

**Mayor Sandie Peterson called the council meeting to order on Monday, May 10, 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, Utility & Maintenance Superintendent Al Fox, Clerk/Treasurer Sandy Burger and Fire Chief Nick Klingler and Attorney Aaron Walton; Ambulance President Mark Dick was absent.

**Guests present:**

Lee Zion – Ledger, Marty Wacker – resident 540 Main Avenue, Joe Maidl – St. Gregorys & Mages Realty, Matt Schiller – resident 511 10<sup>th</sup> Street, and Kristen Chambers – Dave’s Place

**Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

**Motioned by Portner and seconded by Polich to approve the agenda; all ayes, motion carried.**

**Motioned by Portner and seconded by Polich to approve the updated Consent Agenda, including an additional \$500 invoice; all ayes, motion carried.** Included in the consent agenda were: 4/12, 4/19, and 4/26/2021 minutes and bills totaling \$44,589.53

**Reports:**

**Fox:** The scoreboard is going up Tuesday. After that is completed the stairs for the playground will be reinstalled. The FEMA recovery money from the July 2020 storm event will arrive in the next 30-90 days. He and Brennan will be working on the ball park fencing, a section at a time and see how it goes. Fire Hydrant repairs are completed.

**Peterson:** Shared that according to Ashley with Park & Rec. in order to operate with a Department of Agriculture license, there would need to be updates to the pop-shack, such as: Marlite wall board, everything made washable, 3 – compartment sink, which would mean a water heater, a separate sink for hand washing, the floors would need to be sealed as well. They are looking to have only pre-packaged foods. Council consensus was this is not in the current budget. **Burger:** Request from Nicollet County Attorney’s office if the city would do a National Night Out, the consensus of the council was a definite yes. **Klingler:** Mentioned again the wash machine had not been repaired, after much discussion, **Tauber motioned to approve the purchase of the medium grade washer, approximately \$8,000, Polich seconded, ayes: Reed, Polich, Tauber, Peterson, Abstain: Portner.**

**Unfinished Business:**

**Wastewater Permit:** The Administrative Law Judge made a ruling and signed the MPCA water quality changes on 4/9/2021. It appears we will be able to meet the Phosphorus June- September day limit, but not the five (5) year limit; Fox is looking at operational options first. A preliminary test that can be done now is an RO (Reverse Osmosis) test, costing \$1,400. **Motioned by Reed and seconded by Polich to have the RO testing done, all ayes, motion carried.**

**Mini Park Committee update:** No meeting this month being the cement work is not completed. The grass seed contractor met with Fox and suggested mowing and fertilizer and light watering to deepen the roots.

**Split lots:**

**St Gregory’s Cemetery:** Maidl returned with further discussion on the lot split of the western sections of the St Gregory Cemetery. He asked for approval to split the St. Gregory Cemetery lots, he explained the way they were proposing to split and discussion of an access easement. **There was a motion by Portner to approve the St. Gregory Cemetery lot split contingent on establishing a 20-foot easement along the north property line, seconded by Reed; all ayes, motion carried.**

**UFC Lots:** Maidl and council discussed the possible lot split for the UFC lot across from the grain elevator on Skyview. There was concern of the access for lot #5 and if the county would allow another driveway off of County Road 32. Maidl will check with the county on this information. **Council tabled this until the June meeting to have further information.**

**Welcome Packet:** Mayor Peterson would like to have the city be more welcoming when new residents arrive. She discussed a welcome packet and Burger passed out a Directory from 1999 that the girls scouts had made. Peterson suggested to start collecting business cards from people in the area as a start.

**Custodian Update:** Burger has received 5 inquiries to whom she sent applications and has had two returned so far. Peterson shared that Hoffmann offered to stay beyond her May 14 end date, until the new person is hired and trained. Due to the fact that council approved the starting wage for this position to be \$15.00 per hour, Hoffmann is currently

not making that amount. Her wage for backup weekend plant duty with annual COA increases is \$16.883, there was a motion by **Portner and seconded by Polich to increase her wage to \$16.883, all ayes, motion carried.**

**April Blight:** One property has made big progress and council will continue to monitor, the other property has not. City attorney suggested that photos be taken of the property and document exactly what is a code violation. He would then prepare a letter. At some point a licensed building official would need to be hired.

