

In Mayor Larson's absence, Council President Unruh called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited and roll showed Councilpersons DeGross, Koosmann, Lee, Peterson and Sandow were present. Also present were CT Rosenow, Chief Darwin, Fire Chief Holden, Lynn McIntyre, Ambulance Director Lee and Carlton DeWitt. Public Works Director Caress arrived approximately 7:05 p.m. and Anna Mewis arrived approximately 7:10 p.m.

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

Sandow moved and Lee seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2020 Regular Council meeting. Voice vote carried.

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

Fire Chief Holden updated the council on a couple of expenditures they've recently incurred.

Ambulance Director Lee asked to give her report in the Public Comments portion of the agenda instead of in New Business, so was moved up in the agenda. Lee reported that the ambulance had received two more generous donations in memory of Paula DeWitt and the cost of the new equipment they were purchasing was completely covered by donations.

There was no summer rec committee report. Unruh commented the group had met a couple weeks ago and they are changing leadership of their committee so there will be more updates in the near future.

In the Library report it was learned they have hired a part time employee and are still searching for a new director.

In the Public Works report Caress stated that LW Allen is addressing the issues with the dissolved oxygen probe and the generator at the lagoon. Councilperson Koosmann asked if Caress had gotten a bid for light replacement to LED's at the fire hall and Caress stated he'd check on it and get something by the next meeting.

A written Police report was submitted and Chief Darwin stated he's ordered 2 laptops and PPE with the grant money that was awarded. Darwin also stated that part-time officer Luppino had turned in his resignation that day.

In the Clerk-Treasurer report, Rosenow informed the council the audit has begun and will be completed mostly virtually.

There was no Mayor's report.

In Old Business, Lynn McIntyre stated that the environmental review is still being conducted and flood plain issues sorted out for the new building and they are still hoping to let bids in March to stay on schedule with construction.

In New Business, Lee moved and DeGross seconded a motion to approve the updated pre-approved bill list for 2021. Voice vote carried.

Lee moved and Sandow seconded a motion to approve the updated 2021 fee schedule. Voice vote carried.

Sadow moved and Peterson seconded a motion to approve election inspector wage increases to \$14/hour for inspectors and \$15/hour for chief inspector. Voice vote carried.

Clerk-Treasurer Rosenow presented a request for the City to purchase cell phones for the clerk and deputy clerk positions, stating they are using their personal phones for business and getting more and more requests for information texted to residents and other agencies. After discussion, DeGross moved and Peterson seconded a motion to purchase cell phones for both the clerk and deputy clerk. Voice vote carried with Sadow voting no.

A meeting was held with the police department and public safety committee regarding the potential of hiring a full-time police officer rather than attempting to hire another part time officer. Main points considered were the cost of training a part-time officer and the amount of coverage the City could provide with a third full-time officer. After considerable discussion regarding the pro's and con's, Peterson moved and DeGross seconded a motion to approve hiring a full-time officer at \$24.00/hour and to eliminate all part time positions upon hire. Roll call vote showed DeGross, Koosmann, Peterson, Sadow and Unruh voting yes. Lee voted no. Motion carried.

Lee moved and Peterson seconded a motion to approve Operator's license applications for Christian M Salsbury, Kenneth D Salsbury and Richard B Salsbury.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Shari Rosenow
Clerk-Treasurer