

TO BE APPROVED 6/14/22

## CITY OF OWEN COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: MAY 24, 2022

LOCATION: CITY HALL

**CITY OFFICIALS:** Pam Jaffke, Bob Wilczek, Ken Martine, Joan Jalling, Matt Riihinen, John Mauel, and absent was Mayor Milliren

**EMPLOYEE ATTENDANCE:** Tracy Rau-Clerk/Treasurer, Chad Smith-DPW, Tim Swiggum-CDC

**COMMUNITY ATTENDANCE:** Cindy Cardnial-OW Enterprise, Nicole Rogers-The Sentinel & Rural News, Mark and Kelli Hanson, Andrea Mahnke, and Tom Jirschele.

The meeting was called to order by President Pam Jaffke at 6:00pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mark Hanson asked when they would expect County Rd D to be finished and he was told it should be open to traffic within a week.

**MINUTES:** A Jalling/Wilczek motion to approve the 5/10/22 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

**Electronic Payments for Utilities:** Clerk Rau asked if Wind River Financial would be a good company to go though for electronic payments as they are associated with the Prevail Bank. The city would be paying 4790.40 a year for all the transaction fees and rates that's 39.95 just in fees for 1 month. Wind River Financial would be charging 12.5 cents per transaction. Kelli Hanson from the Thirsty Squirrel said there are cheaper companies out there that would charge only 2- 3 cents per transaction, Pam Jaffke said she would check on the company they use at Dairyland Animal Clinic also. A motion by Martine/Jalling to table until next meeting. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** A Wilczek/Mauel motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

**Planning on the Zoning-Cark County Garage:** Wilczek reported at the planning meeting they discussed the Clark County Garage; the garage would like to add on. The problem with this is that they are zoned R-3, (a two-family residential district). Most government facilities are allowed a conditional use, but the issue revolves around the height restrictions of 30ft, and the land coverage cannot exceed 40%. The planning committee decided to allow the county garage to expand but Smith said we could possibly do a valiance in a R-3 district but sooner or later it will have to be changed. Back when the county garage was built there were no zoning. The planning committee will have to go through the proper steps to rezone the district. Wilczek asked the council to accept the planning committee to go ahead and publish the zoning change. Swiggum said maybe the county could help us with Lehn Street because there will be high traffic with their trucks. A Mauel/Jaffke motion to send the zoning issue back to planning for the change. Motion carried.

**Cedar Street-curb & gutter project:** Smith reported that American Asphalt was in the area, and they would like to get started with the street. Charlie, Smith and Swiggum talked to Bohl, and he is willing to

pay the same as everyone else for his curb and gutter at 15 dollars ft which is about 10,000.00, he just doesn't have the time to do it. When we sell the other 3 lots, whoever buys them will pay 15.00 a ft also. Harmon has finished all the curb and gutter on 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and Cedar Street. Instead of charging us 19.00 a ft, they charged us 15.00 a ft., and it looks great. Andrea Manhke asked what lots does that cover? Swiggum answered and Mahnke was told there were 6 lots. A motion was made by Mauel and seconded by Wilczek to approve the agreement made between Bohl and the city. Motion carried.

**Summer help Applicants:** Grayce Bottlemey had stopped by the shop and talked to Smith, but she will be busy in June so she has a friend that will cover for her when she is unavailable. Morgan Mueller at school did announce that we were hiring but the students just laughed at her. Smith said he is hoping that the guys that were doing it on the weekend would continue because he doesn't want the kids out and about with no supervision. Swiggum said you will have to ask them because he doesn't believe Terry Plautz would be interested but maybe Bill DeGroot. A Wilczek/Martine motion to hire Grayce Bottlemey and her friend, (with Smiths approval) to work this summer. Motion carried.

