

Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, Cherokee, Iowa
December 22, 2015 – 7:00 P.M.

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

On a motion by Peck, seconded by Miller, the council unanimously approved the following under “Consent Business”.

City council minutes of December 8th.

Reviewed Park & Rec. Advisory Board minutes of December 7th.

Reviewed Library Board minutes of November 4th.

Amended architectural contract for CDBG Storefront Project.

Tax abatement application for KTJ237, LLC (Shopko).

Fareway Food Store has asked whether the City would be interested in leasing the property to the rear of their store, adjacent to the railroad trestle bridge. They would be willing to execute a lease for \$1 or other consideration if the City would assume maintenance responsibilities. Park Supt., Duane Mummert, suggested the property could be used as a future trailhead. It was the consensus of the council that if Fareway wants to deed the property to the City, they would consider the proposal. They would prefer to own the property rather than lease. The Administrator will contact Fareway personnel.

Jim Adamson, Chairman of the Historic Preservation Commission, was present with an update on the CDBG Storefront Project. He briefly reviewed the steps involved up to this point. The architects will return to Cherokee in January for further meetings with the building owners. The projected bid letting is in the spring, however, the historical review has to be completed before going to bid. Based on the delay of the historical review of flood-acquired houses, the bid letting could be pushed back to summer or fall.

The council reviewed the following bids for the demolition of flood-acquired properties:

Location	Lundell Construction	Schoon Construction
107 Union	\$6,988.75	\$6,636.50
113 Union	\$7,791.00	\$7,224.50
115 E. Locust	\$9,486.60	\$8,909.50
309 E. Maple	\$8,970.00	\$7,650.00

On a motion by Pingel, seconded by Brown, the council awarded the bid to Schoon Construction & Excavation for all four properties for a total of \$30,420.50, subject to the completion of the historical review process for 107 Union and 115 E. Locust. Motion carried.

Only one bid was received for the flood-acquired garage at 309 E. Maple – Brandon Lucas, \$500. On a motion by Miller, seconded by Pingel, the council accepted the bid from Brandon Lucas with the stipulation that the garage is removed by January 31, 2016, so that the foundation can be demolished along with the house. Motion carried.

A motion by Brown, seconded by Peck, unanimously appointed Diane Cargin as City Clerk-Treasurer effective December 25, 2015, and set the salary at \$54,000/year.

Administrator Eikmeier reported that when Nate James was appointed Police Chief a year ago, he had 10 unused holidays on the books that he had earned prior to the appointment. At that time the City had 3 vacancies in the 8-man department. From January through July, Nate filled in to make sure all shifts were covered and has therefore been unable to use these holidays. On a motion by Brown, seconded by Pingel, the council unanimously authorized paying Nate James for the 10 unused holidays at his hourly rate as Sergeant for a total of \$2,692.30.

A motion by Miller, seconded by Peck, unanimously approved the following appointments:
Planning & Zoning Commission (3-yr. terms) – Doug Pierson, Dave Tallman
Board of Adjustment (5-yr. term) – Ben Jobe

Cherokee Aviation Authority (4-yr. term) – Dan Mott
Park & Rec. Advisory Board (3-yr. terms) – Deb Hankens, Jeff Wilson
County Reap Committee – Chad Brown
County Damage Assessment Team – Will Miller
Labor Negotiations – Administrator, City Attorney, Mayor, Chad Brown
County Landfill Commission – Mark Leeds
Siouxland Regional housing Authority – Alyssa Herbold
Iowa Surface Transportation Committee Policy Committee – Wayne Pingel
Iowa Surface Transportation Committee Tech Advisory Committee – John Meis
City Attorney – Alyssa Herbold/Wittgraf Law Firm
Fire Department Officers – Greg Eaton, Chief; Dan Murphy, 1st Asst. Chief; Ron Goth, 2nd Asst. Chief;
Randy Reeves, Treasurer; Brent Nelson, Secretary.
Official newspaper – *Chronicle Times*.

On a motion by Brown, seconded by Pingel, the council unanimously approved the following Mayor's appointments:

Historic Preservation Commission (3-yr. terms) – Jim Adamson, Bev Ziemann, Jolene Schumacher.
Cherokee Co. Conference Board – Mayor Murphy
Cherokee Co. Emergency Management Commission – Mayor Murphy
Cherokee Area Economic Development Board – Chad Brown
Cherokee E911 Board – Emily Johnson
Mayor Pro-tem – Wayne Pingel
Police Chief – Nate James
Council Liaisons: Police - Mayor Murphy; Fire - Will Miller; Street - Wayne Pingel; Park & Rec. - Chad Brown; Wastewater - Emily Johnson; Water - Jim Agnitsch.

Police Chief, Nate James, gave an update on snow removal enforcement. He and Armond have discussed the difficulty of cleaning the streets the night following a snowfall. Especially with a daytime storm, the street crews basically keep one lane open, then follow-up at night clearing the snow curb-to-curb. Since the snow has stopped, residents think they can again park on the street, making it difficult for the Street Dept. Nate said they would work on getting information out to the public regarding follow-up street cleaning.

Duane Mummert, Park Supt., presented his quarterly report to the council. He reported that Steve Thill is retiring in February, but is using vacation between now and then. He will continue to plow snow when needed and help at the cemetery. Everything is winterized; new electrical panels have been installed at the lower camping at Spring Lake Park, as well as raising the sewers; they have been trimming trees; and the roof of the aquatic center mechanical room has received two coats of epoxy with the last to be applied in the spring.

Administrator Eikmeier commented that in July 2014 when Tyson made the announcement that they were closing, he wasn't sure where we would be at this point. He thanked the council and past staff and is proud of the changes and appointments that have been made this past year. Everyone has stepped up to the plate and he feels the staff will do a good job. He has worked with several councils over the years and feels this council has a grasp on "big picture" issues as well as any he has worked with.

Mayor Murphy thanked City Clerk, Deb Taylor for her 39 years of service, as this is her last council meeting. Deb said the City has been a good employer and thanked the council for their support. Council member Peck commented that in the 10 years he has been on the council, Deb and Don have pulled them through a few tough times. He feels that with Sam on board as well as a young staff and council, they are in good hands.

Mayor Murphy presented Jim Peck with a plaque in appreciation for his years of service as council member from 7/25/06 – 12/31/15.

Mayor Murphy issued the oath of office to the following appointees: Sam Kooiker, Diane Cargin, Nate James, Chad Brown, Wayne Pingel, and Jim Agnitsch.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

News media – Ken Ross, *Chronicle Times*; Nikki Thunder, KCHE.

Mark Murphy – Mayor

ATTEST:

Debra Taylor
City Clerk-Treasurer