

**DECEMBER 10, 2019**  
**CITY OF OWEN COMMON COUNCIL**

The City of Owen Common Council met in regular session on Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 7:00 pm at City Hall. Mayor Charles Milliren presided. Carol Devine-City Clerk, served as secretary. Roll call of Alderpersons: Jalling, Mauel, Wagner, Jaffke, and Wilczek. Martine was absent. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order. Also present were Chief Ibarra, DPW Chad Smith and Tim Swiggum-CDC, Officer Dave Juzwiak and Brian Chapman-Cedar Corp. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Minutes**

A Jaffke/Mauel motion/second and subsequent vote approved the minutes for the 11-26-19 council meeting.

**Public Opinion**

Under Public Opinion: Dan Hooks had several comments, ranging from his dislike of the truck being purchased for public works, claims of rat infestation downtown near the Post Office and his belief that the city should require all property owners to have insurance.

**Public Present:** Travis and Nicole Rogers-Sentinel & Rural News, Dan Hooks and Cindy Cardinal-OW Enterprise.

**Treasurer's Report:**

A Wilczek/Jalling motion/second and subsequent vote approved Treasurer's Report as submitted.

**Public Works Report:**

DPW Chad Smith provided a detailed report on the public works activities and concerns.

**Police Report**

Chief Ibarra presented the police report. Council thanked the officers for the Shop with a Cop event they participated in.

**Personnel Report/Recommendation:**

Chairperson Jaffke reported that the committee had interviewed 3 people for the Clerk-Treasurer position. The committee recommends the hiring of Michelle Kind at a salary of \$39,520 with a 6-month review and potential raise at that time. The committee also recommended that Carol Devine be increased .50 to \$15.50 per hour in her position as Deputy Clerk. A Mauel/Wagner motion/second to hire Michelle Kind at a salary of \$39,520 and give Carol Devine a wage of \$15.50 per hour as Deputy Clerk-Treasurer passed unanimously.

**Municipal Building Report:**

Wilczek reported that the WE Energies building is available for \$69,700 and that an open house type viewing will be held on December 17, at 7pm. This will be posted to allow a quorum of the council.

**Professional Development Academy:**

Mayor Milliren explained the background of a course he has signed up for. It is called the Professional Development Academy and it is an online based course. The cost of the course is \$1900 with \$1500 being credited due to being the only one from our county signed up. He asked if the council would support some or all of the remaining costs. A Wilczek/Mauel motion/second to provide \$300 toward the tuition for the course passed on a 4-1 vote with Jalling voting nay.

**Appointment of Election Workers:**

Clerk Devine presented a list of poll workers to be appointed by the council to serve as the election staff. A Mauel/Jalling motion/second to approve the list of workers passed unanimously.

**Cedar Corp.-Water System Modeling and CDBG Street and Utility Improvements Status:**

Brian Chapman reported that the Water System Modeling Project is taking a little longer than projected but it is important to get a true detail for the study. It is still a couple months away from completion. The CDBG 5<sup>th</sup> Street project will likely be bid out in February or March to try to get a contractor before they get too booked.

**Cancel 12/24/19 Meeting:**

A Mauel/Wilczek motion/second to cancel the council meeting on 12/24/19 and approve the paying of the bills for the end of the year passed unanimously.

**Christmas Bonus:**

A Jaffke/Mauel motion and second to give a \$100 bonus to all employees as has been done in previous years passed unanimously.

**CDC Report**

CDC Swiggum reported that the DRC had met and the costs to bring the trackless train into the country has gone up over \$5,000 due to tariffs. The total needed to raise at this time is \$11,000. The DRC will be approaching some local sponsors and looking for small grants to cover the added costs. The CN EcoConnexions/America in Bloom Grant was submitted on December 1<sup>st</sup> and we are eligible for up to \$25,000 in matching grant money. The grant plan can be adjusted with advice from America in Bloom. A meeting is scheduled for January 7, 2020 to meet with the UWSP Forestry Professor who will be bringing in his students to create an Urban Forestry Plan for the city at no charge. They will be attending a meeting in February and then beginning the tree inventory. More work needed to complete the VPLE insurance for the Heartland Cooperative project. Barrels that were presumed taken care of are still there and need a plan to dispose of. FEMA paperwork is still in progress and hopefully completed soon. The NOAA Weather Station has set up the instruments necessary to provide weather information to the National Weather Service and the public works crew are getting used to another daily duty.

**Disbursements**

A Wilczek/Jaffke motion/second to approve the payment of the disbursements passed unanimously: City Pooled Check #29093-29142. City \$29,851.56; Water \$14,272.78; Sewer \$16,699.07; and TIF #4 \$64,388.13.

**Suggested Items for Future Agendas:**

Municipal Building, police ordinance fee schedule, Finance

Mayor Milliren adjourned the 12-10-19 Open Session Meeting at 8:01.

**(To be considered for approval at the 1-14-20 Council Meeting. Published 12-30-19)**