**Parks & Rec-mosquito control & trail grant:** Wilczek announces he had not had time to check on the mosquito control. Smith talked to Northwoods Archery, and they spray every time, it's not 1 spray a month or a one and done deal. Wilczek mentioned the tubes you hang in the trees but had heard they do not work very well. Wilczek said with the trail grant we are planning on redoing the bike trail from Meadowview to Withee. Wilczek said the more people that are on the grant, the more likely you will receive it. Wilczek has contacted Troy Hatlestad from Withee but has not heard back. Mayor Milliren is talking to the school also, that way we can have the trail coming from the school through Ryanna's Garden, so the kids are not walking in traffic to get to the bike trail. Travis Engel is making the signs for the storybook trail. The signs will hang on the lights so when winter come, and we must plow the signs can be removed. The Parks and Rec also approved the outdoor recreation plan, that will have to be approved by the council. Smith and Wilczek will meet this week to go through the check list from the DNR on the Will Maki foundation.

**Other Committee Reports:** Swiggum reported on the Downtown Revitalization committee. The American in Bloom judges will be here in July to judge us on our flowers. There will be a get together for all the businesses on Monday night to sit outside at #Red Daisy Girl to welcome the judges. Tuesday night there will be a public event so the judges can give us recommendations on what we are doing good and bad. The car show committee has not met yet but will soon. The UCC and the vets would like to do a brat fry at the park, they will have to check with the city hall office to see if the park is rented for whatever day they are doing the fry. Swiggum asked if we charge nonprofit organization for renting the park. Rau said what if people that are paying want to rent the park, because we are not making any money on the food sales. Swiggum said that if someone comes in to rent the park and it's the same day as the fry. The brat fry can be done in the open pavilion, but would you want to have a brat fry going on at the same time as your party. We will investigate if we charge the nonprofit groups and if we should be charging a deposit for cleanup.

Wilczek asked if we could relook at the Cedar Street curb and gutter project that was passed earlier in the meeting. The four lots Jim Bohl has he paid 2500.00 for the four lots, the problem with this is the four corners and the merging on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> street is what he was paying for with the other 2 lots that he already built on. Cedar Corp had Haas & sons finish that already and its already paid for. Wilczek said technically Bohl owes us 5000.00 for those 2 lots yet. Mahnke said she did the math, and the total is

15,302.00 not including lots 9,10, and 11. Swiggum said we sell the lots for 3000.00 with curb and gutter, Bohl paid 800.00 for each lot. Wilczek said since Haas did the 2 lots and Bohl was supposed to do them he still owes us for the 2 lots. Mahnke said it's 3 lots. So Bohl has 8 lots, and he didn't do curb and gutter on any of them as was discussed in the beginning, were Bohl was to do all the curb and gutter. Wilczek said Bohl owes us 10,000; 20,000.00 total. Mahnke asked what the formula is and how does it work, the citizens are curious. Mahnke later emailed all the council a chart that she made up of who owns what lot and how much they paid. Fourteen years ago, when Stephen Heggimeier was mayor, he sold Mahnke and Jirschele their lot and they paid 2250.00. Mark Hanson asked why the council didn't offer Mahnke and Jirschele a lot for a dollar. Answer, no one that is on council now was on council then, it was 14 years ago. Mauel said we need to see the agreement Bohl made on the first lots. Wilczek said Bohl owes us 15,400.00 total for all the lots. Wilczek said the remaining lots will be sold for 3,000.00 with curb and gutter included. Wilczek said if the prices don't skyrocket, and the city loses money. Mauel said if you go out and buy a car and 2 days later someone come along to buy the exact same car but gets it cheaper are you going to go back to the dealership and get your money back. NO! Mauel rescinded his original motion from earlier and made a motion to bring the agreements with Bohl to the next meeting, Wilczek seconded. Motion carried.

Disbursements/Accounts Payable: A Mauel/Wilczek motion to accept the disbursements. Motion carried.

Swiggum just wanted to remind everyone that he will down to 20 hours per week next week until September.

Future Agenda Items:

Bohl's Agreement on curb and gutter, Planning Meeting-Clark County Garage, Police Department Meeting, Electronic Payments