

**CITY OF OWEN COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** Tuesday, June 8, 2021

**LOCATION:** Owen City Hall 833 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Owen WI 54460

**CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Mayor Charles Milliren

Alderpersons: Joan Jalling, Pam Jaffke, John Mauel, Bob Wilczek and Al Wagner. Ken Martine was excused.

**Employee Attendance:** Tracy Rau/ Deputy Clerk, Police Chief Ibarra, DPW Smith, and Tim Swiggum/CDC.

**COMMUNITY ATTENDANCE:** Andrea Mahnke, Tom Jirschele, Ann Vukasovich, Gail Stuttgen, Dennis Liepke, Kathy Johnson, Mark and Mary Meyer, 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 6:04pm.

**Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.

**Public Comment:** Gail Stuttgen spoke to the issue of the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue survey costs. Ann Vukasovich was present to inquire about getting some help with the sewer line replacement at her house on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street or County X. The sewer line is connected to her neighbor and the sewer lateral goes to the center of Highway X. Her insurance company is only willing to pay for \$10,000 of a \$23,000 project. The neighbor may be willing to pay some as they are also going to have troubles sharing the same lateral. DPW Smith explained that the ordinance states that the customer is responsible for the sewer laterals. There may be ways to help but it is not something the city wants to start footing the bill for.

**Minutes:**

A Wilczek/Jaffke motion/second to approve the minutes from May 25, 2021 passed unanimously.

**Property Line Correction 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.:**

The group of owners, Stuttgen, Liepkes, Meyers and Johnsons, were present to discuss the costs of the survey. Wilczek explained that a possible 5-way split could be considered. He also suggested that the city pay \$100 to each of the owners and let them pay the balance. Discussion was held regarding the total costs being uncertain at this time. A Wilczek motion to reimburse each owner \$100 was not seconded and therefore rejected. A Jaffke/Mauel motion/second for the city to not take responsibility failed on a 2-3 vote with Wagner, Jalling and Wilczek voting against. A Jalling/Wilczek motion/second to Table the issue until the total costs are known passed unanimously.

**Countryside Estates Notice of Injury and Claim: Consider and Action on Jirschele-Mahnke Claim:**

Andrea Mahnke and Tom Jirschele were present. Discussion was held regarding the ongoing complaint. The city does intend to finish the project and complete all curb/gutter and streets adjacent to their property. Much of the debate was over comments that Swiggum had said at past meetings and the acknowledgement that the Mayor and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Aldermen had met with them in good faith before and it did not go well. An opinion from our attorney and our insurance attorney recommending the dismissal of the claim at this time. A Jaffke/Jalling motion/second to disallow the claim and have staff write the letter stating as much passed unanimously.

**General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2021B, Designate Quarles and Brady as Disclosure Council:**

It is necessary to designate a Disclosure Council for the bonding arrangement. Quarles and Brady come highly recommended and the budget for the bonding issue includes these costs. A Wilczek/Mauel motion/second to designate Quarles and Brady as our Disclosure Council for the current bonding project passed unanimously.

### **Committee and Department Reports:**

**Police Committee:** Jaffke regretfully reported on the pending resignation of Chief Ibarra and Officer Juzwiak. The Committee got to meet Jimi the K-9 Officer. The Committee will meet again on June 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss the positions and decide a path forward.

**Public Works:** DPW Smith presented a written report discussing projects they have been working on. Water Dept. has been exercising the valves, 5 are not able to be turned, cleaning valves, flushed mains on Meadowview court again, chemical costs are going up and nitrate testing on our wells is complete. Sanitary Sewer, installed 6" air diffuser rubber piping to the ponds, working on a different way of phosphorous control. Streets, Dale Parker is back mowing, everyone glad for that. Winchell Construction was the lowest quote for the garage roof coming in under the threshold requiring bids. Crack and patch work quote in the works, finished cleaning up Clean Sweep, put up banners for the Senior Class, hauled a lot of topsoil, filled in vacant properties, and will seed them soon. Removed/replaced the sidewalk by Skunky's, and Prevail Bank. Cleaned the storm drains and completed the campground inspection.

**CDC:** Swiggum reported that he has been working on the Bonding with Ehlers, Growin' Owen is really pushing hard to get the flower beds caught up, the Historic Preservation Committee held their first meeting and have set some goals and objectives. Car Show is scheduled for August 21 and the Autumnfest is scheduled for October 16. The Owen Junior Fair will be held August 6-8. Property sales are going through the attorney and will be completed in the next couple of weeks. Clark County has inquired whether the city would be interested in being deeded the Senior Center building for \$1 and although not official the consensus was that we are interested.

**Library:** A copy of the Owen Public Library newsletter was handed out to the council. There are some activities planned throughout the Summer and we hope to see attendance pick up soon.

### **Disbursements/Accounts Payable:**

There was one question on the disbursements, the initial soap and sanitizer bill for the new building was taken from the building fund, in the future the departments will purchase their own. A Wilczek/Jaffke motion and second to approve the disbursements of **City:** \$20,851.67, **Water:** \$12,228.00, **Sewer:** \$5,466.94 and **TIF #4:** \$9,230.00 with a total disbursement of \$65,192.37 passed unanimously.

### **Suggested Items for Future Agendas:**

Property Line Correction, Police Committee Report, Senior Center Building and Liquor License Applications.

Mayor Milliren adjourned the meeting at 7:38pm.

Next Council meeting is Tues. June 22, 2021, at 6pm at City Hall.

Submitted by Tim Swiggum, CDC