

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

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

Bass/Sallis to approve of the February 8, 2022 Agenda. Ayes-five. Motion carried.

Galbraith/Sallis to approve of Consent Agenda – a. Approve the January 11, 2022 regular meeting minutes b. City Clerk’s Reports as of January 31, 2022: Budget Report, Treasurer’s Report, Revenue and Expenditure Reports and Investment Report. c. Approval of Building Inspection, PeopleService Sewer/Water, and Police reports. Ayes-five. Motion carried.

Sallis/Wurtz to approve of the Resolution Calendar – a. Resolution 4031 authorizing the payment of bills and transfers b. Resolution 4032 approving appointment of Julie Eastman as City Clerk, appointed by Council c. Resolution 4033 approving Mayor to sign a 28E Agreement for road maintenance on South Elk Run Road with Black Hawk County Engineering, declaring a fee of \$350.00 per year d. Resolution 4034 setting compensation Public Works position. Roll call vote: Ayes-five.

Bass/McChane to open public hearing regarding the maximum tax dollars from certain levies for FY23 Budget at 6:02 p.m. Ayes-Five. Motion carried. Proof of publication on file and no public comment received. Sallis/Bass to close at 6:03 p.m. Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

Sallis/Galbraith to approve resolution 4035 approving the maximum tax dollars from certain levies for the FY23 Budget. Roll call vote: Ayes-Five

Sallis/McChane to approve resolution 4036 setting the date of Public Hearing to approve the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 budget for March 8, 2022. Roll call vote: Ayes-Five.

Discussion/Possible Action: Repairs to S. Elk Run Road bridge guardrail in the amount of \$28,163.00. Catherine Nicholas with Black Hawk County Engineering presented Council with the information regarding the damaged guardrail. Providing pictures of the damage and proposed replacements. Councilor Bass asked about the person who did the damage. It was explained that Black Hawk County had no records of an accident, and City Clerk Eastman has looked into it in the Fall and there is no accident report with the Evansdale Police Department.

Wurtz/Bass to approve resolution 4037 approving Mayor to sign into contract with Black Hawk Engineering to replace the guardrails on South Elk Run Road in an amount not to exceed \$28,163.00. Roll call vote: Ayes-Five.

Request from PeopleService to purchase impeller for sludge hauling pump at the wastewater treatment facility from Electric Pump in an amount not to exceed \$2,327.00. Jordan Cooper with PeopleService explained the need to replace the piece due to the amount of time it takes to pump the tanks, Nutri-Ject stated in a letter there will be an additional charge if the next job takes the additional time. Cooper explained the impeller may be able to be used somewhere else after the new plant is in working condition. Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

FY23 Budget Workshop. Police Chief Dean spoke on behalf of the Evansdale Police Department stating he has spoken to his Council and voiced his opinion as to not implementing a raise in the contract price for FY23. Noting that they will make that final decision, but he is advocating for the City of Elk Run Heights after seeing the increases over time. Councilor Wurtz pointed out that he was the person who asked the Clerk for the information to be put together proving the price increase history for both Evansdale and Black Hawk County. Wurtz stated the last thing he is intending to do by raising these concerns is to bring a back and forth poaching between the two entities; acknowledging they too have a working relationship. Chief Dean agreed, stating that everyone feels the same way. Adding how much the department appreciates and enjoys providing

service to our community, and truly wants to continue doing so. Mayor Smock stated she has spoken to Mayor Kobliska and to Black Hawk County Sheriff's Office, and also two Council members of Evansdale. Smock explained the two Evansdale Council members were implying they want to see a large increase in the contract. And in speaking with the B.H. County Sheriff they are uninterested in bidding against anyone, but they are willing to provide the service if we request them to do so. Council began discussing the options. Mayor Smock began the workshop by pointing out some areas in the budget she wants to discuss. The first of which being a debt service levy, which is a in the vicinity of 1.01311% per \$1,000 of taxable property values. This debt service would go towards the Sewer Note payment of \$92,100.00. Additionally, there is two levies added which can pay for employee benefits, IPERS, and FICA. These would be another 1.08242% per \$1,000 of taxable property values. These are all up for debate and not set in stone, it is the Council's responsibility to decide if these are implemented. The Mayor went on to explain the employee wage increases based on the reviews performed and the other requests from the departments.

City Clerk Eastman began discussing the General Fund revenues; going over each line and explaining the amounts entered and how they were determined. Council discussed the possibility of raising the rates for the community room rentals, acknowledging these have been the same rates for several years. Eastman stated the expenses have increased for the upkeep, informing Council the supplies the City has always kept in the room were not previously expended to the community room but rather absorbed in the City Hall budget. After discussions ended, it was decided to raise the rates to \$50.00 for residents, and \$100.00 for non-residents. Councilor Wurtz questioned the intentions of community days, asking if it is a community paid event. Smock responded the event will be held yearly, and it is the full intent of the committee to have it self-funded within a few years.

Eastman explained the property tax dollars included in the bottom-line General Fund Revenues does include the increased levy taxes. If Council were to not vote to implement it the General Fund Revenues would decrease by \$51,802.00. Eastman continued on to the General Fund expense lines, going over them one by one. Mayor Smock discussed adding some rip rap into the creek, this budget includes \$10,000.00 for this. It was mentioned to paint the community room and put in new windows. Smock asked Council to add additional dollars for Christmas decorations so there can be a community gathering for the residents. Councilor Wurtz mentioned the wreaths around town needing to have new lights. There was discussion of getting new office furniture for City Hall.

City Clerk Eastman explained the transfer portion of the General Fund. First, \$50,000.00 to the Gilbertville/Lafayette Road Project Fund, \$5,000.00 towards equipment replacement for the park budget, \$21,000.00 toward debt service payment for the Wastewater Treatment Plant, and \$10,000.00 toward the vehicle replacement fund. Last there are some road projects that need to be done and there is \$23,000.00 toward repairing the turning lane on Dubuque Road and Plaza Drive. Local Option Sales Tax dollar disbursements: \$75,000.00 to Gilbertville/Lafayette Road Project Fund, \$39,283.00 for Gilbertville Road and Plaza Drive road repairs, \$23,000.00 to Dubuque Road turning lane repairs, \$5,000.00 for speed bumps, \$20,760 toward debt service payment for the Wastewater Treatment Plant, and \$28,163.00 to BH Co. Engineering for replacing the guardrail on S. Elk Run Road. Discussions concluded and it was determined that there will be another budget meeting on February 23 at 5:30.

Wurtz/McChane to adjourn at 8:43 p.m. Ayes-five. Motion carried.

Attest:

Lisa Smock, Mayor

Julie Eastman, City Clerk