

COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, April 8, 2021

Present: Mayor Mark Petterson

Council Members: Gary Haehn, Jim Weeks and Rhonda Taylor. Richard Croll arrived at 7:05
Absent: Jeanne Haas

Staff Present: Steven Dwight - Maintenance Operator, Martha Newkirk – Zoning Administrator,
Lana Johnson – City Clerk, Philip Wright – City Attorney

Call to Order: Mayor Mark Petterson called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. He also reminded the public that they have a portion in which to speak and asked for no extra input.

Agenda Additions and/or Amendments:

Mayor Petterson added to the agenda under Mayor’s Report – b. Water contract with the City of Burlington

Council Member Weeks requested an executive session including City Attorney Wright to discuss potential litigation.

Council Member Haehn requested an executive session to discuss non-elected personnel. Council Member Haehn also requested that a. street lights and b. drainage be added under Street Report.

Haehn moved, seconded by Weeks, to approve the agenda with additions. **Motion carried 3-1. Council Member Taylor opposed.**

Approval of Consent Agenda:

- Move to approve meeting minutes of March 8, 2021
- Move to approve the Warrants dated March 11, 2021 through April 2, 2021 in the amount of \$38,413.85
- Move to approve the March 2021 Payroll in the amount of \$8,339.14
- Move to approve 2021 Electrical License for Jeff Foster Electric
- Move to approve 2021 Contractor License for B & B Construction and Handyman Services

Weeks moved, seconded by Haehn, to approve the consent agenda. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Public Comments:

- Sean Downey – asked about code enforcement and did the council get their money worth out of the garbage that Bickley Foster provided. He asked why didn’t we just copy off another city. Also questioned a comment from City Attorney Wright in the March minutes which stated for best practice, the city must have a planning and zoning consultant. Council Member Taylor asked about particulars on the issues. Downey responded metal buildings but Jim Weeks would go into that.

Financial Reports:

Taylor moved, seconded by Croll, to approve additional warrants in the amount of \$1,221.73. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Staff Reports:

Zoning Administrator Report

- Zoning permit 2021-Z-02 was issued to James Stewart for an 40' x 80' structure at 1150 16th Rd.

Maintenance Operator Report

- Killough bid has been received but waiting on others
- Hot patch is planned to fill the pot holes
- Mowing
- Sidewalk project at the Community Building is complete

Weeks moved, seconded by Croll to approve a bid for \$1,891.76 from Thweatt Electric LLC for LED light upgrade at the city shop. Funds to come from General Fund. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Croll moved, seconded by Taylor to approve the purchase of additional speed limit signs and posts not to exceed \$900. Funds to come from Street Fund. **Motion carried 4-0.**

City Clerk Report

- Dog at large letter was mailed for a dog on 4th Street

City Attorney Report

- Cannot advise either the city of New Strawn or the City of Burlington on their water contract.

Mayor's Report

- Seasonal Laborer – Interviewed 3 candidates on April 7th.

Taylor moved, seconded by Croll to approve hiring of Tate Petrie for Temporary Seasonal Laborer position for approximately 25 hours per week at the rate of \$12.00 per hour from mid-May through mid to late August 2021. **Motion carried 4-0.**

- ADDED TO AGENDA – Water contract with the City of Burlington – one thing the auditor asked about was the expired water contract with Burlington. Burlington made a few changes and it was decided that Mark would contact Linda McMurray to look at it for the City of New Strawn.
- ADDED TO AGENDA - Weeks moved, seconded by Haehn, to go into executive session at 7:29 p.m. for 10 minutes to discuss potential litigation with the city attorney present in the back room of City Hall. **Motion carried 4-0.**
- ADDED TO AGENDA - Haehn moved, seconded by Weeks, to go into executive session at 7:41 p.m. for 10 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel in the back room of City Hall, with only the governing body present. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Finance and Economic Development: Jeanne Haas – No report

Community Building Report: Richard Croll

- Quote for face of Community Building – hasn't been received yet, contractor may be several months out on the work. Suggested buying the metal for it now before the prices go up again.

Utility Report: Jim Weeks

Water Usage & Loss Report

- Maintenance Operator Steven Dwight mentioned City Clerk Lana Johnson had questioned coding on the 4 Rivers Electric bills. It was discovered that for quite a while the Water Fund had been charged for electric use that should have been coming from the General Fund.

Street Report: Rhonda Taylor

- Streets- Steven is to get more quotes/bids for street repair
- ADDED TO AGENDA – Street Lights – Council Member Haehn questioned if we had received bids for street lights yet and what it would cost the City. Council Member Taylor said lights would be needed all over town but that everyone has the ability to put in their own yard lights. Above ground wires will be more cost effective but not everyone wants more lights.
- ADDED TO AGENDA - Drainage – Council Member Haehn asked how many council members drive around town to look at flooding. He mentioned water coming off Apache onto Whitworth as the water isn't going into the ditch. He also mentioned the cul de sac at his property was washing and he wanted it on the list for the engineer to look at.

Public Relations : Jeanne Haas - Absent

- Strawnfest 2021 Update – City Clerk Johnson let the council know that Casey's had responded to the donation request. They will be mailing a \$50 gift card to help out.
- Logo – City Clerk Johnson said the logo doesn't show bold enough on letter head and probably won't show well on Strawnfest shirts. Would like input on how to rework it. Council Member Croll said to look into Fiverr.com.

Parks and Recreation Report: N/A

Public Safety Report:

- Law/Code Enforcement – the City could contract for services. Hire an off-duty officer who would be able to use their personal equipment but not the employer's car. The City would need to purchase an equipped vehicle with lights. A used Hwy Patrol car would probably cut into the budget. The same person could work at code enforcement but a person doesn't have to be law enforcement to be code enforcement. Council Member Weeks brought up purchasing a radar speed sign. Council Member Taylor asked about moving it around town as needed and shouldn't the money just be spent on a car. Council Member Haehn said something needed to be done before someone got hurt. The question was asked if we could borrow a car from another city. The CORPS used to contract with reserve officers. Mark will look into that option.

New Business:

Old Business:

- Personnel book – council had a work session. The changes have been sent to City Attorney Wright for review.

Correspondence: N/A

Mayor Petterson adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.