

CITY OF OWEN COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, February 23rd, 2021

LOCATION: New Owen City Hall 833 3rd Street, Owen WI 54460

TIME: 6:00pm

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Charles Milliren

Alderspersons: Joan Jalling, Pam Jaffke, Bob Wilczek, John Mauel, Al Wagner

CITY OFFICIALS EXCUSED: Ken Martine, PW Chad Smith

ATTENDANCE LIST: Clerk Michelle Kind, CDC/Tim Swiggum, Officer Haugstad & Chief Ibarra

COMMUNITY ATTENDANCE: Nicole Rogers/Sentinel & Rural News and Cindy Cardinal/O-W Enterprise, Renee Swenson/Cedar Corp, Brian Reilly & Josh Low(zoom)/Ehlers Financial, and Paul Lovinus of the Teamsters Union

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by Mayor Milliren at 6:05pm & the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Hearing CDBG Citizen Participation Hearing 5th street project with Cedar Corp:

Renee Swenson of Cedar Corp gave a presentation on the 5th street CDBG project. The grant award is for up to \$1 million for 5th street and Coleman infrastructure improvements. The project is 95% complete and all the utilities, curb & gutter sidewalks, driveways, and restorations have been completed. The final lift of asphalt and turf restoration is on schedule for this spring and they are to be completed no later than Oct 31st. Three pay requests have been processed for \$831,806.15 to date. There was no citizen input.

Motion by Jaffke/Mauel to close the public hearing. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

None

Minutes:

Motion by Jalling/Wilczek to approve the minutes from February 9th, 2021 – see attached. Motion carried.

Yellowstone technology updates:

Item tabled for Yellowstone technology to give a presentation to show the updates of the new building equipment.

Funding proposals Ehlers – see attached:

Brian Reilly and Josh Low of Ehlers Financial Advisors gave a presentation on the financial status of Owen. They reviewed the current loans and suggested which ones were worthy of refinancing due to interest rate changes and the loan terms while adding on the new projects. Loan types were discussed such as USDA or General Obligation & what items qualify for each. The effects of these loans presented were reviewed and showed the ending results to the taxes paid by citizens. Council noted they would like to take advantage of lower interest rates, reduce the number of loans and simplify payment schedules, provide new funding for current projects, and keep the taxes from increasing.

Bank loan options were also provided from local banks and AMKO from last meeting.

Motion by Wilczek/Jaffke to have a Finance Committee meeting for further review and bring the recommendation back to Council at the next meeting.

Building Committee:

The Police Dept is moving this week and the punch list is being reviewed.

Personnel Committee:

Met last Friday in closed session.

Public Works project on Paul Avenue:

Swiggum noted Cedar Corp is creating the letter of intent to apply for a CDBG grant.

Police Dept Report

The PD is moving into the new building. Chief requested insulation for the PD heated garage to reduce the energy bill. Wilczek to review insulation available and pricing with Chief.

Library Report – see attached

Library Board meet Feb 17th and the annual report was submitted. Fundraising was discussed for the new roof. A 16-month calendar is being created to be sold in time for the Owen Fair this summer. Plans were discussed to open the Library. Express Library will now be open Mon-Fri. In March step 2 is to allow people to make appointments for 30 min. sessions to browse, read, or use computers. The Board will discuss the next steps to reopen more in April. Additional cleaning will be needed to allow for in person visits again.

CDC Report

Meeting with additional businesses interested in opening in Owen & assisting with the audit in the office.

Clerk/Treasurer Dept Report – see attached:

Election results for the February Primary showed 51 voters with 14 absentees. We are setting up for April election with additional poll workers for each Ward. It will again be held at the Library to make for a smooth transition in 2022 for all elections to be at the new City Hall building.

Assistance for the Utility bills and now also for Rental assistance is available-see website for flyer.

Watching for proposed legislation the Governor is proposing to increase shared revenues for the first time in over a dozen years.

Disbursements/Accounts Payable:

Motion by Wilczek/Jaffke to approve the accounts payable of \$106,584.09 as presented minus the late fees which were waived - see attached.

Budget review for 2020 & Jan 2021:

The 2020 budget overview, 2021 budget year to date, and the 2021 Transaction summary were sent out to all Council and Dept heads. In the Office is working through the end of year 2020 transactions, reviewing the major construction project costs for 2019 streets, 2020 5th street, Mill Pond paving, Vaple Environmental, and Countryside Estates/9th street. Audit work has started to prepare for the arrival the week of March 8th. At the end of March we strive to have a better picture of the ending balances of 2020 for Finance committee to review.

Convene into Closed Session:

Motion by Jaffke/Wagner to go into closes session at 7:34pm for Consideration of Wages & Benefits

Under WI S. S. 19.85(1)(c) Consideration of employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. Motion carried.

Reconvene in Open Session:

Motion by Jalling/Mauel to reconvene into open session at 8:33pm. Motion carried.

Announce recommendations:

Motion by Jaffke/Mauel to extend the PIP for Clerk/Treasurer for 30 days. Motion carried.

Suggested Items for Future Agendas:

Committee meetings for Finance, Personnel, Park & Rec, and OWPC

Mayor Milliren adjourned the meeting at 8:33pm.

Next Council meeting is Tues. March 9th, 2021 at 6pm at 833 3rd street.

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Kind,
Clerk/Treasurer WCMC