

Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, Cherokee, Iowa
March 11, 2014 – 7:00 P.M.

A regular meeting was called to order on this date by Mayor Murphy. Present: Council members Johnson, Brown, Miller, Pingel, Peck, City Attorney Miller, Administrator Eikmeier, Clerk-Treasurer Taylor.

Mayor Murphy announced that a proclamation was read and presented at last week's Chamber Coffee designating the week of March 9th as Wa-Tan-Ye Week.

Greg Stieneke, 800 E. Spruce, was present during the Public Forum. He questioned why the main door at the community center wasn't made handicap accessible at the time the exterior ramp from the lower level to the upper level was constructed. People have to go into the parking lot, behind parked cars, to get to the accessible back door. He said employees shouldn't be allowed to be on their cell phones while in city vehicles, as all employees have city radios for their use. He then asked what is the purpose of the railroad bridge. Will the trail cross Hwy. 59? The Administrator answered that, by council direction, the bridge was saved and converted for pedestrian use with grant funds and donations. The trail won't cross the highway.

At 7:05 p.m., Mayor Murphy opened the public hearing on the 2014-15 budget. The \$9.2 million budget shows a tax levy of \$17.65438/\$1000. This is an increase \$.80 over the current budget, primarily for increased debt service obligations. Greg Stieneke, 800 E. Spruce, made the following comments: the fire department is currently down to one full-time fireman, so now may be the time to reconsider filling the second full-time position. He indicated that last year most of the fire calls occurred on Saturday and Sunday when the station isn't staffed, and doesn't see how the city can justify manning the station 16 hours per day. He suggested having the police officer that issues nuisance abatement notices also do building inspections. Referencing proposed water and sewer rate increases, he recalls about 6 years ago Sewer Supt. Steve Casey stating that with all the new automation, one position could be eliminated in the sewer department. The council should look at cutting costs. He asked how much was included in the proposed budget for vacant/dilapidated house demolitions. Why not use the fire department to burn them instead. Administrator Eikmeier said that fire departments are limited by DNR on burning one or two structures a year for training purposes. Steve Casey, Sewer Supt., said he has never said he could get by with one less person and never will say it. Gary Chase commented that maybe last years' fires were mostly on the weekends, but they can't control that. Mayor Murphy closed the public hearing at 7:12 p.m.

Referring to Mr. Stieneke's earlier comment about the community center main door not being handicap accessible, Council member Brown asked what the reasoning was. Duane Mummert, Park Supt., responded that at the time the improvements were made, including adding the exterior ramp, two entrances already provided handicap accessibility. The long-term plan was to include a second phase to upgrade restrooms as well as other improvements, including making the main entrance accessible. Because of the double-entry glass doors, the estimated cost is \$15,000-\$20,000. Brown suggested looking at options to remedy this situation.

On a motion by Brown, seconded by Peck, the council approved Resolution No. 14-6, adopting the 2014-15 budget as presented. Roll call was: AYES: All. NAYS: None.

A motion by Miller, seconded by Brown, approved the second presentation of an ordinance increasing water and sewer rates as follows. Roll call was: AYES: All. NAYS: None.

WATER RATES

Effective Dates		Rates
April 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014	Base Charge	\$5.12
	Commodity Charge (per 100 cu. ft.)	\$2.18
January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015	Base Charge	\$5.26
	Commodity Charge (per 100 cu. ft.)	\$2.25
January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016	Base Charge	\$5.40
	Commodity Charge (per 100 cu. ft.)	\$2.33
January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017	Base Charge	\$5.60
	Commodity Charge (per 100 cu. ft.)	\$2.40
January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018	Base Charge	\$5.80
	Commodity Charge (per 100 cu. ft.)	\$2.48

SEWER RATES

Effective Dates		Rates
April 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014	Base Charge	\$9.02
	Commodity Charge (per 100 cu. ft.)	\$4.44
January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015	Base Charge	\$9.17
	Commodity Charge (per 100 cu. ft.)	\$4.59
January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016	Base Charge	\$9.32
	Commodity Charge (per 100 cu. ft.)	\$4.74
January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017	Base Charge	\$9.45
	Commodity Charge (per 100 cu. ft.)	\$4.89
January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018	Base Charge	\$9.64
	Commodity Charge (per 100 cu. ft.)	\$5.03

On a motion by Johnson, seconded by Pingel, the council unanimously approved the following under "Consent Business".

