

CITY OF OWEN COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, March 22, 2022

LOCATION: Owen City Hall

TIME: 6:00pm

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Charles Milliren

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

ATTENDANCE LIST: Clerk Tracy Rau, DPW Chad Smith, CDC Tim Swiggum, Chief Fehlman, Officer Haugstad

COMMUNITY ATTENDANCE: Nicole Rogers/Sentinel & Rural News, Cindy Cardinal/O-W Enterprise, Mark Hanson, Matt Riihinen, Andrea Mahnke, and Tom Jirschelle, Brian Chapman/Cedar Corp.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Milliren at 6:00pm & the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment:

none

Minutes:

Motion by Martine/Jalling to approve the minutes from March 8th, 2022 with changes that it was Al Gajewsky leaving the committee and that Swiggum's wages are paid out of the CDC account not DRC. Motion carried.

Approve Bids 2022 CDBG Paul Ave. Project: Brian Chapman from Cedar Corp said there were three bids that came in. The bid was awarded to Steen Construction out of Dorchester with 572,390.00 which came in at 50,000.00 over construction estimation. Brian Chapman said the county will reimburse the city around \$50,000 less for this project, because of the amount of asphalt being used. Instead of putting four inches of asphalt down the city is only laying two inches. Cedar Corp grant team has asked if the CDBG could fund \$100,000 but they have not heard back yet. If CDBG does fund the project, then the city will only have to pay 33,000. The city could accept the bid in contingent to financing, or accept the bid as is and hope for additional funding. Mark Hanson asked if there is going to be new water and sewer. The answer to his question there will be all new water lines, but the sewer will be lined and will put new laterals and services. Jalling/Martine made a motion to table the bid in contingency of receiving CDBG money. Motion carried.

Resolution #2022-3 TEA Grant: A Wilczek/Jaffke to approve the Resolution #2022-3 TEA Grant. Motion carried.

Resolution #2022-2 Vacating Innovation Drive: The Resolution was introduced but cannot be acted upon until May.

Permits: Wilczek spoke on the process of building permits for businesses, as of right now the City is in violation of state statutes. The fire department must follow as far as permitting. There are fines the City can face if we do not follow state regulations. There was one business in town that did not know they needed state approved plans and now their business had been put on hold and they are paying more money than what they had anticipated. Wilczek said when the Fire Department does a fire inspection, the first thing they ask for is the state approved plans, he also stated that no one can take occupancy of a commercial building until a fire inspection finished. All commercial businesses need state approved plans, this does not affect any residential building permits. Jalling/Mauel made a motion to approve the new permit application and process per state regulations. Motion carried.

OWACC Expo Picnic License: Mauel/Martine made a motion to approve the Expo Picnic License. Motion carried.

Installing Gas Service in Business Park: Maue/Jalling approving that the city pays for the installment of gas service \$88,494.72 in the Business Park with TIF money that we will need to borrow. Mark Hanson asked what happens when the TIF runs out then who is paying for the gas or electric in the Countryside Estates. Swiggum said the city will be reimbursed by We Energies all the money within 5 years and Excel is the same way. Hanson said that if we are installing the infrastructure later when there is no more TIF money, then the cost falls on the homeowner. Swiggum said after the TIF money is gone, moving forward it will be the cost of the homeowner or in the city budget. Hanson asked how fair is it that the new developers get free gas and electric when the existing homeowners had to pay for theirs, Hanson just wants to be fair either do it for everyone or make the new homeowners pay for it. Mayor advised that this is just for the main line and that the residents/businesses will still have to pay to get the gas and electric hooked to their property. Motion carried.

East Commercial Park Draft Developers Agreement: Wilczek/Wagner motion to table the developer's agreement until Pat Esker from Midway Steel has a chance to read it, as Esker was handed the agreement at the meeting. Motion carried.

Other Committee Reports: Jaffke announced that the Economic Development had a meeting to discuss the new signage for the businesses. The signs will locate on Willow Road and D and on County X and D, they are looking at cost and durability. The loan payments are made on time, there is a business that the economic development has been waiting to hear back from. As loans are loaned, when the loaner pays back the loan the funds grow back up for another business that wants to do remodeling or improvements.

Disbursements/Accounts Payable:

Motion by Martine/Wagner to accept the disbursements as stated. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report: Jalling/Wilczek motion to approve the treasurers report as read. Motion carried. Mayor informed the board that the auditors had spoken to him and there will be additional charges between \$7000-\$9000 beyond the usual \$32,000, that had to do with the changeover of clerks. Rau informed the board that the cost last year was \$41,954.00.

Suggested Items for Future Agendas:

Police Meeting

Street Meeting

Personnel Meeting

Mayor Milliren adjourned the meeting at 7:31pm.

Next Council meeting is Tues. April 12th, 2022, at 6pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Rau

Clerk/Treasurer