

Mayor Larson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited and roll showed Councilpersons DeGross, Koosmann, Lee, Peterson, Sandow and Unruh were present. Also present were CT Rosenow, PW Director Caress, Chief Darwin, Library Director Schneider, Fire Chief Holden, Attorney Lindquist, Officer Malean, Kevin Oium, Lynn McIntyre, Bryant Christenson, Heidi Coe and Carlton DeWitt. Superintendent Tim Johnson arrived after the meeting had started.

DeGross moved and Peterson seconded a motion to approve the agenda. Voice vote carried.

Sandow moved and Unruh seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2020 Regular Council meeting and the January 27, 2020 Special Council meeting. Voice vote carried.

Unruh moved and Sandow seconded a motion to approve disbursements. Roll call vote carried with all councilpersons present voting yes.

In Public Comments, Carlton DeWitt commented that there are very few fire and ambulance personnel available during the week days and suggested when the City hired new personnel they should be required to be members of the fire and ambulance departments.

Heidi Coe of the Chamber informed the council that the Chamber has held a new officer's meeting and updated the council on the goals they have for the upcoming year.

There was no summer rec committee report.

Director Schneider gave the library report, again informing the council about the recent activities the library has been hosting. She also stated the library continues to collect donations, reminded everyone about the upcoming Leap Day Scavenger Hunt activity and present the council with the 2019 annual report.

PW Director Caress reported on the recent water main break on First St. by the Catholic Church. Caress indicated it was a time-consuming issue as there were three separate breaks over the course of three days. Caress states some of the things his department has been working on were a power issue with the street lights, cross connection inspections, fixing the snowblower and getting estimates for a new dump truck. Results for testing regarding the ongoing discolored water issue showed the poly levels were too low and will be adjusted to see if it will clear up the issue. Caress also said Well #3 would be brought back online Monday which could affect the discoloration for a bit until things settle out again.

A written Police report was submitted. Chief Darwin informed the council that he received a resignation letter from Office Rudesill and that he has a new part time officer, Tyler Hiller, currently in training. Darwin also let the council know that his department will be serving lunch at the school on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

In the Clerk-Treasurer report Rosenow stated the Clean Water Fund has closed and interim financing for the WWTP project has been paid off. Rosenow also reminded everyone that primary election was on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

In the Mayor's report, following up on the Clean Water Fund loan closing, Larson reminded the council that the City received over a million dollars between grant and principal forgiveness on the WWPT project. Larson also let the council know the City has been awarded the FEMA grant for the safe room at the fairgrounds in the amount of \$582,000 with a 10% required match by the City.

In Old Business, Keven Oium gave results of the community survey regarding the old school. There were 53 responses to the survey and of those, 60% were of the opinion that the building should be torn down.

Ouim then went on to explain that results of the survey also showed that respondents were also interested in a multi-use facility that possible contained municipal offices, police department, library and a community center and that the City would be eligible for the next CDBG grant cycle should they wish to apply for a grant to help defray costs of a new multi-use facility. This grant cycle would award up to one million dollars with a 50% match but the council would need to vote tonight in order to get the application submitted in time. Peterson moved and DeGross seconded a motion to approve applying for the CDBG grant using preliminary plans to locate the building on the current community center site. Roll Call vote showed all councilpersons voting yes.

Peterson moved and Koosmann seconded a motion to approve Amended Ordinance 2020-01: Adoption of 314-1(T)(4): Possession of Controlled Substances. Voice vote showed all councilpersons voting yes. Motion carried.

It was learned that the Dodge Police car that had been approved last November has been canceled due to lack of availability of the vehicle. Officer Malean has presented an option to purchase a 2020 Police Interceptor from Hudson Ford for \$32,500 with an additional \$10,426 required to outfit the car. Peterson moved and DeGross seconded a motion to approve the squad purchase from Hudson Ford. Roll call vote showed all councilpersons voting yes.

Councilperson Unruh informed the council that the Public Finance and Personnel committee had met with the police department with regard to applying for a COPS hiring grant which would basically be used to fund a school resource officer. In discussion, Superintendent Johnson stated that the school board was struggling to justify the need for a full-time officer and would not seek the position but would support an officer if the City chose to proceed with the grant. Mayor Larson asked three times for motion to apply for the grant with no response from the council. Since there was no motion to approve the application the item failed.

After questions regarding the additional user charge that is included in the sewer rates were raised, Ehlers was asked to re-evaluate the sewer increase that was just passed in December with the additional user charge removed. Ehlers gave the opinion that the current rates could absorb the loss of revenue from the additional charge for approximately five years. There was much discussion on the reasons the rates were originally structured this way and how to fairly charge additional units that only have one water meter instead of individual meters per household. It was determined that there is no exact science as to how to meter and charge each of these individual residences and there were pros and cons to both keeping the additional charge as well as eliminating it. Peterson moved and DeGross seconded a motion to eliminate the additional user charge. Roll call vote showed councilpersons DeGross, Koosmann, Peterson, Sandow, and Unruh voting yes. Lee voted no. Motion carried.

DeGross moved and Peterson seconded a motion to declare a Stryker power lift cot, a Zoll E Series AED and a Stryker stair chair as surplus property for the ambulance. Voice vote carried with all councilpersons voting yes. Instructions included that the items, along with the previously declared 196 ambulance should be advertised for bids in the Tribune as required by ordinance, and be placed for sale on Wisconsin Surplus Auction site.

DeGross moved and Peterson seconded a motion to adjourn. Voice vote carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shari Rosenow  
Clerk-Treasurer