

City of Preston
Regular City Council Meeting
August 26, 2019

Mayor Richard Betts called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

ROLL CALL Present: R. Peterson, A. Sullivan, P. Hoffman, M. Petersen, T. Sieverding

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A motion to approve the agenda as presented. Motion made by P. Hoffman, seconded by M. Petersen. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: A motion was made by P. Hoffman to approve the consent agenda with the removal of item 5B. for discussion. Seconded by A. Sullivan. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Motion carried.

5B. APPROVE THE DOWNTOWN INCENTIVE APPLICATION: A. Sullivan stated in the letter from Lori Fey that the downtown incentive is contingent on receiving the Catalyst Grant. T. Weinschenk explained that Fey wrote the letter that way at the direction of JCEA. Generally, the group reviewing the Catalyst Grant will take into account that other work is dependent on being awarded the grant. P. Hoffman agreed. Motion was made by P. Hoffman to approve the Downtown Incentive application submitted by Lori Fey-Fey Properties LLC for the Post Office Building, the grant request of \$21,460 contingent upon the Catalyst Grant being awarded for that project. Seconded by T. Sieverding. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Motion carried.

ECIA WRITING GRANT APPLICATION: It was discussed having ECIA write the grant application to The Iowa Wastewater and Drinking Water Treatment Financial Assistance Fund for additional funding the waste water treatment facility. The costs for the grant writing will be charged towards the SRF Design Loan and will be minimal. Motion was made by P. Hoffman for ECIA to write the grant as presented. Seconded by M. Petersen. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

PAYMENT OF RETAINAGE FOR THE PLASTICS UNLIMITED SEWER RELOCATION PROJECT: Weinschenk stated that the project is completed and there have not been any problems. R. Petersen stated that they came in and got the project completed on time. Motion was made by T. Sieverding to approve Payment No. 2 – Retainage in the amount of \$2,750.00 to Anstoetter Construction. Seconded by A. Sullivan. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

LIBRARY: It was discussed if the excess FY19 dollars from the library can be applied to the FY20 budget. Weinschenk provided information to council from the Iowa Library Board regarding Trust Funds and what Councils should consider when granting the library's request. Libraries need to be specific in what the money will go towards. The general discussion of the Council was that the request to move extra funds to the Trust Account wasn't specific to what the money would be allocated to. Weinschenk explained that the library has two trust accounts, The Lambert Trust is specified to go towards children's books and technology and the Library Trust is actually two accounts that were put together. Part of the money goes towards a building fund and the other dollars are to go towards technology. The Mayor commented that the relationship between the library and the front office is going very well. P. Hoffman reviewed the numbers and how the General Fund is not in good shape and is actually in the red once the committed funds are taken out. P. Hoffman stated that it is a learning year. The Mayor requested a motion. No motion was made to move the extra money to a trust fund as requested by the library. The issue died for lack of a motion. T. Sieverding wondered what the amount is that the library is requested. Weinschenk stated \$5832.73

ELECTRIC PLANT UPDATE: Weinschenk stated that Owen and engineer with Shermco will be at the Light Plant on Tuesday, 8/27. Owen will be working with Rick as to where the new CAT radiator can be placed. Mike Andersen stated that the area had been located so a One Call does not need to happen. At this time the placement is in front of the existing cooling tank and is not the best since it will be aesthetically displeasing to shoppers as they drive up Gillett. Weinschenk stated a better location would be where the old radiator is sitting. M. Petersen agreed and stated that this had been discussed in the past. Placing the new radiator in front is just not aesthetically pleasing. Also, having the radiator in the back "out of site out of mind" is better and we wouldn't have people walking by it and messing with or

climbing it. It would be out of temptation. Weinschenk stated that even though the old generating unit is being worked on, we are still working to keep moving forward with installing the CAT unit. M. Petersen mentioned that we also need to look at the budget and see where we are with the numbers and we (R. Petersen and D. Kunau) can help get the line items defined.

UPDATE ON WESTSIDE PARK: P. Hoffman stated there really isn't much to update since there was not a meeting this month. A. Sullivan stated that there will be a Harvest Walk on October 19th. A. Sullivan is working on the flyer and registration form and people will be able to register at City Hall. Each registrant will receive a t-shirt, cup of hot cocoa and a cookie. Also going to ask the Budde's if they would like to sell pumpkin pies. Proceeds will go towards the park. A. Sullivan also wondered where we are at with quotes for the electrical at Westside. Weinschenk stated that it is on Rick's list and she will talk with him again and have something for the next meeting. M. Petersen also stated that the lights are not working in the picnic pavilion by the road on the bike path by Plastics Unlimited. A. Sullivan also stated that she thinks the light may be out by the Preston Sign when coming into town. Weinschenk stated she will leave a note for S. Heiar to see if they are on.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMITTEES: The Mayor reviewed the roles and responsibilities of committee's the Mayor and Council have assigned. The Mayor provided instances of when a committee over stepped bounds. The main points of a committee are: receive, discuss, gather and present to Council. A reminder that Chapter 21 states that when a committee is meeting to make a recommendation to council the meeting must take place in an open meeting where anyone can attend that desires to which requires an agenda posted 24 hours prior to meeting and minutes are to be recorded. If things need to be done involving city workers requests need to go through Sheryl or Teresa not directly to the City Workers. Also, if things need to go through the media it needs to go through the front office to be reviewed and submitted. Discussion continued. The Mayor stated that if a council person wants to write an open forum letter to the editor it is their right. However, articles pertaining to city business must go through the front office.

COMMUNICATION: It is important to notify City Hall if you are not going to be able to attend a City Council Meeting. We just need to be sure we have a quorum. Also please respond, at least within 24 hours, when there is a meeting request. M. Petersen said that he doesn't use a Gmail account only for council, so text him if he should read an email.

Mayor Richard Betts requested a motion to adjourn. Motion made by P. Hoffman, seconded by T. Sieverding. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.



Richard Betts, Mayor

ATTEST:



Teresa Weinschenk, City Administrator/Clerk