

City of Elk Run Heights
Regular Council Meeting
August 8, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.
Located at Eddis Winstead Council Chambers

The City Council of the City of Elk Run Heights, Iowa met in regular session, according to law, the rules of said Council and prior notice given each member thereof, in the Council Chambers of City Hall of Elk Run Heights, Iowa at 6: 00 p.m. on the above date. Council members present in order or roll call: McChane, Bass, Sallis, Wurtz, and Galbraith. Quorum present.

Sallis/Bass to approve the August 8, 2023 agenda. Ayes-five. Motion carried.

Galbraith/Sallis to approve the consent agenda: a. Approve the July 11, 2023 regular meeting minutes b. City Clerk's Reports as of July 31, 2023: Budget Report, Treasurer's Report, and Revenue and Expenditure Reports and Investment Report. c. Approval of Department reports: Building Inspection, PeopleService Sewer/Water reports, and Police. d. Alcohol Permit City of Elk Run Heights - Creek Day's – effective 08/12/2023 Ayes-five. Motion carried.

Bass/Wurtz to approve the resolution calendar: a. Resolution 4127 approving final completion of the Mayor's Park Trail Project b. Resolution 4128 a resolution of the City Council of the City of Elk Run Heights, Iowa, authorizing payment #22 to WRH, Inc.; in the amount of \$45,244.70 for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project c. Resolution 4129 authorizing the payment of bills and transfers. Bass pulled resolution 4129 and questioned an invoice for Kugler Construction for \$31,000.00. Mayor Smock responded that it is an invoice for the shelter that will be built out of our grant funds, and this was approved in Fiscal Year 2023, but we had not found a contractor that would build within our budget, additionally she explained this was sent in an email to Council before the meeting. Bass then asked about the invoice for dog stations for the park. Smock explained these were replacements for the stations that were broken in the vandalism. Roll call vote: Ayes-five.

Sallis/McChane to approve Ordinance 281 an Ordinance amending the Code Of Ordinances of the City of Elk Run Heights, Iowa, by amending Chapter 99, Sewer Service Charges, first reading. City Clerk Eastman explained the ordinance is now including the annual costs for the Capital Improvement Fee. Roll call vote: Ayes-five

Public Discussion: None

Review of Review of FY23 Annual Finance Report

Review of FY23 Street Finance Report

Discussion/Possible action: Approving the language for vote on ballot regarding staggered terms for council members: *Shall the City of Elk Run Heights, Iowa, change the term of office for the council members from two (2) year unstaggered to four (4) year staggered terms pursuant to Iowa Code 376.2 (3), effective January 1, 2024. Mayor Smock explained that if this gets voted in, two council members would be up for election one election year, and three council members would be the following election year. Smock verified this is only for Council members and not the Mayor. Councilor Wurtz stated he prefers having all five Council members and the Mayor reviewed by residents every two years. Councilor Bass stated he feels four-year terms is a good way to prevent all new members in one year, which would fall heavily back on the City Clerk. Councilor Sallis added she likes the staggered as well. Councilor Galbraith agreed. City Clerk Eastman pointed out there are only a couple of cities in Iowa who do not have staggered terms due to the impact it could have on the local government. Smock emphasized the importance of having someone on council or as Mayor who has some experience with city government, and this is protection for the city for years to come. Councilor McChane pointed out the point of this discussion is to decide if it goes on the ballot, stating it should be up to the residents either way. Ayes-five. Motion carried.

Discussion: Northeastern Industrial reroute. Mayor Smock stated she serves on the Executive Board Committee for INRCOG and the reroute project has been moving forward. She explained there are monies programed into the STBG grant and if we pass on it, they will no longer be available to us for the design and environmental study. Smock asked Brian Schoon and Nick Fratzke with INRCOG to come discuss a recent meeting regarding funding opportunities to get through this next phase of the study. There is a grant

available that will cover the majority of the funds for the small communities involved. Fratzke explained there is a grandfather clause allowing this funding to cover the next stages. With the larger cities covering the bulk of the remaining cost, Elk Run Heights would be looking at an estimated cost of \$7,500.00. Smock interjected the possibility of this project having a positive financial impact for the city. Adding there is hopes of getting a grant that will cover 80% of construction costs, and it would potentially be on a ten-year timeline.

Councilor Wurtz stated that this topic has been in discussion for several years and wants to know if it will ever become a reality. Schoon explained that cost is a major issue but there are also environmental and political issues as well, which all depends on what is found in the study. But he would rather have the small cities be a part of the process rather than have it presented to them. Schoon stated our city has been great at participating and being present which doesn't mean things will go in our favor, but it means you have an opportunity. Schoon added that as a resident of Elk Run Heights knowing we are taking initiative to be a part of the process is a comfort because if it keeps moving forward and we aren't involved that means we aren't prepared.

Mayor Smock asked Council to commit to roughly \$7,500.00 for the study and suggested we use some of the reserves from Road Use Tax to pay this when the time comes. The council agreed.

Schoon commented that that Mayor and Clerk are very involved with things at INRCOG which helps the community stay on top of opportunities.

Discussion: Water and Sewer Rates. City Clerk Eastman explained the reserves from last fiscal year and recommended we not make any increases until the plant is fully up and running for at least six months.

Set the date of special meeting to approve Local Option Sales Tax readoption and ballot information. City Clerk Eastman explained there will need to be a special meeting to adopt the verbiage for the LOST option on the ballot. The date was set for August 28, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.

Engineer Reports. None.

Mayor's Reports: Mayor Smock updated Council that the sewer plant is at substantial completion as of August 2, and final completion is coming up once the final punch list is complete. Once it is all accepted and complete, we will have a grand opening this fall!

Smock also stated that will be a new business coming to Plaza Drive soon, which is exciting.

Things are moving forward with the property behind Elk Run School.

The Mayor, Clerk, and committee were able to raise over \$8,500.00 in donations for Elk Run Creek Days from local businesses! Thank you to all our sponsors!

Smock asked if Council is interested in having the speed camera study on the next agenda. It was agreed to have this item added to the agenda.

Smock addressed a previous question from Councilor Wurtz regarding cameras in other cities parks.

Waterloo would have them at all parks if there was WIFI available to do so. Waterloo Schools has them at all of their parks/playgrounds. In addition, the clerk did a quick question on clerknet and there were six or seven small communities that have cameras in the parks as well.

Council Reports. Councilor Wurtz stated that his relative was in the park and saw someone sitting in the creek drinking beer and throwing their cans and trash in the creek. Mayor Smock responded if she had gotten a call, she would have been happy to go down there and address this or the non-emergency number could be called if this happens again.

Wurtz stated he spent several hours with the long-time former Mayor and had conversations on all topics of the city. Asserting he had opinions on a few areas that he would discuss further at a later date.

Sallis/McChane to adjourn at 6:54 p.m. Ayes-five. Motion carried.

Attest:

Lisa Smock, Mayor

Julie Eastman, City Clerk