

City of Elk Run Heights
Regular Council Meeting
Eddis Winstead Council Chambers
September 10, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Swope, Sr. called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call of Council Members Present –Bass, Schellhorn, Smock, Ratchford, Wilson. Quorum present.

Ratchford/Bass motion to approve the September 10, 2019 agenda. Ayes–Five. Motion carried.

Schellhorn/Ratchford motion approve the following items on the September 10, 2019 consent Agenda. a. Approve the August 13, 2019 regular meeting minutes. b. City Clerk’s Reports, Budget Report, Treasurer’s Report, Fund Report, Revenue and Expenditure Reports as of August 31, 2019. Approval of Building Inspection and Police Department reports. Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

Ratchford/Smock to approve Resolution 2965 authorizing the payment of bills and transfers. Councilor Schellhorn asked if the amount paid to Deer and Company included the trade-in of the old tractor. City Clerk Eastman responded it did include the trade-in. Councilor Bass questioned a bill that referenced the incorrect project. City Clerk explained it is correct but has a reference in the software that is incorrect And will get the reference removed so it no longer auto populates in the reports. Schellhorn then asked why the cell phone reimbursements were paid twice. City Clerk explained that the cell phones were not on the previous month’s bills, so they were prepaid in the same month. Roll call vote: Ayes-Five.

Ratchford/Wilson to approve Resolution 2966 signatories at bank, adding Sarah Peverill. Roll call vote: Ayes-Five.

Ratchford/Bass to approve Resolution 2967 approving pay request #1 to Baker Enterprises, Waverly, Iowa, for the Gilbertville Road Water Main Improvement Project in the amount of \$40,869.00. Roll call vote: Ayes-Five.

Ratchford/Wilson to approve Resolution 2968 approving change order #2 in the amount of \$2,175.00 to Baker Construction for the Gilbertville Road Water Main Improvement Project. City Engineer, Mike Dryden explained that there is a sanitary sewer line running along the bottom of the ditch that is occupying the same space as the proposed water main, therefore, he had to shift the water main a couple of feet to avoid the sanitary sewer line. Councilor Bass asked where the sanitary sewer line ran to. Mike responded they could not pinpoint exactly where it is coming from or going to. Councilor Smock asked what it would cost to find out more information about the sewer line. Mike stated he was not positive but felt it would be a low cost. Roll call vote: Ayes-Five.

Bass/Schellhorn to approve Resolution 2969 approving pay request #2 to Baker Enterprises, Waverly, Iowa, for the Gilbertville Road Water Main Improvement Project in the amount of \$94,897.00. Roll call vote: Ayes-Five. Councilor Schellhorn questioned the amount of the request on the agenda compared to the resolution. City Clerk Eastman stated there was an entry error and the correct amount to be paid is \$90,152.15. Schellhorn/Bass to rescind motion to approve resolution 2969. Roll call: Ayes-Five. Ratchford/Schellhorn to approve amended resolution 2969 in the amount of \$90,152.15. Roll call: Ayes-Five.

Ratchford/Schellhorn to approve request from City Clerk to begin the recodification process with Simmering Cory with a pay schedule of Down payment - \$1,500, Draft payment – \$2,000 and, Final

payment - \$2,500. Having the down payment out of FY20 budget and budgeting the remainder of the payments for FY21. Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

Bass/Ratchford to approve request for approval of the MS4 NPDES permit application and for Mayor Swope to sign application on behalf of the City. Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

Discussion/Possible action: Amending the language in Chapter 13.04.200 Water Service System, Chapter 13.16.100 Wastewater Treatment and, Chapter 13.24.162 Sanitary disposal of Garbage and Refuse by changing the language to state that the rate changes will be done by an ordinance rather than by resolution. City Clerk Eastman explained that the language needed to be updated because the City Code cannot be changed by resolution but by an ordinance. Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

Smock/Ratchford to set the date of Public Hearing regarding the amendment to the language of the water, sewer, and garbage rate ordinances for October 8, 2019. Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

Discussion/Possible action: Amending the language in Chapter 13.04.200 Water Service System, Chapter 13.16.100 Wastewater Treatment and, Chapter 13.24.162 Sanitary disposal of Garbage and Refuse by removing statement of yearly review for rate changes. Councilor Schellhorn asked what will replace this part of the Code. City Clerk Eastman responded there would not be anything added; it is not a requirement. Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

Smock/Bass to set the date of Public Hearing regarding changing water, sewer, and garbage rate ordinances to remove annual review date and provide for rate changes for October 8, 2019. Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

Discussion/Possible action: Options for affordable ash tree removal for the citizens. Councilor Wilson stated there are ash trees all over the city that are just hanging there, and no one can afford to take them down. With Wilson wanting to partake in the beautification of the community, he would like to obtain quotes from local tree trimming businesses that will hopefully include discounted rates. Councilor Ratchford stated there have been multiple taken down recently; and unfortunately, the tree trimming companies are booked to the max this time of year which will make it less likely to get much of a discount. Wilson said he will spend some time obtaining quotes.

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 to four (4) year staggered terms pursuant to Iowa Code 376.2 (3), effective January 1, 2022." Ratchford/Bass to approve ballot language. Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

Discussion/Possible action: Change regular council meetings from once a month on the 2nd Tuesday to twice a month. Councilor Ratchford stated he does not feel it will be necessary; it will only cost the taxpayers more money. Councilor Schellhorn said he is understanding the idea of it with all the upcoming sewer plant project. Councilor Smock added we could stay with one meeting a month, but everyone should be prepared for a special meeting. Smock/Wilson motion to anticipate extra meetings, but not to schedule an additional meeting each month. Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

Public discussion: Non-agenda items: A resident asked who has the authority to call a special meeting. It was agreed the Mayor will call special meetings. Tom James was acknowledged for doing a great job cleaning up and getting things done after the storm. A resident asked if the pedestrian area will be black topped since Lafayette was black topped. City Engineer, Mike Dryden respond it is in the 5-year plan; essentially it will be paved and have sidewalks. A resident asked if we have purchased a new mower yet. Mayor Swope answered no, not yet. A resident then inquired about the home at 100 Toneff being

hazardous. Mayor stated the Code Enforcement Officer will be taking the steps needed to proceed to deem it a hazardous house, but explained it is a long process.

Mayors/Council/Engineer Reports: Mayor Swope highly recommends that the City consider purchasing generators for the Plaza Dr. and Lafayette lift stations and get a small portable one. Councilor Ratchford stated he was under the impression it was state mandated there be a generator at every lift station. City Engineer, Mike Dryden stated he did not believe it is mandated, but at some point, it could be. Councilor Bass asked if it is possible to file for grants for the generators. Mayor informed council the City has applied for grants for generators two times and was turned down both times. Ratchford stated the City should begin obtaining bids for them or even see if any small towns are upgrading and willing to sell functioning generators.

Moving forward Mayor Swope informed the residents he found someone to take care of the trees at the diversion channel by the railroad track at a reduced cost. The same person will be taking the dirt out of the culvert on Plaza Dr. Councilor Bass asked if there is anything Tom can do with the new tractor to get the culverts done. Mayor pointed out there have been a few culverts that Tom has taken care of. Councilor Schellhorn asked about the railroad crossing at N. Elk Run Road being completed. Dryden responded it will be taken care of in October, which should take about 3 days.

Ratchford/Wilson to adjourn at 7:57 p.m. Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

Attest:

Tim Swope, Sr., Mayor

Julie Eastman, City Clerk