**New Business:**

**Mudville Days:** Kristen Chambers was on hand to share that she is moving forward with plans for a paired down Mudville days running Friday, July 23 through Sunday July 25. So far, there is a pedal pull is scheduled for Sunday, 2 bounce houses on Saturday, in the mini park, face painting and movie in the park and she is working on other things. She requested the street be closed from CIA to the intersection of Main and 7<sup>th</sup> Street for the safety of the attendees. **Motioned by Polich and seconded by Tauber to approve the street closure area for July 23 through 25, all ayes, motion carried.** There will be no Bike & Car nights this year.

**Schiller Request:** Matt Schiller was on hand to ask council to forgive a fire call bill as he did not call for assistance. He hired a contractor to trim a tree and it partially pulled down an electrical wire. He did not call for help and said he had the street blocked off. Another firefighter saw the downed wire and dispatched a fire truck to block the street for safety. Being Schiller did not call for help he felt he should not be billed. Even though it was not a common way to call in the fire truck support, council discussed in length and **Reed motioned and Polich seconded that the billing stands, ayes: Polich, Reed, Tauber, Peterson; Portner abstained, motion carried.**

**Heimat Properties, LLC (Tad Ulrich):** Requesting a zoning change from Residential to Commercial for his property. His plans were pouring a concrete slab and to install a storage container the same color of the gym for storage of tables chairs and staging for school. Even though he is a commercial class for taxes, the school is zoned residential, and the city passed an ordinance a few years ago to not allow these containers in residential zoned areas. Council set a Public Hearing for the June meeting. In this discussion the zoning map is very outdated and will need to be updated. Burger has contacted an SEH engineer to look into the costs to of this process.

**Personnel Committee:** Peterson brought up the need to establish a Personnel Administrative Committee, to do things such as employees reviews, personnel policy updates, etc. **Motioned by Portner and seconded by Reed to establish an Executive Personnel Committee, consisting of the mayor and one council member, all ayes, motion carried. Motioned by Reed and seconded by Polich to appoint Peterson and Tauber as the Administrative Executive committee for 2021.** This position will be added to the civic duty list to be approved every year.

**Personnel Policy Update:** Burger suggested a policy be clearly written as to when a meeting meal will be paid for a meeting held over 6 hours over a mealtime.

**Liquor License: Reed motioned to approve the 3.2 beer and temporary intoxicating liquor license for St. Gregory's August 8<sup>th</sup> event, Tauber seconded it, all ayes, motion carried.**

**2021 Street Repairs:** Fox submitted a list of 4 streets not included at the time of the RD Project and are in need of repairs, he added one more during the discussion. These streets were not on the list of the RD project due to cost at the time. He included what should be done this year and two cost scenarios for the two streets sections needing the most work. What he proposes is city-wide alley maintenance, dust control on 10<sup>th</sup> Street, patches for the 4<sup>th</sup> street and 10<sup>th</sup> street sections. He shared that the patches should hold about 5 years and to reconstruct these two sections to 10-ton capacity as the rest of the city streets are would be \$95,139.36. **Motioned by Portner to approve the alley work, dust control and street patches totaling \$17,750.46, Polich seconded, all ayes, motioned carried.**

**Resolution 2021-09 Accepting a Donation: Motioned by Polich and seconded by Tauber to approve the Lion's donation of \$1000.00 for ambulance supplies and equipment. Roll: Ayes - Peterson, Portner, Polich, Reed, Tauber, motion carried.**

**Motioned by Portner and seconded by Tauber to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 pm; all ayes, motion carried.**

The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, June 14, 2021 at the Lafayette Community Center at 7:00 pm.