City council minutes of February 25th.

Bills totaling \$246,850.20.

ADAM ROBERTS	DEF. COMP. SURRENDER	14,423.45
AHLERS & COONEY P.C.	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	1,121.00
AL'S CORNER OIL CO.	DIESEL	132.99
ALLIANT ENERGY	NATURAL GAS	7,972.67
AMBREA MOUN	V.B. REF - 2/6/14	40.00
ARAMARK UNIFORM SERVICES	SHOP RAGS; RUGS; MOPS	50.28
ATIRA CREDIT MASTERCARD	MOTEL; MEALS - ACADEMY	593.43
	PROPERTY MAINT. CODE BOOK	96.96
	LEGISLATIVE DAY REGISTRATION	50.00
	IMMI/ICMA SUMMIT REGISTRATION	420.00
	WEBSITE HOSTING RENEWAL	14.95
AUTOMATIC SYSTEMS CO.	NEW PH SENSOR FOR RAW INFLUENT	742.11
BAKER & TAYLOR INC.	BOOKS & AUDIOS	920.48
BARCO MUNICIPAL PRODUCTS	6 BARRICADES W/LEGS	949.43
BLAINE'S WATER CONDITIONING	WATER FOR LAB	93.96
BOLTON & MENK, INC.	GREENSPACE SEWER RELOCATION	4,191.50
BOMGAARS	OPERATING SUPPLIES	969.05
BRAD'S TIRE SERVICE	MOUNT TIRE ON '14 DUMP TRUCK	44.94
BROAD COVE ASSOCIATES	PROBE TIPS; TUBING FOR LINE THAWER	283.95
BUGH WELDING	REPLACE JACK ON TRAILER	81.05
BUILDERS SHARP. & SERVICE	OIL; SAW CHAIN; SPARK PLUG; SHAFT	109.75
CALHOUN-BURNS & ASSOCIATES	ENG. - RIVER ROAD BRIDGE	1,320.80
CAMPBELL SUPPLY COMPANY	60 GAL. CABINET	938.04
CHAMPION ELECTRIC, INC.	REPAIR TRAFFIC SIGNAL-2ND/INDIAN	554.14
	LOCATE UG WIRES-2ND/LAKE	73.00
CHEROKEE AREA ECON. DEV.	BANQUET TICKETS; QTRLY.CONTRIBUTION	2,773.75
CHEROKEE AUTO PARTS	VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES	127.51
CHEROKEE AVIATION AUTHORITY	FEB. TAX DRAW	65.85

