

CITY OF OWEN COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, May 14, 2024

LOCATION: City Hall

TIME: 6:00 pm

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Scott Jalling

Alderpersons: Ray Kilty(present by phone), Ken Martine, Jason Thornton; Bob Wilczek and Pam Jaffke

ATTENDANCE LIST: Clerk/Treasurer Tracy Rau, DPW Chad Smith, Deputy Kelly Booth, Chief Felman

COMMUNITY ATTENDANCE: Cindy Cardinal/ES-Enterprise Sentinel, Tom Jirschelle, Andrea Manke

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

Public Comment: Mr. Jirschelle commented on Mr. Bohl's taxes and owing thousands of dollars; and he would also like a tire plant update. The mayor will address the issues in question later in the meeting. Ms. Manke said she emailed her Alderperson along with the mayor and there is not a two-way conversation, how is this done as the public comment section of the meeting is just that?

Approve 04.23.24 Meeting Minutes: Wilczek/Jaffke motion to approve minutes as written. Motion carried.

Convene into Closed Session Case #2022 CV-26: Wilczek/Martine motion. All Yes Vote: Alderperson Mauel was absent, Motion carried at 6:07 pm.

Reconvene into Open Session: Wilczek/Jaffke motion. All Yes Vote: Alderperson Mauel was absent, Motion carried at 6:30 pm.

Announce Recommendation: Alderperson Jaffke said we received an update from the lawyer regarding Case #2022 CV-26.

City Hall Update: Clerk/Treasurer Rau and Deputy Clerk Booth gave a report on what they have been up to at the City Hall.

Residents Water: Again, discussed ways to collect money owed to city for past due water bills; different ideas from all Alderpersons. A Wilczek/Kilty motion to send in mail to any resident over \$500 to set a payment plan up within 30 days. If they do not comply with this, the next step will be a door hanger with water shut off to comply with PSC Rules. Motion carried.

FMLA: Wilczek/Martine motion to approve Lorelee Petersons request. Motion carried.

Kerry Tax Update: Tabled

Committees: Wilczek/Martine motion to give the tax-exempt number to the City Council Member appointed to each Committee. Motion carried.

Public Works Report: As of the meeting we are complete with the flushing of hydrants; working on the PSC Audit; we had a high water complaint, DPW's are not required to look for a leak in a house, before we could look into the resident filed a complaint with the PSC/Legislature, after investigation on all parts the resident along with the DPW was mailed a resolution. We found dug wells in basements; completed weed control on ponds along with oiling of eggs. The 4th Street Sewer Project from the sinking of the streets will cost approximately \$23,393.00 according to contract to fix, we need to have a Sewer Meeting in the next week to bring them up to speed and then the Council will have to approve the contract to fix. The clean sweep was held, attendance was down this year, possibly maybe get away with one dumpster for next year and call if another is needed. The Welcome Sign by Curtiss is complete, working on getting new efficient bulbs out there. We did street sweeping; talked to farmer about renting land; and Mid Country is still interested in putting up homes in Countryside Estates just need to discuss type of house that is built.

Campground Rules: Martine/Thornton motion to approve the Parks & Rec campground rules to be published for one week. Motion carried.

Welcome Sign: The sign on the South side of Hwy 29 was looked at. A Martine/Wilczek motion to see if school would be interested in fixing. Motion carried.

Mayor's Report: Excited to see what Jeff Peterson is going to do at the ballpark at Crowley Park; they started work today.

Discuss and Act on Business Park: Wilczek/Martine motion to rent 16 acres for one year at the contracted price. Motion carried.

We have been trying to get in contact with Bohl and have not heard from him in over a week. We will be renting the land (not land locked); Clerk/Treasurer Rau contacted our City Attorney, and she was advised by him to go into closed session to discuss the findings at a future meeting (if he needs to come to the meeting he will).

Other Reports: The Finance and Parks & Rec Committee Members that were present brought the rest of the Council up to date on their meetings. Our Budget is facing some unexpected expenditures this year in the amount of at least \$120,000 which the Clerk/Treasurer received an email from Prevail in regard to a loan/line of credit, and a call was placed to Brian from Ehlers with a return call requested. Once Ehlers reaches out another Finance Meeting date will be set. The future of Crowley will be developed as in the mayor's report. The dog park will not be affected; should be able to complete the dog park with staked out area of about \$7500; possible conversation in the future regarding gravel; have waste bags and dog park signs to order. The insurance was checked on. A butterfly garden was also approved under the park sign.

Disbursements/Accounts Payable: Thornton/Wilczek motion to approve. Motion carried.

Future Agenda Items: Kerry Tax Update, Closed Session, Planning, Finance, Parks & Rec

Adjourn: 8:30 pm Wilczek/Martine motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully given to the best of my ability, Kelly Booth, Deputy Clerk