

CITY OF OWEN COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, July 27, 2021

LOCATION: Owen City Hall 833 W. 3rd Street, Owen WI 54460

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Charles Milliren

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

Employee Attendance: Tracy Rau/Clerk, DPW Smith, and Tim Swiggum/CDC.

COMMUNITY ATTENDANCE: Gail Stuttgarten, Mary Meyer, Pete Johnson, Dennis Liepke, Andrea Mahnke, Tom Jirschele, Mark Hanson, John Wogernese, Denny Henke, Dick Goessl, Matt Riihinen, Brian Chapman/Cedar Corp., Cindy Cardinal/O-W Enterprise, Nicole Rogers/The Sentinel and Rural News.

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by Mayor Milliren at 6:00pm.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment:

John Wogernese complained about the 5th Street Construction and the poor landscaping. He said he is not able to mow his lawn due to the construction damage. Brian Chapman explained that the project did not go beyond the sidewalk and that the building on the property received a new concrete approach at no charge. DPW Smith said he would look into it the next day.

Andrea Mahnke asked when the curb and gutter would be done on “Bluebird” St., Mayor Milliren explained that it is on the agenda and will be discussed later.

Minutes:

A Wilczek/Jaffke motion/second to approve the minutes from July 13, 2021 passed unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report:

Rau explained a minor correction that will be made. A Jaffke/Mauel motion/second to approve the Treasurer’s Report passed unanimously.

5th Avenue Survey:

A legal handout was presented along with the copy of the bill presented at the last meeting. The Assessors Plat was discussed and when created required approval from the County and the State. That is the same plat being used currently. It is not certain how the properties were divided and built upon but that the lines were not what the property owners perceived. After a long discussion a Jaffke motion that the City is not responsible for any fees did not receive a second and failed. A Wilczek/Jalling motion and second to pay a total of \$338.90, to be divided among the 4 property owners passed by a 4-2 vote with Wagner and Jaffke voting no. The property owners were commended for their cooperation.

Owen Junior Fair Temporary Beer License:

A Wilczek/Jalling motion/second to approve the Temporary Beer License for August 6-8 passed unanimously.

O-W Vets Club License:

Denny Henke, Vets Club Commander, was present to speak about his displeasure with the removal of the O-W Vets Club liquor license without cause. He said that he had spoken to an attorney, and they would surely win the case if they decided to pursue it. If they did decide to fight it then where would the license come from but taking it away from another business? He wanted to know why they voted to take it away. Wilczek replied that the intent was to take the Vets Club and Woodland license back until one was ready to open. Henke said that it is not worth the fight or the attorneys’ fees and that the Vets Club will not be pursuing legal action at this time. Dick Goessl, member of the Vets Club spoke to the fact that the Vets Club is community minded, and it is unfortunate that it had to happen this way.

Operator’s License Approval:

4 licenses were up for approval from Dollar General. Jennifer Hurlebaus, Tanya Klabon, Teresa Frankiewicz and Kelsey Hoverson. A Wilczek/Martine motion/second to approve the Operator’s Licenses passed unanimously.

“Bluebird” Street-Countryside Estates:

It was questioned whether the curb and gutter will be included in the bid. Brian Chapman from Cedar Corp. assured that it will not be part of the bid. There were many questions from Mark Hanson, Andrea Mahnke and Tom Jirschele regarding the special assessments charged in the past. That discussion was not part of the agenda and has already gone to legal counsel. It was suggested that naming the street would be good moving forward. After discussion that our streets are named after trees most times the named Cedar was suggested. A Mauel/Martine motion/second to name it Cedar Street and approve sending it out to bid passed unanimously.

Business Park Design Proposal:

Swiggum explained that we have two businesses proposing to build in the Business Park. He requested that Cedar Corp. come up with a proposal for the design of street, water, sewer and stormwater retention pond for the park. A Martine/Mauel motion/second to approve a \$137,300 contract with Cedar Corp. for the design and engineering fees through the bidding process and \$6,500 for the preparation of a TEA Grant application utilizing funds from TIF #4 passed unanimously.

Bonding and Audit Update/Action:

Brian Reilly from Ehlers has informed us that we will need to hold a special meeting this Thursday to ensure that we have everything completed in order to notify the State of Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands that we will be paying that loan off at the end of August. It requires 30 day notification. A draft copy of the resolution was distributed to the council to read before the Special Meeting on July 29, 2021 at 6pm. The Final Audit for 2020 will be done soon. It required signatures verifying the accuracy which was difficult to do given the many corrections required. It will be completed soon and they will likely come to council in August.

Police Committee Update/Action:

Jaffke explained that the Police Committee met in closed session on July 22, 2021 to discuss matters with Chief Ibarra and Officer Haugstad. The items acted upon were as follows; Officers will be offered mental health services at no charge during the full term of their employment, Authorized the Chief to advertise for a 30 hour Officer position and that the resignation of Chief Ibarra is still pending. A Wilczek/Wagner motion/second to approve the actions of the Police Committee passed unanimously.

League of Municipalities Chief Executive Workshop:

Mayor Milliren informed the Council that he has registered for the LWM Chief Executive Workshop to be held in Fond du Lac on August 19 and 20.

City Hall Building-Sign and Flagpole:

Milliren reported that a local businessman might be donating a pole or the money for a new pole. Smith reported that he is waiting for proposals from those he has contacted.

Senior Center Building Update/Action:

Smith reported that he had inspected the roof and it was in decent shape. The County has approved the transfer and we should get some paperwork in the near future.

Disbursements/Accounts Payable:

No questions. A Wilczek/Jaffke motion and second to approve the disbursements of City: \$33,155.76, Water: \$1,759.57, Sewer: \$1,404.07, and TIF #4: \$25,638.34 for a total disbursement of \$61,874.09 passed unanimously.

Employee Wages:

A Wilczek/Wagner motion/second at 7:45pm to Convene into Closed Session for Consideration of Wages & Benefits Under WI S. S. 19.85(1)(c) Consideration of employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility for, passed unanimously.

A Wagner/Martine motion/second to reconvene in open session passed unanimously.

A Martine/Mauel motion/second that Tim Swiggum’s wages will be increased to \$17 per hour and he be considered a 40 hour full time employee passed by a 4-2 vote with Jalling and Wilczek voting no.

Suggested Items for Future Agendas: Police Committee, Planning

Mayor Milliren adjourned the meeting at 8:28 pm.

Next Council meeting is Tues. August 10, 2021, at 6pm at City Hall.

Submitted by Tim Swiggum, CDC