

Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, Cherokee, Iowa
April 28, 2015 – 7:00 P.M.

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

Mayor Pro-tem Pingel added Item #3.01 to the agenda – 7:00 p.m. public hearing on the 2012 CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Program. Hearing notice was published, but was not listed on agenda.

Administrator Eikmeier announced the appointment of Armond Rider as the new Public Works Superintendent. Armond has been an employee in the Street Dept. since July 2014 and will officially begin his new duties June 1st. The committee, consisting of Council members Miller and Pingel and Administrator Eikmeier, interviewed 5 candidates for the position. Armond thanked the City Council for the opportunity and is looking forward to his new position.

At 7:03 p.m., Mayor Pro-tem Pingel opened a public hearing on an update of the 2012 CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Program. The Mayor Pro-tem read the following announcements: The City was awarded a 2012 Community Development Block Grant for \$347,900 to assist approximately ten low-and-moderate income persons within a designated neighborhood to make improvements to their homes. To date five projects have been completed and two are under construction. There has been a change to the project beneficiaries as proposed in the application by increasing the size of the target neighborhood. To date, \$121,908 of the CDBG allocation has been expended. The City obligated \$34,000 towards rehabilitation costs. To date, \$15,097 of that has been expended. As there were no oral or written comments, Mayor Pro-tem Pingel closed the hearing at 7:06 p.m.

A motion by Johnson, seconded by Miller, unanimously approved the following under “Consent Business”.

City council minutes of April 14th.

Reviewed minutes of the Board of Adjustment meeting of 4/15/15 concerning approval of oversized garage.

Tax abatement application for 1752 Hwy. 3 bypass.

Renewal of class “C” beer permit – K-Mart.

Angela Graham, 100 Borderline Dr., is requesting an adjustment to an excessive water bill as a result of a leak in her outdoor meter pit. The total bill is for \$1,107.32, when the average monthly bill is \$12.60. The property is not connected to city sewer. As council has done in the past, a motion by Miller, seconded by Peck, directed the staff to offer a pay plan so the total bill can be paid over a period of time. No relief was given. Motion carried.

A motion by Peck, seconded by Miller, authorized the purchase of a S590 T4 Bobcat skid-steer loader from Builder’s Sharpening & Service for \$34,560.08 for the Wastewater Dept. This is included in the 2015-16 budget. Motion carried.

The council reviewed information regarding a National League of Cities endorsed water and sewer line insurance program. Utility Service Partners, Inc. offers insurance to homeowners for the cost of repairs to their water and/or sewer service lines. The homeowner is responsible for the service lines from the city’s main to the house. The insurance would offer up to \$4,000 in repair costs, and if the repairs involve street work, the maximum would increase an additional \$4,000. The city would not be responsible for processing or billing of this program. An actual copy of the policy will be brought back for further council review.

The council received a request for cost sharing of repainting the I.C. gym at a total estimated cost of \$2,440. The city's recreation programs use the gym for practice purposes at no cost. A motion by Peck, seconded by Johnson, authorized paying one half the cost, approximately \$1,220, for the painting project. Motion carried.

1. Administrator's report – the River Road bridge was reopened today; Shopko has begun moving dirt and still plan to open by Thanksgiving.
2. Wastewater Supt. report was postponed.

Mayor Pro-tem Pingel presented a plaque to Wally Miller, Jr. for his 21 years of service to the City of Cherokee as City Attorney. He is retiring effective May 1st.

On a motion by Johnson, seconded by Miller, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m. Motion carried.

News media – Ken Ross, *Chronicle Times*; Kevin Crane, KCHE.

Wayne Pingel – Mayor Pro-tem

ATTEST:

Debra Taylor
City Clerk-Treasurer