

Mayor Sandie Peterson called the council meeting to order on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 7:00 pm at the Lafayette Community Center. Present were: Mayor Sandie Peterson, Councilors: Dave Reed, Scott Portner, Tom Polich and Curt Tauber. City Attorney Aaron Walton, Fire Chief Nick Klingler, Ambulance President Mark Dick, Utility & Maintenance Superintendent Al Fox, and Clerk/Treasurer Sandy Burger were also in attendance.

Guests present were:

Brennan Moldan – 660 10th Street, Jeff and Landon Uhde – 620 Adolph Avenue, Cathalina Zuniga – Walton Law and Lee Zion – Ledger

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motioned by Reed and seconded by Portner to approve the Amended Agenda to include LMCIT WC Premium option, Variance Application C. Portner and FYI item Board of Appeals Notices; all ayes, motion carried.

There was a ***motion by Reed and seconded by Polich to approve the Consent Agenda; all ayes, motion carried.*** Included in the consent agenda were: 1/11/2021 minutes, and bills totaling \$43,492.9

Guest: Landon Uhde spoke to council about his quest to become an Eagle Scout. He is seeking ideas to what he could possibly do as his final Eagle Scout project. He would like to complete it in 2021, if possible. Many ideas were brought up, Landon was invited to the March 3, Mini Park meeting.

Reports:

Fox: Recapped the written report: MDH inspection was held 1/28/2021, reports were completed, City Well #1 meter was repaired, softball score board frame was completed and will be installed when weather permits, in-house safety training will continue this month with Blood Borne pathogens and Hazardous Communications. **Ambulance:** Mark Dick shared that they held the Commissioners meeting and nothing has changed, they made it through their first year of COVID. Ninety percent of the members have completed their vaccinations, eleven members through Nicollet County and others received them at their place of employment. They are looking for new EMTs there will be a core group retiring within the next few years. There are four or five interested, but timing to start in January conflicted with schedules. There are two sessions, starting in July ending in December, and starting in January and ending in June. **Fire:** Chief Klingler – the Rural Fire Board will meet on Wednesday. The washing machine for fire and ambulance is being serviced, if this does not work, they will need to purchase a new one, which is an estimated \$5,000 to \$7,500 for a low to medium range. Our service does not qualify for grants as we have too few calls per year, even with both services together. **Portner:** Park & Rec will meet this Saturday to plan for the upcoming season. The Fire department is planning the annual dance, COVID depending. Mentioned the amount of overtime, after much discussion the ***consensus of the council was to request the three full-time employees to do a time study for two weeks.*** **Peterson:** Attended the recent fire and ambulance meeting and is learning a lot. Asked and the consensus was to have council phone numbers in the monthly newsletter. **Tauber:** Asked residents to clean out fire hydrants on their property.

Unfinished Business:

COVID – Buildings: After much discussion on the update progress and information presented this was tabled until next month.

Dave's Place Request: Tabled at the December 14 council meeting as council wanted to see how long the mandatory shut-down was for bars. Burger presented the amount of \$283.34 which equals two months of the annual liquor license fees. **Motioned by Polich and seconded by Reed to refund Dave's Place two months of the annual liquor license fee of \$283.34; all ayes, motion carried.**

New Business:

Fee Schedule: Was reviewed and discussed, no action at this time.

Loan Subordination: Burger informed council that a resident, who holds a city revolving loan, is refinancing their home mortgage. In a situation like this the bank needs to be the first lender and asked the city to provide a loan subordination agreement, which puts the city's loan back to the second position. Using a current appraisal, with both mortgage and loan, the home is at an 80% positive equity position. **Motioned by Reed and seconded by Portner to approve the Subordination of Mortgage Agreement; motion carried.**

Lien Notification: Burger was made aware of a possible home sale and following Code 50.06 D. filed a utility lien on the property in the amount of \$999.53 (\$953.53 past due utilities plus the \$46 filing fee) and notified council that it has been filed. A utility lien on the property notifies that there are utilities past due on this property. If utilities are not

paid by October the process to certify them to the property taxes would begin. There was much discussion of this process, Tauber was concerned it would prevent home sales. Walton explained this is a toolbox item that cities can use to collect utility charges, without utilizing it, they would probably not be collected. Burger mentioned that the 2018 code was updated to charge vacant properties the base fees, which cover part of the bond payments now and will fully cover the bond payments once the assessments have all been collected.

