

Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, Cherokee, Iowa
January 28, 2014 – 7:00 P.M.

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

A motion by Pingel, seconded by Brown, approved the second presentation of an ordinance increasing garbage fees to \$13.50/month. Roll call was: AYES: All. NAYS: None.

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

City council minutes of January 14th and January 22nd.

Renewal of Class "E" liquor/Class "C" beer/Class "B" wine license – Fareway.

Renewal of Class "B" native wine permit – Hy-Vee Gas.

The council reviewed quotes for the repair of sewer lines in the northwest area of the city. The repairs would include 3 spot repairs on W. Bluff St.; 3 spot repairs on N. 9th St. north of Bluff; one spot repair on N. 9th St. south of Bluff; and installation of a manhole in W. Bluff St. Quotes were: Lundell Construction-\$33,000; Schoon Construction-\$39,100. The Administrator suggested using a plastic sewer liner for the repairs on N. 9th St. north of Bluff. The cost would be approximately the same and would not only take care of the larger problems but would also repair the small hairline cracks. Jim Agnitsch, Street Supt., said sewer liners extend the life of a sewer line by 50-75 years. A motion by Brown, seconded by Pingel, awarded a contract to Lundell Construction for the repair of the following sewer lines at a cost of \$22,800: 3 spot repairs on W. Bluff St.; one spot repair on N. 9th St. south of Bluff; and installation of a manhole in W. Bluff St. Motion carried.

The council reviewed quotes for the repair of the Spruce St. water plant roof: Nohava Construction-\$12,995; Mongan Painting-\$21,029. Administrator Eikmeier explained that Nohava will be doing several other roofs in town and have agreed to a discounted price. A motion by Brown, seconded by Miller, awarded a contract to Nohava Construction for \$12,995. Motion carried.

Dave Wilberding, PSS, was present to review plans for the Westcott Trail Project. The trail is approximately 2,000 ft. in length and will consist of concrete and asphalt. The estimated cost of the project is \$100,000. 10' wide concrete will start at the concrete trail on the west side of the highway and continue under the bridge east to the highway right-of-way. At that point and continuing east and up the hill, 8' wide asphalt will be used. Asphalt is being recommended, as it is easier to maintain in the event of flooding and is also more flexible, especially on the hillside. Bids will be opened at the February 25th meeting. A motion by Pingel, seconded by Johnson, authorized advertising for bids for the Westcott Trail Project. Motion carried.

After reviewing a quote from the City's current auditors, Winther, Stave and Co., a motion by Peck, seconded by Brown, authorized an extension of their contract for a 3-year period with costs as quoted: 1st year-\$14,500; 2nd year-\$15,100; 3rd year-\$15,800. Motion carried.

Administrator Eikmeier reported that the City has received \$8,119 in federal FEMA funds from the 2010 flood event to be used toward the new park maintenance building, with pending State funds of \$1,082 upon close out of the project. However, in order to retain these funds, FEMA has advised that we must do a Phase I archeological survey of the building site on W. Beech St. at a cost of \$3,500. The Administrator has argued that this site has been built on and occupied by structures for the past 60-plus years and doesn't understand the need for the survey. Council's options are to proceed with the study; return the \$8,119; or contact Congressman Steve

King's office and see if he can persuade FEMA to waive this requirement. The council unanimously agreed to forward the information to King's office.

The council was asked to consider renewing the 10-year airport property lease with the Aviation Authority, which expires February 1, 2014. A motion by Pingel, seconded by Johnson, unanimously approved renewal of the 10-year airport property lease at \$150/year. Motion carried.

Airport Manager, Brian Lauck and Aviation Authority board member Todd Wetherell were present to give their annual report. Mr. Wetherell indicated that he is new to the board, but has had a plane based at the airport for many years. He appreciates council's renewal of the airport lease. Their goal is to focus on improving safety and feels the airport is good for economic development in the County. Mr. Lauck reported on recent improvements, which include resealing runway cracks; repair of expansion joints; and the purchase new snow removal equipment. Future projects include a survey to allow approach from the north and a parallel taxiway to lower minimums needed for approach. He reported that airports received \$150,000/year in federal funding for improvements such as those completed and planned. There are also state funds available through an application process. Currently 40 aircraft are based at the airport with a total of 45 hangars available at \$40 - \$100/month. Crop dusting aircraft are also based at the airport during the season and they purchase fuel from the airport. The State recently conducted an economic survey, which shows the airport brings in \$4 million to the County.

Gary Chase, Fire Chief, passed out a report showing recent activity. He reported that in 2013 the Fire Dept. responded to 87 calls – fires, accidents, and ambulance, with no major fires during the past year. The aerial truck is currently in for repairs to the brakes and pressure valve. All volunteer members are CPR, HAZMAT and confined space trained and each member completes approximately 24 hours of training time per year.

Administrator Eikmeier reported that Senator Feenstra and Representative Huseman would be at Danny's Sports Spot on Friday, January 31 at noon.

The following council workshops have been scheduled:

Goal setting workshop – Monday, Feb. 3 at 5:00 p.m. at the Yacht Club.

Budget workshops – Monday, Feb. 10 at 5:30, Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 5:30, and Tuesday, Feb. 18.

The Administrator indicated that the Street Dept. is seriously considering the purchase of a 6" trash pump for use during periods of heavy rainfall. During the 2013 flood event, 4" pumps were used in the southeast part of town because of infiltration from floodwaters into the sewer mains. These pumps were unable to keep up and a 6" pump was rented. Because rental rates for this type of pump are quite high, Jim Agnitsch will pursue quotes for the purchase of a pump.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

News media – Paul Struck, *Chronicle Times*; Nikki Thunder, KCHE.

Mark Murphy – Mayor

ATTEST:

Debra Taylor

City Clerk-Treasurer