CHEROKEE CO. SOLID WASTE	MAR. LANDFILL FEE	29,688.51
CHEROKEE CO. WORK SERVICE	CLEAN SHOP RAGS	7.67
CHEROKEE COMMUNITY SCHOOL	BB ADMISSION-FOR YOUTH & COACHES	183.00
CHEROKEE COUNTRY STORE	FUEL	3.70
CHEROKEE COUNTY ENGINEER	MAKE LARGE COPIES	13.00
CHEROKEE FIRE DEPARTMENT	VOLUNTEER ALLOWANCE	400.00
CHEROKEE LUMBER, INC.	GLASS BOARD; LUMBER	192.94
CHEROKEE POLICE DEPT.	CONFIDENTIAL FUNDS	150.00
CHRONICLE TIMES	EMPLOY. ADS; MINUTES; ORD.; NOTICE	951.67
CONTROL SYSTEM SPECIALISTS	REPAIR BOILER CONTROLS	1,330.00
COUNTRY TIRE & SERVICE	PATCH TIRE; REPLACE TIRE; TIRE	182.10
	REPAIR FRONT TIRE ON CAT BLADE	176.79
	TIRE REPAIR-'12 CHEV.	18.03
	BOOKS	178.80
DOUBLEDAY LARGE PRINT	CHLORINE	582.25
DPC INDUSTRIES, INC.	REPLACE LIGHT BAR CONTROLS	1,452.56
ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING	QUARTERLY QC SAMPLES PER DNR	264.55
ENVIRON. RESOURCE ASSOC.	REMOVE TREES-W. VIEW; OAK KNOLL	400.00
EZ TREE SERVICE	SUBSCRIPTION	19.95
FAMILY FUN	SUPPLIES	61.25
FAREWAY STORES, INC.	EXT.; RECHARGES; EQUIP. REPAIRS	1,604.65
FELD FIRE	ABSTRACTS-ABANDONED PROPERTY	800.00
FIRST ABSTRACT & LOAN	FEB./MAR. CHARGE CARD FEES	196.84
FIRST FIN. MERCHANT SERVICES	SOFTWARE SUBSCRIPTION	160.00
FOLLETT SOFTWARE COMPANY	SAMPLE TESTING	505.00
FOUNDATION ANALYTICAL LAB	ENG. - CHLORIDES INVESTIGATION	174.75
FOX ENGINEERING	PALLETT OF COLD MIX PATCH	699.00
FRANK DUNN CO.	CONCRETE PATCH-HWY.59 (LOCUST)	1,405.50
GCC ALLIANCE CONCRETE INC.	DVDS & BOOKS	373.39
GECRB/AMAZON	DJ FOR FATHER/DAUGHTER DANCE	200.00
GREG MILLER	COMPUTER UPGRADES	2,223.00
GREGG COMPUTER SERVICE	REAGENT	251.62
HACH CO.	STREET SAND; FILL SAND	4,513.75
HALLETT MATERIALS	4 X 3/4 SADDLES	90.00
HD SUPPLY WATERWORKS, LTD.	CARBON KNIGHT HOOD	32.95
HEIMAN FIRE EQUIPMENT	SERVICE VEHICLES	49.05
HOLZHAUER MOTORS, LTD.	500 ROUNDS AMMO	389.75
HWY. 3 ARMS & AMMO	GOAL SETTING SESSION	1,407.60
INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS	NEW AIRPORT EQUIPMENT	98.00
IOWA COMM. ASSURANCE POOL	STORM WATER PERMIT-RIVER RD. BRIDGE	175.00
IOWA DNR	POOL & SLIDE REGISTRATION	105.00
IOWA DEPT./PUBLIC HEALTH	ELECTRICITY	50.51
IOWA LAKES ELECTRIC COOP	JAN. LOCATES	10.80
IOWA ONE CALL	VARIOUS SIGNS FOR STOCK	1,695.80
IOWA PRISON INDUSTRIES	B.B. OFFICIAL - 2/17/14	20.00
JAROD KIRKEY	SOFTWARE SUBSCRIPTION	72.00
JUDY GRIENKE-MILLER	FLASH DRIVE; OFFICE SUPPLIES	66.74
K-MART #9222	V.B. REF. - 2/27/14	25.00
KORRIE WALDNER	V.B. REF. - 2/27/14	20.00
KYLE RUEHLE	REFUND-625 1/2 W. MAIN	135.54
LARRY LUCHT	WATER SAVER HOSE ENDS	135.37
LONN MANUFACTURING CO., INC.	GRAVE DIGGING	330.00
LUNDELL CONSTRUCTION CO.	REPAIR LEAKS-FILTER ROOM PIPES	3,492.49
	LOAD/HAUL SNOW-FEB. 8, 18, 21	2,403.25
	DIG UP LEAK ON 59-LOCUST/BEECH	4,972.50
	LEAK AT BUS BARN	11,959.98
	LEAK AT HWY. 59/LAKE	4,207.90
	INSULATION-LAKE ST. TEMP. LINE	271.93
MARCUS LUMBER COMPANY	ELECTRICITY	26,429.98
MID AMERICAN ENERGY	ROAD SALT	3,006.05
MILLS & MILLER, INC.	GAS LINE/CHIMNEY FOR PRESSURE WASHER	735.56
MODERN HEATING & COOLING	REPAIR CLAMPS & COUPLINGS	4,231.70
MUNICIPAL SUPPLY, INC.	REPAIR DOOR LOCK; RE-KEY	69.00
NELSON'S LOCKSMITH SHOP		

