

CITY OF OKOBOJI
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2018

PRESIDING: Mayor VanderWoude

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Julie Andres, Jim Hentges, Walter Mendenhall, Jerry Robinson.
COUNCILMEMBER ABSENT: Jim Delperdang

OTHERS PRESENT: Dan Toman, Jeff Thee, Rebecca Peter, Jamie Hunter, Matt Schmelling, Kae Hoppe, Tony Gray, Neal Houge and Amanda Harskamp.

After the Pledge of Allegiance the Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Andres/Hentges moved to adopt the agenda. All ayes. Motion carried. Mendenhall/Robinson moved to approve the consent agenda, which included minutes of the previous meetings 12/12/17 and 12/19/17, Claims for January 2018, and Bank Cash Report for December 2017. All ayes. Motion carried.

CITIZENS APPEARANCES

Attorney Jamie Hunter who is representing concerned property owners in regards to the planned development known as East Loch Estates. Attorney Hunter was inquiring on if the City of Okoboji was going to review the proposed sub-division. Mayor VanderWoude stated that in the past they have not reviewed other cities developments. Mayor VanderWoude stated that the developers have not submitted any information/plans to the City of Okoboji. Councilmember Andres we stated don't have a history of getting involved in matters outside our city limits and Attorney Stein has advised us that we need to be consistent. Attorney Hunter stated that we are not stepping on another city but on an unincorporated area. Attorney Hunter stated that she looked at the City of Spirit Lake and did not see that they had the same ordinance as the City of Okoboji. Mayor VanderWoude stated that we would run the information by Attorney Stein but at the point we are not going to get involved in another town or counties plans.

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business

NEW BUSINESS

Council to consider the appointment of Dennis Colton to the Board of Adjustments with term to expire January 9, 2023. Council considered appointment of Dennis Colton. Robinson/Hentges moved to approve the appointment of Dennis Colton to the Board of Adjustments with a term to expire January 9, 2023. All ayes. Motion carried.

Council to consider written funding request submitted by the Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Inc. (UDMO). The Council will add this to the items to be considered when the 2018/2019 budget is being finalized. Information only, no action taken.

Council to review Quarterly Budget Report. We are half way done with this budget year. The council received a review of actual to budget amounts with explanations of variances. For the most part we are on track with our expenses with the only notable item being over is the Planning and Zoning due to the increased cost associated with the Seawall. Deputy City Clerk Amanda Harskamp stated that we are not using miscellaneous accounts as often so we can better track our revenue and expenses. No action, Information only.

Council to review proposed changes to water rate from Central Water System and consider response. Tony Gray with Central Water discussed the reason for the increase cost. Mayor VanderWoude asked why the rates are increasing February instead of July. Tony Gray with Central Water System stated that they are losing money and if we don't raise the rates effective February then they are even further behind. Mayor VanderWoude asked if the increase is for capital improvement and Tony Gray stated no that the increase is for cost of running the plant. Tony Gray stated as the plant starts to age the maintenance cost are increasing and this is the most they have spent on maintenance. The cost of utilities are also increasing. Councilmember Robinson asked if the type of plant that was built is the reason the maintenance cost are increased. Tony Gray responded that we went from a 12 valve plant to 100 valve plant with technology. A 12 million dollar water plant facility is going to cost more to maintain. Mayor VanderWoude asked Amanda Harskamp how the Central Water System increase will affect the City of Okoboji rates. Amanda Harskamp stated that our minimum charge would need to increase by \$10.00 per quarter and our price per 1,000 gallons would need to increase by \$1.00 to account for the Central Water System increase only. Tony Gray will be at Arnolds Park Council Meeting tomorrow. Information only, no action taken.

Council to consider setting a future public hearing on an ordinance amending the City Code of Ordinances regarding Water rates –Chapter 92. Hentges/Andres Motion to set Public Hearing on February 13th. Roll Call: All Ayes Motion carried.

