

COMMON COUNCIL
2d Floor City Building, 202 S. Union Street
November 6, 2023, 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Werling called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Those in attendance rose for the pledge of allegiance.

Clerk-Treasurer Aldrich called the roll. Present were Sandra Flora, Mike Isley, Spencer Kingery, Cody Nelson, and Dave Weckerly.

Minutes from the October 16, 2023 special meeting were presented. Cody Nelson moved to approve the minutes as read. Second by Spencer Kingery. Motion carried. (5-0)

Mayor Werling suspended the meeting at 6:01 p.m. and opened the public hearing on the proposed utility rate increases for solid waste, water, and wastewater. Each utility was separately called. On the increase of trash collection from \$13.00 to \$15.50, no one asked to speak. On the eleven percent (11%) increase in water rates, no one asked to speak. On the forty percent (40%) increase in wastewater rates, no one asked to speak. Deen Rogers from Baker Tilly was attending by Zoom and was thanked by the mayor for being available for questions. The public hearing was closed at 6:03 p.m. and the regular meeting was resumed.

Reports were dispensed with and department reports incorporated into the minutes.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Werling asked Clerk-Treasurer Aldrich to brief the Council on the Security Federal loans for the police cars and for the Water/Street Department Maintenance Building. C-T Aldrich stated that the loan for the police cars would purchase five vehicles and outfit two of them. With other funding two additional cars will be purchased and five outfitted. Two of the existing cars will eventually either be sold to another municipality requiring no additional resolution, or council can declare them surplus for sale by closed bid or auction. The two cars to be disposed will be the Taurus purchased this year as a stopgap measure and car#3—a 2019 Ford Explorer with more than 70,000 miles. The goal is to end up with 10 cars in the fleet—nine to implement the take-home policy for the department and an additional pool car for backup. The purchase assumes that no cars will be purchased for the next five years and that the money which would be budgeted for a new outfitted car per year (approximately \$60,000) would be used to service the 5-year loan.

C-T Aldrich then explained that the loan for the Water/Street Department Maintenance Building was actually a construction loan—not a mortgage as had been reported. Since the land is being leased from US Aggregates, collateral had to be secured for the construction loan—hence the City Building is listed on the loan documents. Once the new building is completed, the existing collateral will be released and the new building will be collateral for a mortgage.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ordinance 2023-14 Setting Trash Collection fees at \$15.50 per month was presented on second reading. Spencer Kingery moved to approve Ordinance 2023-14 on second reading. Second by Cody Nelson. Motion carried. (5-0)

Spencer Kingery moved to approve Ordinance 2023-14 on third and final reading. Second by Cody Nelson. Motion carried. (5-0)

Ordinance 2023-15 Setting Water rates for 2024 was presented on second reading. Mike Isley moved to approve Ordinance 2023-15 on second reading. Second by Cody Nelson. Motion carried. (5-0) Spencer Kingery moved to approve Ordinance 2023-15 on third and final reading. Second by Mike Isley. Motion carried. (5-0)

Ordinance 2023-16 Setting Wastewater rates for 2024 was presented on second reading. Spencer Kingery moved to approve Ordinance 2023-16 on second reading. Second by Cody Nelson. Motion carried. (5-0) Spencer Kingery moved to approve Ordinance 2023-16 on third and final reading. Second by Cody Nelson. Motion carried. (5-0)

NEW BUSINESS

A draft schedule of Observed Holidays for 2024 was presented. Cody Nelson moved to approve. Second by Mike Isley. Motion carried.

| 2024 Observed Holidays | | |
|------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| New Years Day | Monday | January 1 |
| Presidents' Day | Monday | February 19 |
| Memorial Day | Monday | May 23 |
| Independence Day | Thursday | July 4 |
| Labor Day | Monday | September 2 |
| Veterans Day | Friday | November 8 |
| Thanksgiving | Thursday | November 28 |
| | Friday | November 29 |
| Christmas Eve Day | Tuesday | December 24 |
| Christmas Day | Wednesday | December 25 |

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Council Comments.

Cody Nelson asked the status of Adams Street reconstruction. Mayor Werling indicated that Midwest Paving had presented a timeline showing substantial completion by the end of the week, i.e. close of business, November 9.

Clerk-Treasurer Aldrich Comments:

C-T Aldrich provided background for the report in the Comet that she failed to return a call regarding what was mistakenly called a mortgage on the City Building. Aldrich explained that she had been in State-mandated training most of that day in addition to managing duties in the office and did not see the 2:38 p.m. email request until after close of business.

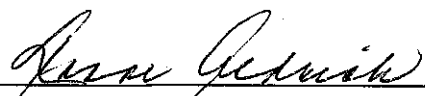
Public Comments.

Kamron Yates, Indiana Street asked if the US Aggregates lease for the ground at the site of the Water/Street Department Maintenance Building had adequate protections. Mayor Werling and Attorney Robeson confirmed it did. The lease is a 50-year lease with automatic renewals. Werling also pointed out that Well#5 and the pump station there are also on land leased from US Aggregates.

There being no further business, board or public comments, Cody Nelson moved to adjourn. Second by Spencer Kingery. Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.



Mayor Anita Werling



Clerk-Treasurer, Leanne Aldrich, Attest