NORTHWEST COMMUNICATIONS	FEB. INTERNET SERVICE	79.90
O'HALLORAN INTERNATIONAL	VEHICLE REPAIRS; PARTS	447.11
O'REILLY AUTOMOTIVE STORES	VEHICLE SUPPLIES	192.77
OFFICE ELEMENTS	2 CASES PAPER; COPIER LEASES	545.96
OFFICE OF VEHICLE SERVICES	14 SALVAGE AUTO CERTIFICATES	140.00
OTIS ELEVATOR COMPANY	ELEVATOR SERVICE CONTRACT	158.67
OTTO ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS	400 EA. RECYCLING TOTES & CARTS	20,772.00
PERKINS OFFICE SOLUTIONS	OFFICE SUPPLIES	339.61
PETTY CASH - LIBRARY	POSTAGE	111.23
PILOT TRIBUNE	STORM WATER DISCHARGE NOTICE	13.20
PITNEY BOWES GLOBAL FIN.	POSTAGE METER RENT	35.00
PITNEY BOWES, INC.	POSTAGE METER INK CARTRIDGES	122.38
PITNEY BOWES	POSTAGE FOR METER	500.00
RAPID AMERICAN PRESS	ENVELOPES	215.00
REINERT MACHINE SHOP	MISC. BOLTS/NUTS; REPAIR HYD.	441.74
REMINISCE SUBSC. CENTER	SUBSCRIPTION	19.98
SAMANTHA HIRSCHMAN	V.B. REF - 2/6/14	40.00
SANITARY SERVICES	FEB. GARBAGE PICKUP	25,178.10
SARA RAMIREZ	V.B. REF. - 2/13/14	35.00
SCHOLASTIC, INC.	BOOKS FOR BABIES	341.00
SCHOON CONSTRUCTION CO.	HAUL SAND TO STOCK PILE	450.00
	HAUL SWEEPER TO DES MOINES FOR REPAIR	345.00
	LOAD/HAIL SNOW-FEB. 10, 18, 21	2,787.50
SCHUMACHER ELEVATOR CO.	REPAIR ELEVATOR AT BEECH LIFT	523.75
SENSUS USA	REPAIR METER READING DEVICE	370.00
SIMMERING-CORY, INC.	ADMIN./LEAD TESTS-CDBG HOUSING	10,337.00
SIOUX SALES COMPANY	BOOTS; SLUGS FOR ILEA; TEST	481.30
SOLID WATERSLIDE, LLC	50% NEW CANOPY - TOP OF SLIDE	1,175.00
STEVE'S WINDOW SERVICE	WINDOW CLEANING	26.00
THE COURT FOCUS	MAR. SUBSCRIPTION	13.00
THREE RIVERS BENEFIT	CLAIMS THRU 2/21/14; MAR. ADMIN. FEE	4,721.16
TIM SMITH	MEALS; MILEAGE-WEEK 1 ACADEMY	165.89
TREASURER, STATE OF IOWA	FEB. SALES TAX	4,960.66
TYLER EBEL	B.B. SCOREKEEPER	60.00
UNITED STATES CELLULAR	CELL PHONES	398.17
USA BLUE BOOK	BORIC ACID FOR LAB	76.32
USPS	POSTAGE FOR UTILITY BILLS	667.86
VALLEY GLASS & FRAMING	INSTALL DOOR	695.00
VERIZON WIRELESS	CELL PHONES/CELL CARD	351.47
WALDNER'S LAWN SERVICE	CLEAN DOWNTOWN CORNERS-FEB.	1,375.00
WESTERN IOWA TECH	ACADEMY - SMITH & HEIDESCH	5,650.00
WIESE OIL & SUPPLY CO., LTD	DIESEL	2,995.62
WILSON'S TV & APPLIANCE	USED WASHER & DRYER	329.90
WINDSTREAM	PHONE/INTERNET SERVICE	1,137.19
WOODALL ELECTRIC	WIRE & BREAKER FOR PRESSURE	1,043.50
	BALLAST; INSTALL EXHAUST FAN LIDS	526.50
	UNHOOK/REWIRE BOILER PUMPS	225.00
	UNHOOK #1 RAW PUMP @ BEECH	225.00

Renewal of Class "E" liquor license – A to Z Liquor.

Reviewed Library Board minutes of February 5th.

Authorized temporary street closings for the CYSBA parade on Hot Dog Days – May 8th.

Authorized destruction of old records.

Mike Halder, 404 Sac, was present to request the use of a private well for his car wash. Mike and his brother, Kevin, have purchased the former Lubeck service station at 504 S. 2nd. They are in the process of cleaning up the property and renovating the existing car wash. Plans also include refacing the front of the main building, replacing the overhead doors, and removing an old shed at the rear of the property. They would like to continue use of a private well that serves only the car wash. A lift station was installed years ago and pumps into the sanitary sewer.

Mike said they would agree installing a meter at the well to use for sewer billing purposes. They are also requesting approval to hard surface the north/south alley east of the main building at their expense. Mike said they are willing to maintain city-owned lots directly adjoining their property. Future plans may include primitive camping sites along the river. A motion by Peck, seconded by Johnson, authorized the use of the private well for the car wash with the installation of a meter and authorized hard surfacing the alley at the Halder's expense. Motion carried.

