

CITY OF OWEN COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, March 9th, 2021

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

TIME: 6:00pm

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Charles Milliren

Alderpersons: Joan Jalling, Pam Jaffke, Bob Wilczek, Ken Martine, John Mael, & Al Wagner

CITY OFFICIALS EXCUSED:

ATTENDANCE LIST: Clerk/Treasurer Kind, DPW Smith CDC Swiggum, Officer Haugstad & Chief Ibarra

COMMUNITY ATTENDANCE: Clark County Sheriff Scott Haines and Cathy Haines, Amanda Mahnke via zoom, Nicole Rogers/Sentinel & Rural News and Cindy Cardinal/O-W Enterprise.

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by Mayor Milliren at 6:00pm & the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes:

Motion by Jaffke/Jalling to approve the minutes from February 23rd, 2021 – see attached. Motion carried.

Yellowstone technology updates:

Wilczek gave an update of the Council meeting room technology of the dual TV's and Video/Audio capabilities. PD is moved already, and City Hall will be next week. We are waiting on a few Wifi boosters in the ceiling.

Public Comment:

Clark County Sheriff Haines reviewed they are starting random Alcohol Compliancy checks for Liquor Licensed establishments. Underage individuals will try to obtain drinks through random checks with the help of the Clark County Health Dept in an effort to increase compliancy and education.

They also now have a K9 officer named Arthur a short haired German Shepherd that will be a dog for searching & rescue and drug detection.

Clark County also now has an office available for their Officers to use in the new City Hall Police Dept building and are very appreciative of this space.

Funding proposals:

Motion by Mael/Jalling to accept Forward Bank's proposal for a short-term financing of \$375,000 at 2.49% with a \$100 loan origination fee. The loan can be drawn as we need it with no prepayment penalty until further equipment/repair amounts can be confirmed. Motion carried.

This loan will create cash flow for the new building \$250k, Crane Truck, and Garage Roof maintenance. Jaffke noted the loan will require a tax-exempt status letter from an Attorney & Long-term financing will be addressed after these improvements are made. Kind added information regarding Sweep Account options for our General Obligation checking account to fully capture any interest savings available.

County Tax Foreclosure of Parcel 265.0037.000 at 219 E 3rd:

Motion by Mael/Wilczek to accept the Clark County proposal to take possession of the foreclosed parcel. The County has agreed to waive all fees and back taxes due to the County per our acceptance of

the parcel. The item will go to Planning & Zoning for review and to prepare for future property sales. Motion carried.

Central WI Community Guide:

Motion by Wilczek/Martine to advertise a full color ad in the Central WI Community guide for \$305 to be split from budgeted accounts of DRC & Parks Expenses. The Advertisement is also to note anyone who mentions the Ad will get a campground discount. Motion carried.

OWPC Committee:

The OWPC approved Officer Haugstad a raise of \$3% / \$0.55 cents effective with the next payroll per Chief Ibarra's recommendation. Everyone is very pleased with Officer Haugstad's performance with the Community, Municipalities, as well as Office and Staff.

Citizen informational meeting at the OW High School with both Owen Council and Withee Trustees present to be scheduled for Tuesday March 16th at 6:30pm and a 2nd meeting option of Saturday, March 27th at 10am if needed. A flyer will be sent in each municipalities Utility bills.

The OW HS is drawing up mural plans for the PD hallway in the new building.

The PD manual part #1 was also approved.

Building Committee:

Wilczek reported final items from Ratsch and Yellowstone are being installed and the Bldg Committee will review the final invoices for the Council to approve soon.

Park & Rec Committee:

Wilczek reported working on the DNR permit for the Mill Pond shore erosion control.

Next Council meeting a group called Eat Right and Be Fit will provide a story walk presentation to put up signs along the paved trails.

Personnel Committee:

Jaffke reported they met today at 4pm and the Clerk/Treasurer will stay as a salaried employee. They will meet again in two weeks.

OW Development Committee:

Jaffke reported they met 3/1/21 and all the loans are up to date as well as there are new businesses interested in obtaining a loan for improvements. Signage is being worked on with Public Works.

Police Dept Report

Chief Ibarra presented the February 2021 call report with 88 calls. They are working on Ordinance violations for the entire City of Owen and Village of Withee.

Public Works Report:

Water: Well #14 heater repairs, water tower winter inspection completed, repaired water leak at Acosta foods, water main break by Mill Pond and at the end of Melbinger Street, and submitted reports for Water Withdrawal, Cross Connection, and Consumer Confidence.

Sewer: repaired broken sample pipes at Lift station #1, Jetted sewer lines, televised line along Cty Rd D/Paul Street, inspected manholes by Britt Creek and in TIF #4, Chronic Wet Test completed, and Truck recalls taken in for repairs. In switching to chemical's in S-3 it assisted in lowering the Phosphorus levels and Ammonia limits.

Streets: met with Clark County & Cedar Corp for the Cty Rd D project, met with Storm Water Engineer,

cleaned storm drains & culverts along Cty Rd X, took the Dodge truck in for maintenance and recalls, and cleaned the breakroom and office.

CDC Report

Swiggum reported on a meeting with the Mayor and a new equipment manufacturing business but no offer to purchase yet. Bohl would like to add three 12 plex apartment buildings at an angle along 1st street. Jalling inquired if we verify funding on construction projects. Swiggum contacted the State to try to attract the Dairy Innovation Center in cooperation with the Health Care Center as it is going to take up a lot of that parcel off Hwy 29.

The DRC set the dates for the Car Show, Autumn Fest, and Fair and will be added to the website calendar.

Clerk/Treasurer Dept Report:

Auditors are here (3) in person all this week to work on the 2020 Audit. Last week we finished the initial requests to upload over 70 different items into the portal & many had several attachments each. Things are going well and we are proceeding with their numerous requests as needed by the minute.

Reviewed financial options with Ehlers, Amko, Forward, and First State Bank.

Ballots went out today for the April 6th election. Absentee voting via mail can now begin. In Person absentee voting runs from Tues 3/23 – the Holiday Good Friday 4/2 at 5pm.

Joe to update computers and merge files next week, we will migrate workhorse to the laptop in the interim.

Loan Summary update attached & Bank Rec next meeting due to Audit visit.

Disbursements/Accounts Payable:

Motion by Wilczek/Wagner to approve the accounts payable of \$111,863.75 as presented after discussion held regarding the Unemployment payments to WI Workforce Development for 2 previous employees - see attached. Accounts Receivable were \$85,602.63.

Suggested Items for Future Agendas:

Committee meetings for Finance, Planning, Park & Rec, and Eat Right/Be Fit Trail signage

Mayor Milliren adjourned the meeting at 7:24pm.

Next Council meeting is Tues. March 23rd, 2021 at 6pm at 833 3rd street.

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Kind,
Clerk/Treasurer WCMC