

REGULAR SESSION August 1, 2016

The City Council of Gilbertville, Iowa met in Regular Session on Monday August 01, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall with Mayor Thome calling the meeting to order. Council members present: Balvanz, Ramaker, Becker, Meinert and French. Quorum present.

Sharon Mayer gave the invocation and Mayor Thome led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion by Meinert/Balvanz to approve the August 01, 2016 regular session agenda. Ayes - Five. Motion carried.

Approve Agenda

Motion by Becker/French to approve the following items listed on the consent agenda: 1) Minutes of the July 18, 2016 meeting; 2) Payment of bills and transfers; 3) Utility bill reconciliation for July, 2016; 4) Approval of Jonathan Schmit to the Fire Department. Ayes – Five. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Reports:

Chief of Police: Chief Bauwens reported things have been busy there, have been some burglaries in and out of city limits. He ask if anyone sees anything suspicious to please call.

City Hall: Clerk Etringer said Paul Grief finally got back with her and she is putting scenarios together to roll over vacation hours to PTO not sure if it will be effective January 1, 2017 or at anniversary date. She received a quote from Farmers State Bank for a debit card reader and it does not appear to be cost effective for the low number of requests we receive. Currently we suggest they go over to the ATM at Farmers State Bank. There are some options through the League of Cities we can check into.

Clerk Report

Public Works: Public Works Director Delagardelle reported the first of the source water protection meetings was held at City Hall on July 25th. Gilbertville was selected to participate in this program. We are one of eight cites in Iowa with potential for high nitrate levels due to the soil type and surrounding farm land. The project is to look at alternatives to protecting our water source from pollutants. There are no current problems or issue and this program is to look at taking the necessary steps to keep it that way. Iowa Northland Regional Council of Government (INRCOG) is in charge of the project. There are many other entities involved such as the DNR, County Engineer, Conversation Board, Emergency Management and others. Seven cities have already gone through the process in the last 15 years. Gilbertville was selected to participate in the program. The program will aid with financing and determining preventative measures in taking steps to avoid any potential issues. PWD reported there are a lot things happening with the WWTP in switching old things over to the new system. Vern Fish with the DNR said the boat ramp at the river park is a highly used boat ramp and does need to be repaired/replaced. They are doing studies looking at it in high and low water levels. Financing is the biggest situation we are up against with the north end development. We are waiting for an estimate form the City Engineer to then have Speer Financing put some numbers together.

PWD Report

Mayor Thome opened the hearing on water/sewer disconnection at 7:16 p.m. for nonpayment of the bill. Clerk Etringer stated there were four non paid bills. Motion by Becker/French to close the hearing at 7:17 p.m. Ayes - Five. Motion carried.

Water Disconnect PH

Motion by Becker/Balvanz to authorize PWD Delagardelle to disconnect services, residents will be required to pay arrears and \$50 reconnect fee prior to restoration. Ayes- Five. Motion carried.

Water disconnect

Mayor Thome opened the public hearing at 7:18 p.m. to receive and consider any objections made by any interested party to the plans and specifications, proposed form of contract, and the estimate of the cost of the Water Tower repair and recoating project. No written or oral comments on file. Motion by French/Meinert to close the hearing at 7:19 p.m. Ayes - Five. Motion carried.

PH for water tower repair/paint

Dave Schechinger, General Engineer with Veenstra & Kimm, Inc gave a brief overview of what the process is for repairing and recoating the water tower. He has a list of contractors they typically work with. There are a number of issues from the original project that need to be corrected. The paint inside and out is peeling and needs to be blasted, the steel needs to be prepped. Schechinger is working with contractors on pricing with and without containment. Ramaker questioned the need for containment, it is to protect surroundings from drifting spray or rolling the new wet paint. The Mayor questioned if there are any local contractors to work with to make it more cost effective to come back and spray on less windy days. He is also working on bids if it is completed this year or next. There is corrosion and the grout is coming apart, the longer we wait the worse it will get, corrosion worsens quickly. Schechinger will be back on August 11th to open the bids and again for the meeting on August 15th for any discussion and to award the bids.

