

City of Cleveland Regular Meeting Minutes – Monday, November 9, 2020

The Regular Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Don McCabe. Council Members present were Nancy Gens, Justin Schabert and Fred Danner.

Amendments to the Agenda – None

A Motion was made by Schabert and seconded by Gens to approve the October 5th and 19th, 2020 Minutes and current bills report. Voting yes – all

Public Comment – Loren and Matt Stauff were present at the meeting and wanted to discuss water erosion issues on their property, the NW corner of PID# 01.016.7500. Loren indicated that there is a faulty tile running through his property that the city put in and over the years it has been dug into a ditch to get the water to flow off the City owned farm land to Cherry Creek. Loren indicated that the city put the tile in when the ponds were constructed some time ago and there was no easement or agreement that was written up at that time. Loren would like the city to fix the tile so his land gets back to the original grade it once was. The council agreed that something would need to be done and the Clerk will discuss this issues with the City Attorney to see if any easement or documentations need to be done prior to fixing the tile.

Police Report – Police Chief Randy Tiegs said October was a busy month with various calls and indicated he had 54 trick-or-treaters stop by the PD on Halloween.

Public Works Report – Jared Holland indicated that KLM had drained and cleaned the water tower because of the various water discoloration complaints the city has been receiving. The tower was then subsequently filled and drained twice prior to being put back in service. Holland indicated he will continue to monitor and work residents if they continue to have discolored water.

Liquor Report – Approved, gambling rent was \$4000.06.

Small Business Grants Update – Clerk advised that there were five (5) recipients of the CARES Act small business grants administered through Le Sueur County/NextStage. They are as follows: Jocko's bar and grill, Kokomo's bar and grill, Ruffled Feathers, Lake Fitness and Beaver Dam Resort.

CARES Act CRF Final Report – The clerk provided the council a final copy of CRF expenditures to date. Clerk indicated that \$1317.14 was unspent and will be sent back to Le Sueur County prior to the cut-off date of November 15th. These unused funds will go towards the fees associated with NextStage to administer the small business grants.

Radio Read Water Meter System Update – City clerk indicated that he reached out to Ron McCabe a representative with Core and Main and inquired about installation prices through companies he knows. Ron stated that on average the cost would be approximately \$250 per household plus parts to install a water meter. Clerk advised that he again spoke with a representative from Blue Sky Mechanical who indicated they could schedule and install water

meters for the city for \$175 per water meter connection with parts included. The council discussed and determined that having Bly Sky Mechanical do the installs would be the most cost efficient option for homeowners. The clerk indicated that he would like to wait until January 2021 to purchase the 150 water meters and software from Core and Main. This will give staff time to work out any issues with the new utility billing software before the transition into radio read meters. Clerk advised that he will work on a letter to be sent to all residents to inform them of the project and how it will be implemented. Clerk will have a first draft of this letter ready for the December 7th council meeting.

West Jefferson Sewer System Update – City clerk indicated that the project was complete other than some minor landscaping things next spring. The city received it's \$140,000 in SAC fees from the project.

Amended Ordinance – A motion was made Gens and seconded by Schabert to wave the second reading of amended ordinance #5500.00 and to approve the summary publication as written. The summary publication will run in the Le Sueur County Newspaper on November 18th and then will be in affect after that date.

New Business

A Motion was made by Danner and seconded by Schabert to approve resolution #34-2020 designating a polling place for 2021. Voting yes – all

Police Chief Position – Chief Randy Tiegs provide the council with a written proposal requesting his current part-time police chief position be transitioned into a full-time position. Mayor McCabe indicated that Tiegs is many times working 60 hrs a pay period currently because of staffing shortages and case investigations. There is a lot of turnover in part-time officers as many look to start their career with the CPD and then quickly find full-time employment with other agencies. Tiegs indicated that because we don't have a full-time position within the department the city has not been able to qualify for police state aid. Police aid is calculated on PERA contributions from the employee, and if the position was full-time the city could apply for approximately \$4300 in 2021. The amount of police aid would then increase in subsequent years based on the amount of employee PERA contributions. Tiegs stated that the police coverage would remain the same with eight (8) hours of coverage per day. Tiegs said he would take calls during the day and screen them to determine if he needed to come in early or they could wait until his shift started. Tiegs indicated that he wants this transition to benefit the city and he would be able to alter his coverage time if needed because of known issues that need to be addressed. Tiegs stated that he would continue to utilize part-time officer to cover the shifts he is not working as well as his vacation and sick time.

