

**CITY OF OWEN COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** Tuesday, April 14th, 2020

**LOCATION:** Owen Public Library, 414 N. Central Ave., Owen WI 54460

**TIME:** 7:00pm

**CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Mayor Charles Milliren, Alderpersons: Joan Jalling, Ken Martine, Pam Jaffke, Bob Wilczek, John Mauel, Al Wagner, and Clerk Michelle Kind

**CITY OFFICIALS EXCUSED:**

**ATTENDANCE LIST:** CDC/Tim Swiggum, DPW/Chad Smith, Police Chief Ibarra

**COMMUNITY ATTENDANCE:** Via Zoom Conference were Tom Jirschele, Andrea Mahnke, Mark Hanson, Tom and Rhiannon Clark and Nicole Rogers- Sentinel and Rural News. In person were Brian Chapman-Cedar Corp. and Cindy Cardinal-O-W Enterprise

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 7:00pm & the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Public Comment:**

Jirschele, Mahnke, Hanson and the Clarks were allowed extra time to register their opposition to the duplexes proposed along 9<sup>th</sup> Street. Real Estate values and crime rates considered to be the biggest reason for their objection. Special assessments and the past cost of lots was discussed and was referred to another meeting. The CountrySide Estates Restrictive Covenants were discussed as the duplexes do not fit within the parameters agreed upon in 2009. The City of Owen is the Developer in the covenants and has the ability to amend the agreement as the council deems necessary.

**Minutes:**

Motion by Jaffke/Martine to approve the minutes from March 24, 2020 – see attached. Motion carried.

**Solicitation Policy:**

Kind presented the policy as had been discussed at Personnel and Police Committees. This policy will allow solicitation for city related donations but not personal solicitations.

Motion by Wilczek/Wagner to approve the Solicitation Policy as presented – see attached. Motion carried.

**Council Meeting Time:**

Mayor Milliren asked that the council consider changing the meeting time to wrap up earlier.

Motion by Martine/Wagner to change the meeting time for City Council meetings to 6pm. Motion carried.

**Planning Committee Recommendation, Country Side Estates Lot #10, Parcel # 265.0301.012:**

Lengthy discussion held and consideration from those in attendance.

Motion by Jalling/Mauel to approve the sale of Lot #10, Parcel # 265.0301.012, of Country Side Estates to Jim Bohl for \$800 including the installation of curb and gutter also installed through Bohl with Area Wide Construction. City will inspect installation. Motion carried.

**Survey and Engineering Proposal for Country Side Estates infrastructure improvements:**

Due to the construction on 9<sup>th</sup> Street moving forward it is necessary to do some improvements. Swiggum approached Cedar Corp. for a proposal to survey, plat and engineer the connection of roads from the

intersection of 9<sup>th</sup> Street and D to the intersection of 7<sup>th</sup> Street. The costs are related to TIF #4 and the funding will be provided through the TIF #4.

Motion by Mauel/Wilczek to approve the cost of \$68,300 for the surveying, platting and engineering for the pending improvements carried unanimously – see attached.

**Department Reports:**

DPW Chad Smith presented his report (attached). In the Water Department booster pumps had an issue with soft start failure, cost was \$1800 to replace. Water testing is coming up. Wastewater Treatment Plant was spiking in the phosphorus reads and after inspection they found a buildup of snails and minnows that were likely causing the numbers to spike. They used the jetter to clean the pipes and the issue has been resolved. Streets; working on cleaning sand and fixing Winter damage to the streets. 5<sup>th</sup> Street trees were removed, and new gas mains are currently being installed by WE Energies. Flower baskets are at Frenchtown and the Goose egg oiling permit is ready to go.

Police Report was presented (see attached). Fireworks Permits have been brought up and it was recommended that we contact our insurance company. Fee Schedule is ready to be approved but was not on the agenda. It will be up for approval at the April 21 organizational meeting.

Clerk/Treasurer Kind reported that the election went fairly smooth and gave appreciation to all who helped. The poll workers did a fantastic job staying safe. A special thanks went out to Karen Swiggum who made enough face masks for all that needed one. Wilczek was congratulated on his reelection as the only contested race on the local ballot.

CDC Swiggum reported that the Zoning Board of Appeals will be meeting on April 30<sup>th</sup> to discuss the construction of a duplex at 419 W. Bjornstad St., an article needs to be written for the papers explaining plans for the Farmers Market and community gardens. This week will entail a ride along inventory of the garbage cart for billing purposes.

**Personnel Committee Report:**

Jaffke reported that the committee had interviewed 2 candidates and had extended an offer via email. This was just earlier today, and no response has been received at meeting time. The hiring of a new Deputy Clerk will be on the organizational meeting agenda next week.

**Other Committee reports:**

Wilczek reported on a shortened Parks and Recreation Committee meeting. The bathroom/shower facility is going to be finished soon and the Crowley Park pavilion is being looked at for a new shelter down there. The meeting was cut short due to an emergency fire call that took three of the attendees.

**Disbursements:**

Motion by Jaffke/Wilczek to approve the accounts payable of \$268,034.01 as presented – see attached. Motion carried.

**Suggested Items for Future Agendas**

Personnel Committee Report & Fee Schedule for fines/penalties.

Mayor Milliren adjourned meeting at 9:30pm.

Next Council meeting, annual organizational meeting, Tues. April 21, 2020 at 6pm, O-W-C Firehall.

Regular Council Meeting will be April 28,2020 at the Firehall, 6pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Kind, Clerk/Treasurer WCMC