Water Tower repair

Financing WWTP & water tower

Debt capacity to borrow for North end development

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Adamson explained to the Council a couple of funding options for the waste water treatment plant project (WWTP) and painting the water towers. She explained the WWTP is close to being done and since the planning part of the project started a few years ago we have a large fund balance that can be used towards the project. She explained that the water fund could borrow funds from the sewer fund to paint the water tower. This would not affect the city debt capacity and could be paid back as the water funds become available. This would still leave funds to pay on the WWTP project so the borrowing wouldn't be as much. She asked they consider these options and a decision could be made at a later meeting, the anticipated completion of the WWTP is in September. Mayor Thome stated the storm drainage problem for the land purchased has an estimated cost of ¾ to 1 million dollars and he asked Adamson to ask Maggie from Speer Financial to come to the next meeting to discuss options for financing it and to find out if the city has the debt capacity to do this. Adamson asked that an estimate be received from the Engineer that is more accurate because for finance planning \$250,000 makes a lot of difference. Mayor Thome asked PWD Delagardelle to get an estimate from the Engineer that is more accurate.

Clerk Etringer explained that City Attorney McCoy recommended having a survey completed and obtain a legal description on the property located at 523 19th Ave in order to sell the property. Motion by Balvanz/Meinert to approve Engineer Claassen to do a survey on the property located at 523 19th Ave to enable the city to sell the property Ayes – Five. Motion carried.

Approve survey on property 523 19 ave

Discussion was held on a cell phone stipend for Deputy Clerk Adamson. The Mayor stated he does not receive a stipend for his cell phone, Balvanz stated he does not believe anyone who works in City Hall with access to a phone should receive a stipend, Ramaker stated this was just addressed a month ago and should not keep being brought up. Clerk Etringer stated, Deputy Clerk was not part of the previous discussion. The Mayor said he contacts the Clerk, PWD and the Chief of Police via cell phones from time to time. Mayor asked Clerk Etringer for her input and she state that they do communicate via cell phone when one is out of the office especially when needing to work on or complete each other's duties. Adamson does take pictures with her cell phone for the newsletters and the City Web Site. Balvanz suggested purchasing a cheap camera to take pictures when needed. Motion by Balvanz/Ramaker to keep the cell phone reimbursement as it currently is. Ayes – Four. Nays—Meinert. Motion carried.

Cell phone reimb
for Deputy Clerk

Mayor Thome started the discussion on the parking on 20th Ave. by stating you all know my thoughts on this and how dangerous I feel it is. Motion by Becker/Meinert to leave the parking as it is. Ayes—Two. Nays—Balvanz, Ramaker and French. Motion did not pass. Motion by Balvanz/Ramaker to leave parking as in on the north side of 20th ave and make it no parking on the south side of 20th Ave. Ayes—three. Nays—Meinert and Becker. Motion carried.

Microsft Office
365

The City was offered some playground equipment at no charge, just hauling it away if the City wanted it. Maintenance worker Thome looked at the playground equipment that was offered to the City as a donation. The equipment was very nice however it was all wood and wood is not recommend for City playground equipment due to the danger of wood splinters. The City appreciated the offer, Becker will thank the donor but decline the offer. Motion by Becker/Balvanz to not accept the playground equipment. Ayes—Five. Motion carried.

Playground
equipment

A Citizen called with a concern of two trees growing in the City right of way in the 300 block of 13th Ave. The City believes there is a potential danger, one is split and one is diseased. She request the city to remove them. Motion by Meinert/Ramaker to approve PWD Delagardelle to get an opinion from the City Attorney to determine who responsibility it is for the cost of the removal, and get a second bid on the removal. Ayes – Five. Motion carried.

Removal of trees
in city right of
way 300 block of
13th Ave

Motion by Becker, seconded by Meinert to adjourn at 8:03 p.m. Ayes – Five. Motion carried.

Adjourn

Mark Thome, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Jean Etringer, City Clerk