City clerk advised the council that gross projected wages in 2021 with this proposal would be \$71,614, the 2021 wages budget for the PD is \$77,500. Clerk indicated that annual health insurance cost per full-time employee is \$7800. Clerk advised that if the city receives the projected \$4300 in police aid in 2021 and factors in the cost savings associated with hiring and training part-time officers, transitioning Tiegs to a full-time position would not change the budget significantly. Mayor McCabe asked the council if they would like to act on this proposal

or table for now. A Motion was made by Schabert and seconded by Gens to convert the Police Chief's Position to full-time starting February 1st 2020. Voting yes – all

A Motion was made by Schabert and seconded by Danner to approve resolution #35-2020 adding Hunter Braun to PERA. Voting yes – all

Health Insurance Allowance – City Clerk advised that from 2017 to 2021 the accumulative increase in monthly premiums from Public Employees Insurance Program (PEIP) is 17.6%. Clerk advised the current health insurance allowance is \$650 per month per employee. A motion was made by Gens and Seconded by Schabert to approve resolution #36-2020 increasing the health insurance allowance to \$750 per month per employee. Voting yes – all

Health Insurance Opt-out – Clerk indicated that an opt-out option is offered both the public and private sector. The opt-out option is a fringe benefit to any employee who chooses to not take the city offered health insurance. The employee must be covered under their spouse's health insurance to be offered this opt-out option. The proposed amount for this option is \$450 per month. Clerk advised that if the city approves this option it would be a potential savings of \$3600 annually per full-time employee if they chose to opt-out of city offered health insurance. The council discussed this option and determined it would be a potential cost saving to the city if this was an option for employees. A motion was made by Schabert and seconded by Gens to approve resolution #37-2020 offering an opt-out option to an employee who would be covered under their spouse's health insurance. Voting yes - all

COLA Increase 2021 – Clerk proposed a 2.5% increase for 2021. Clerk indicated that he reached out to other cities in the county and an average increase for 2021 was 2.5% to 3%. This discussion will be tabled until the December 7th council meeting before make a decision on a potential increase.

Shed/Garage Relocation – Clerk advised that there is currently an accessory structure within the city platted alleyway south of 605 Columbia Street. Clerk stated that he spoke with the homeowner about the location of the shed. The owner indicated that a previous Mayor many years ago gave permission to put the structure within the undeveloped alleyway. According to the homeowner there was no agreement nor was it mentioned in a council meeting. Clerk advised the council that because 6 lots south of this alleyway were recently purchase, the new owner would need access to the lots via the alleyway. Council discussed and determined that May 1st 2021 would be an acceptable amount of time for the homeowner to move the structure. Clerk will draft a letter and submit to homeowner.

A Motion was made by Gens and seconded by Schabert to approve the liability insurance policy renewal wavier as provided. Voting yes – all

A Motion was made by Danner and seconded by Schabert to set the Canvass Board meeting for November 12th at 7:00 p.m. Voting yes – all

Agenda Structure – Clerk indicated that he would like to add a public comment section to the agenda. Councilmember Beer who was not present indicated that he would like to add a section

for “reports of departments, officers, boards and committees.” The council discussed and agreed with these changes. The new agenda structure will be implemented at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

A Motion was made by Schabert and seconded by Gens to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m.
Voting yes – all

Dan Evans
City Clerk-Treasurer

Don McCabe
Mayor