. Butch informed council the health dept requiring cement to be replaced around pool- tripping hazard, pumphouse needs rebuilt – completely unsafe, and pool needs upkeep.

ARPA 2nd half funds deposited resulting in City of Newell total at $127,393.54. Spent $21,030 with storm sewer tile this Spring. Smith moved to spend remaining ARPA funds on replacing water meters in town 2nd Wilken all ayes.

Resolution #12-22 Authorizing signers for USDA grant for golf course equipment moved for approval by Bohe, 2nd Smith RCV Bohe, Wilken, Smith, Henrich, Johnson ayes, 0 nays. Resolution #13-22 Bohe moved for approval, 2nd Wilken RCV Bohe, Wilken, Smith, Henrich, Johnson ayes, 0 nays. Resolution #14-22 Wilken moved for approval, 2nd Bohe RCV Bohe, Wilken, Smith, Henrich, Johnson ayes, 0 nays.

Bohe moved to adjourn at 8:36pm, 2nd Wilken all ayes.

Sierra Olsen, City Clerk Brian Puhrmann, Mayor