Council to consider setting a future public hearing on amendments to the City Code of Ordinances regarding fees/expenses for water meters –Chapter 91. Water Superintendent Neal Houge stated that we are dealing with three technologies of meters in town. We need to replace meters faster than 20 years in order to have the same technology. He has been asked by citizens if they could receive monthly bills and with the current system it would not be possible to have a monthly billing. If we went to a radio read system he would be able to read all of the town in a few hours. Even if we didn't bill monthly we could read monthly to make sure that there are no issues with high reads due to running toilets and leaks and be able to catch issues sooner than once per quarter. Neal stated that we have had issues with broken meters and not finding the broken meter until it is time to read and we lost all of the revenue from the meter for all quarter. Neal believes that they City needs to own the meter and only charge a rental fee and not have customers purchasing the meter. Deputy City Clerk Amanda stated that we need to have several types of water meter fees based on meter size. Neal stated we have about half dozen different sizes in the City of Okoboji. Neal and Amanda will get prices and put together a plan for the Council. Hentges/Andres Motion to set Public Hearing for Fees and Expenses for Water Meters on February 13th. Roll Call: All Ayes Motion carried.

Okoboji Tourism Committee to present annual report to the Council.

Rebecca Peters with Okoboji Tourism Director stated we had a great year in tourism. There focus has been drawing in families to the area. Peters stated tourism generated 274.55 million dollar impact on the area in 2016. Tourism provide 1900 jobs in Dickinson County. Tourism generated around 5 million in tax revenue for Dickinson County. Okoboji Tourism prints 100,000 copies of the Vacation Okoboji magazine and had 24,745 print request for the magazine that were sent out free of charge. They also had 8,428 digital views of the magazine. They also send boxes of magazine all over the Midwest to different visitor centers. They had visitor request from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Peters provide the Council with a breakdown of all the advertising that Okoboji Tourism did last year. Peters also provide the Council with a list of all the meetings that the City of Okoboji is represented at. The last two years the tourism has done market research to determine who is interested in Okoboji. They are using the information to make sure they are marketing to the right group. Okoboji Tourism started a new campaign called You, Me and Okoboji. They have a frame for facebook. The 2018 visitor guide will arrive on Monday.

Council to hear, consider, and possibly act on final collective bargaining proposal/tentative proposed agreement from Teamsters 554 representing Okoboji's Police Officers. (Possible exempt session to discuss collective bargaining strategy/negotiations Iowa Code Section 20.17 (3)). Mayor VanderWoude tabled this discussion until next council meeting on February 13th due to Union representation being ill.

REPORT OF OFFICERS.

Police Reports: Chief Petersen stated that we are going to be short one officer as Officer Michehl will be leaving. Chief Petersen asked for a meeting with the Personnel Committee. We have received a few application and have a good pool of applicants from the Coop. Mayor VanderWoude would like Mitch to cover nights with Andy. Then use the shared service for the daytime.

Mayor Report: We have 4 candidates for the City Administrator and will be interviewing them on Friday. Councilmember Robinson would help with interviewing.

Council Reports: Councilmember Robinson asked for clarification on the date of meeting with the Union. Mayor VanderWoude stated the meeting with the Union is February 13th.

Administrator reports: Amanda stated that year end, W2, 1099's are all done for 2017. She stated that she finished the budget reestimate. She is now going to start working on the budget.

Expenditures for the month of December 2017 are as follows: General Fund - \$158,694.16; Trust & Agency - \$0.00; Road Use Tax - \$4809.77; TIF - \$0.00; Debt Service/Property Tax - \$0.00; Capital Projects - \$165,277.36; Water - \$19,234.64. Receipts for the same period were in the amount of \$208,298.20 creating a balance in all funds in the amount of \$2,369,521.77. \$428,190.35 of the reported amount is invested in Certificates of Deposit with United Community Bank.

Mayor VanderWoude entertained a motion to adjourn. Hentges/Andres moved to adjourn. All ayes. Mayor VanderWoude adjourned meeting at 6:50 P.M.

Mary VanderWoude, Mayor