In order for the City to complete the application process for a flood buy-out, they must establish a list of targeted properties. The Council reviewed a map showing properties in three categories. Priority 1 includes 8 properties south of Main St. and east of Sioux St. Buy-out of these properties would allow the city to abandon more than one mile of old sewer mains and manholes reducing the threat of sewer backup into homes north of E. Main St. Priority 2 includes 15 properties that received significant damage, some of which have been vacant since the 2013 flood. Priority 3 are properties that have incurred damages, but not as serious as Priority 2. There is no guarantee that there will be any funding available, but the Administrator recommended moving forward with the application for priorities 1 and 2. A motion by Brown, seconded by Johnson, authorized going forward with the application using priorities 1 and 2 as presented. Motion carried.

The council reviewed proposals from Cahoy, Sargent Drilling, and Northway Well & Pump for the rehabilitation of well #1 (city) and well #5 (industrial). Because it can't be determined until a well is pulled exactly what materials will be necessary, it is difficult to definitively conclude which proposal is lowest. However, after reviewing the proposals and using worst-case scenarios, it appears that Sargent Drilling is the least expensive at \$20,000 for well #1 and \$17,061 for well #5. These are budgeted projects and will be completed before July 1. A motion by Brown, seconded by Pingel, awarded a contract to Sargent Drilling for the rehabilitation of both wells at costs up to the amounts stated above. Motion carried.

A motion by Pingel, seconded by Miller, authorized advertising for bids for Wescott restroom improvements including roof, siding, structural repairs and interior wall resurfacing, and a new roof for the shelter east of the softball field. Motion carried.

Administrator Eikmeier reported that because the new Wescott trail project came in considerably under budget, there are funds available for additional trail projects. Barkley Asphalt, who was awarded the contract for the asphalt portion of the Wescott trail, submitted a proposal to pave the CN Trail 8' wide from Bluff St. to Gillease St. at a cost of \$30,749. A motion by Brown, seconded by Johnson, authorized a change order to Barkley Asphalt for \$30,749 to pave an 8' wide trail from Bluff St. to Gillease St. Motion carried.

The council reviewed the following reports.

1. February Clerk-Treasurer's report and receipts as follows. General-\$208,896.98; Police Forfeiture-\$819.23; County Library-\$.56; Road Use-\$69,972.54; Employee Benefits-\$21,514.12; Emergency-\$118.58; LOST-\$43,136.50; Hotel/Motel Tax-\$18.97; Revolving Loan-\$20.17; Library Memorial-\$2.55; P & R Cap. Impr.-\$581.05; Debt Service-\$2,681; Road Use Equipment-\$6,362.04; Doherty Addition-\$3,015; Emergency Set-Aside-\$11.75; Oak Hill Perpetual Care-\$26.50; Water Utility-City-\$48,853.17; Water Utility-Industrial-\$12,439.14; Water System Maint.-\$9,291.28; Sewer Utility-City-\$102,972.67; Sewer Utility-Industrial-\$21,453.82; Sewer Bd./Int.-\$27,105.93; Sewer System Maint.-\$3,333.34; Sewer Impr.-\$1,666.67; Aviation Authority-\$252.17; Solid Waste-\$21,600.86; Landfill-\$31,907.01; Storm Sewer Utility-\$6,947.10; Self Insurance-\$19.64.
2. February General Fund revenue/expense report.
3. February Police reports.

Steve Casey, Sewer Supt., presented his quarterly report to the council. Projects they have been working on for the City plant include: revamping 2 of the 3 pumps at the Beech St. lift station. The cost was about \$10,000 for new seals and bearings, compared to a cost of \$40,000 per pump if purchased new; a recent power outage damaged one of the return sludge pumps at the treatment plant. This is one of 2 pumps that run 24/7 and will cost \$30,000-\$35,000 to replace; completion of upgrades to the pumps at the M.H.I. lift station; working on a solution to boiler problems; and getting the ultraviolet lights ready to re-install before March 15. Industrial plant projects include: installing a fiberglass building and new pH meter for testing purposes, and replacing wooden posts around the lagoons with steel posts.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

News media – Nikki Thunder, KCHE.

Mark Murphy – Mayor

ATTEST:

Debra Taylor
City Clerk-Treasurer