Park Tree Bids: Fox received two quotes, after walking both through the park and showing both contractors what needed to be done. Zinniel Tree Service came in at \$2,700 for the park and \$300 for the Water facility. Randy's Tree Service was \$1,300.60 for the Park and \$300 for the Water facility. Fox verified the second quote that nothing was missed. With no discussion **Portner motioned to accept the Randy's tree Service bid, Polich seconded; all ayes, motion carried.**

Novel Energy Request: Requested to be able to work Saturday, February 13 and Saturday, February 20th, being the CUP specified working Monday through Friday. **Motioned by Reed and seconded by Portner to approve the request; all ayes, motion carried.**

2021 Mowing Ad: After much discussion the consensus of council was to move sentences pertaining to the trimming, and clean up before the land parcel descriptions. Burger will place the ads.

Waste Water Permit: Fox went into great detail to inform council of the upcoming Waste Water Chloride Permit limits, he does not know when it will happen, but when he receives the draft permit, he has 15 days to respond. He would then apply for a 90-day extension and contact MESERB for a review. The upcoming Chloride permit limit is 230 mg/1. The current monitoring results are at a max of 947 mg/1 and an average of 476 mg/1. Chloride is introduced in the waste stream from water softeners.

There is no treatment for chloride removal and the MPCA's direction is that it would be removed at the source. The options available would be: to agree to the new limit, which we won't meet, ask for a 15-year variance after which the limit must be met, which we will not meet, ban all water softeners, or build a centralized water softening plant and remove all water softeners from the residence. Being the first three are not realistic, he shared information on funding options to build a centralized water softening plant: USDA Rural Development offers a 75 % grant, if water rates are at 1.5 % of median house hold income. This would be \$56.00 or above. PFA (Public Facility Authority), PSIG (Point Source Implementation Grant), WIF (Water Infrastructure Grant) 80 % grant PSIG + WIF Grant if criteria are met, water rates are at 1.2 % of median house hold income. This would be less than \$56.00.

A Preliminary Engineer Report (PER) would have to be completed at some point to establish possible funding options and details. The PER will address the following;

Estimated cost for the PER would include \$20,000.00 for Environmental Study (required from RD) plus \$25,000.00 for the actual PER, total \$45,000.00.

Estimated PER for PFA would be around \$10,000.00. Both would require a pilot study for the MDH at an approximate cost of \$45,000.00.

PER will address the following;

1. Could the effluent from the WWTF be routed to a stream that has continuous flow? (7Q10 is always >0) Fox can't think of where to take it that is close enough to be cost effective.
2. Could optimization of softeners allow for Chloride compliance (he has no recent data, but from older data is not probable).
3. Assumed centralized softening and comparing Reverse Osmosis to Lime Softening (Note: USDA-PFA will want at least 2 options, even though lime softening always costs more for both capital and operational costs).

The PER will have to be funded through City revenues but can be recaptured during the project if the project moves forward. Fox did share that, the first Friday in May, projects can be put on the list to the Public Utilities Commission for future projects.

No decision was made at this point, but it will be left on the Agenda to continue the discussion.

Snow Removal Policy: After many calls from concerned residents, the snow policy was discussed. Most calls are after the first cleaning of the city if a vehicle is not moved and there is a snow furrow on their street. Fox explained there is 24 hours after the snow removal starts for it to be completed. If someone's car is not moved during the first cleaning, the owner needs to move it to a cleaned area before the second or final clean up later within the 24-hour guideline. Burger will detail the process in the next newsletter.

Variance Application: C. Portner applied for a variance on a permit to build a garage on the side of his lot, fifth street narrows from the alley to the corner of Lafayette Avenue and a 25-foot setback would be difficult to meet. A public hearing was set for the March 8 council meeting.

FYI: Local Board of Appeals and Equalization information shared for the April 12, meeting

Motioned by Portner and seconded by Tauber to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 pm; all ayes, motion carried.

The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, March 8, 2021 at the Lafayette Community Center at 7 pm.

Sandie Peterson – Mayor

Sandy Burger – City Clerk- Treasurer