
COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
May 7, 2012
CITY OF ELKHORN
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 9 S. BROAD ST., ELKHORN, WI 53121

The Common Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by Roll Call.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Howie Reynolds, Aldermen Gary Payson, Sr., Scott McClory, Brian Olson, Jerry Anderson, Jim D'Alessandro, Kim DeHaan.

Others present: Administrator Tapson, City Attorney Ward Phillips, City Clerk Darlene Igl, Police Chief Joel Christensen, Finance Director Mary Hinske, Fire Chief Rod Smith, Park & Rec Director Jeff Simons, DPW Director Terry Weter, City Engineer Gary Welsh, Maureen VanderSanden – Elkhorn Independent, Tim Schiefelbein.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion (McClory/Olson) to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2012 Common Council meeting. Motion carried.

REPORT OF CITY OFFICERS

Mayor's Report

Mayor Reynolds recognized County Board Supervisor Schiefelbein in the audience and thanked him for attending.

Mayor Reynolds appointed Jill Richards to the Historic Preservation Commission and Tom Myrin to the Downtown Elkhorn Partnership. Motion (Payson/DeHaan) to confirm the appointments as made.

City Administrator's Report

Administrator Tapson stated that the next phase of the 201 Centralia project has begun and provided an update on Act 10/32 changes regarding recertification of unions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Municipal Services & Utilities

Alderman Payson reported that the Committee had recommended approval of a mutual aid agreement with Stoughton Utilities. In the event of a major disaster or emergency, labor force and equipment would be provided.

The Committee reviewed information on Federal ADA Title II which include specific requirements for the removal of barriers at swimming pools. The deadline for installation of lifts at public pools is May 21 but the Department of Justice is considering an extension.

The Sidewalk Improvement/Maintenance Program was discussed and will be revised based on comments for review at the next Committee meeting.

Finance & Judicial

Alderman McClory reported that the Committee had reviewed proposals for repairs to the city garage roof and recommended approval of a contract with Elkhorn Roofing for the repairs with a cost not to exceed \$7,000.

The Committee reviewed information regarding an accident which resulted in damage to city property. The insurance company has offered to settle in the amount of \$1,211.56. The Committee recommended that the Council authorize the City Administrator to settle the claim.

An electric utility billing error was discovered during field testing that resulted in Royal Group being billed at a conversion ratio that was one-half of what should have been used. After discussion, the Committee recommended to Council that the utility not exercise its authority to “back-bill” the customer.

The Committee discussed the employee group health insurance renewal and recommended that the City seek renewal of the health insurance contract with the current schedule of benefits and structure.

Human Resources Committee

Alderman DeHaan reported that the Committee met and reviewed options for modifications to the health insurance benefits. The Committee asked that the health coverage option for part-time employees be eliminated. The Committee favored Option 2 which would offer estimated savings of \$59,329 and agreed to a January 1 implementation date for all covered employees.

The Committee also reviewed a revised position description for the Electric Utility Director placing a greater emphasis on the business management aspects of the position.

Alderman DeHaan stated that the Committee will be discussion revisions to the personnel manual and the performance review system at their next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Stoughton Mutual Aid Agreement

Motion (Payson/DeHaan) to approve a mutual aid agreement with Stoughton Utilities. Motion carried.

City Garage Roof Repairs

Motion (McClory/DeHaan) that the City contract with Elkhorn Roofing to repair the garage roof at a cost not to exceed \$7,000. Roll call vote – Payson, yes; McClory, yes; Olson, yes; Anderson, yes; D’Alessandro, yes; DeHaan, yes. Motion carried.

Insurance Settlement Offer

Motion (McClory/Anderson) to authorize Administrator Tapson to settle the insurance claim with Progressive Insurance in the amount of \$1,211.56. Motion carried.

Electric Utility Billing Error

Motion (McClory/Anderson) to instruct the electric utility not to exercise its authority to “back bill” the Royal Group. Roll call vote – Payson, yes; McClory, yes; Olson, yes; Anderson, yes; D’Alessandro, yes; DeHaan, yes. Motion carried.

It was suggested that a letter be sent to the company informing them of the decision not to back bill. In addition, it was discussed that a letter be sent asking that the Royal Group consider making a donation to the City possibly to offset the cost of the July 4th fireworks.

Employee Group Health Insurance Renewal

Motion (McClory/Payson) to authorize Administrator Tapson to seek renewal of the group health insurance contract with the current schedule of benefits and structure. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

ADJOURN INTO CLOSED SESSION

Motion (D’Alessandro/DeHaan) to adjourn into closed session per State Statute 19.85(1)(g) by roll call vote “Conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advise concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved” for consideration of qualified bidders. Roll call vote – Payson, yes; McClory, yes; Olson, yes; Anderson, yes; D’Alessandro, yes; DeHaan, yes. Motion carried. Adjourned into closed session at 6:32 p.m.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

Motion (Payson/Anderson) to reconvene in open session at 7:00 p.m.

CONSIDERATION OF QUALIFIED BIDDERS

Motion (DeHaan/Olson) to prohibit Mann Brothers from bidding on 2012 projects, to require that property taxes of all bidders must be paid in full and to set policy that contracts cannot be held by parties that owe money to the City. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

Motion (Payson/Anderson) to adjourn at 7:02 p.m.

Darlene Igl
City Clerk