

Agenda  
City of Elk Run Heights  
Regular Council Meeting  
March 8, 2022 - 6:00 p.m.  
Located at Eddis Winstead Council Chambers

Mayor Smock called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call of Council Members: Present –McChane, Bass, Sallis, Wurtz, and Galbraith. Quorum present.

McChane/Sallis to approve of the March 8, 2022 agenda. Ayes-five. Motion carried.

Galbraith/Sallis to approval of Consent Agenda – a. Approve the February 8, 2022 regular meeting minutes, and February 23, 2022 special meeting minutes *b.* City Clerk’s Reports as of February 28, 2022: Budget Report, Treasurer’s Report, and Revenue and Expenditure Reports and Investment Report. *c.* Approval of Building Inspection, Library, PeopleService Sewer/Water, and Police reports. Ayes-five. Motion carried.

Sallis/Wurtz to approval of the Resolution Calendar – a. Resolution 4039 authorizing the payment of bills and transfers. *b.* Resolution 4040 a resolution of the City Council of the City of Elk Run Heights, Iowa, authorizing payment #8 to WRH, Inc.; in the amount of \$648,185.00 for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project. *c.* Resolution 4041 updating and increasing the community room rental amounts. Roll call vote: Ayes-five.

Sallis/Bass to approve appointments: Boards and commissions: Board of Adjustment – Appointed by Mayor/Approved by Council: PHIL HARRIS - New Term Expiring 01/01/2027. Ayes-five. Motion carried.

Bass/Wurtz to approve request from Mayor Smock to enter into agreement with Willett Hofmann to assist with their professional services for the Gilbertville Road/Lafayette Road reconstruction project. Ayes-five. Motion carried.

Discussion on Fireworks; it was agreed to set the dates for July 2<sup>nd</sup> until 11pm, 3<sup>rd</sup> until 11pm, and 4<sup>th</sup> until 10pm.

Discussion on city wide garage sales: It was agreed to set the dates for June 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, & 12<sup>th</sup> 2022.

Public Discussion: Councilor Sallis complimented Councilor Bass in reaching out to PCI in regard to working with the City on repairs/upgrade to a guardrail.

Engineer Reports: Weather permitting, Mayors Park should start 04/01/2022; but likely it will begin in the following weeks.

FY23 Budget Workshop: Mayor Lisa Smock explained that the budget printed for review for this workshop does not include the 1.01311% per \$1,000 levy however, the levy needs to be decided on in order to help make the bond payment for the WWTP & proceed with street projects. She strongly believes the levy this year will set a precedent for future bond payments. She explained that the levy will free up \$50K from the general fund dollars which will help repair a turning lane and/or Lafayette/Gilbertville Rd. She also explained that the Lafayette/Gilbertville construction is going to utilize the street repair expenses for the next 3 year leaving little to no additional funds for other street repairs. Councilor Mark McChane expressed that completing only half the turning lane is not logical and ultimately will cost the city more. Councilor Dennis Bass strongly suggested removing some budgeted items to complete the turning lane. Mayor Smock expressed that with the projects that remain in the budget there is not much to remove and there isn’t enough to cover the costs of repairing the turning lane fully. She also explained that a portion of the budget was reduced based upon the situation with PCI and the guardrail – with the idea that it frees up dollars for the street projects. City Attorney Heather Prendergast strongly disagreed with removing any funds from the budget for this due to the uncertainty of amounts and heavily suggested budgeting at least half of the expected expense of the rail, if not all. Councilor Gary Wurtz stated that he strongly disagreed with the levy. He suggests that the bond payment for the WWTP should be equal among households whereas levying for the payment creates an imbalance of payment. He stated he is open for discussion on an increase on the utility bills. Mayor Smock agrees the City could bill the citizens an equal amount for the \$50K however, levying would help the elderly and lower assessed homes tremendously leaving only a \$4-\$6 difference between

higher and lower assessed homes. Councilor David Galbraith believes it only makes financial sense to levy pointing out that the budget is tight and only will be tighter without it. Councilor McChane disagrees with the levy and wants to find a way make it more equal among citizens. Councilor Bass stated it is the council's job to remove suggested budgeted projects that do not need immediate attention to put towards the turning lane and help offset what the citizens are already paying for the WWTP. Smock reiterated that without the levy the turning lane will only be half completed. She also explained that removing suggested projects will leave those projects to be completed in future years with an even tighter budget due to the Lafayette/Gilbertville construction. Smock pointed out that even if the budget remains as is, it still makes sense to levy for the \$50K so the City can put it towards Lafayette/Gilbertville reconstruction that is to start in the near future and that the City is still short in funds to pay for. Councilor Wurtz suggests for this year's budget, the City remains as conservative as possible as there are no projects that needs immediate attention. Councilor Heather Sallis states that regardless of the decision today, the Council is eventually going to have to commit to something in order to finically invest in future payments, projects, and the City's longevity. Mayor Smock then asked each Council members for a yes or no on the levy; 3 no's and 2 yeses with a result of no levy, budgeting for the entire guardrail repair, and leaving the rest of the budget as is.

Wurtz/Galbraith to adjourn at 7:24 p.m. Ayes-five. Motion carried.

Attest:

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Lisa Smock, Mayor

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Julie Eastman, City Clerk