

Mayor Larson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited and roll showed Councilpersons DeGross, Koosmann, Lee, Peterson, Sandow and Unruh were present. Also present were CT Rosenow, Chief Darwin, Public Works Director Caress, Fire Chief Holden, Lynn McIntyre, Anna Mewis, Vickie Schmidt, Brent Standaert, Kevin Fry and Carlton DeWitt.

DeGross moved and Peterson seconded a motion to approve the agenda. Voice vote carried.

Lee moved and Unruh seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2021 Regular Council meeting. Voice vote carried.

Peterson moved and DeGross seconded a motion to approve disbursements. Roll call vote carried with all councilpersons present voting yes.

In Public Comments, Anna Mewis asked the council to consider a change to City ordinances to allow chickens in residential areas and also asked to have some discussions between the library board and council regarding current operations and the new municipal building. It was decided that a joint meeting between the council and library board would be held on March 8th at 6:00 p.m. and the Public Relations & Community Development committee would meet immediately following, to discuss the chicken ordinance.

In the summer rec committee report Brent Standaert stated he will be stepping down from the program and introduced Kevin Fry who will be taking over the summer rec duties. Members of the council thanked Standaert for his contributions to the program and also questioned when the scoreboards would be installed. Fry indicated the new committee members will work with public works to get the scoreboards done prior to the season starting.

Library board member Vickie Schmidt stated in the absence of a director she will begin giving the monthly library report. It was learned that the board is struggling to find a director and they are doing the best they can to keep the library open as many hours as possible without a full-time employee.

In the Public Works report Caress stated that in the recent extreme cold, there were problems with the generators so he will be bringing some prices of preventative maintenance contracts on the generators for the council to consider to the next meeting. Caress also noted the new dump truck will be ready in the next week, they will be working to repair a water leak that has surfaced on Syme Ave and he's started a City-wide order for residents to run water due to the extreme cold and depth of frost in the streets. Carlton DeWitt stated he's noticed a large amount of sand in the water filter at his residence and questioned whether Caress has received any other similar complaints. Caress stated he is in the process of testing the water from a residence across the street from DeWitt's and will continue to monitor the situation. There has been one application received for the recycling center attendant position but no action has been taken and the possibility of a different identification system for the recycling center was proposed. It was determined that the Parks & Rec committee that is meeting on March 8th could also look into the ID process and make a recommendation to the full council.

A written Police report was submitted and Chief Darwin stated the driver's seat in the 2014 squad is getting torn up from items on officers' duty belts and asked to replace the seat. In discussion on cost of replacing the seat, Sandow commented he was aware of some individuals that could possibly recover the seat and would send Chief Darwin some options. Officer Justin Malean introduced himself and thanked the council for giving him the opportunity to pursue the full-time position with the City.

There was no Clerk-Treasurer report.

There was no Mayor's report.

In Old Business, Lynn McIntyre stated that the CSM's have been completed on the properties for the new building and the environmental report would be finished by early March. Cedar is working on the bid package for the new building and will work on bidding documents for the old school demo at the same time, although the projects would have to be bid separately. It is estimated bids will be ready to go out by the end of March or beginning of April.

In New Business, Kevin Oium stated they are still working on the generator issue at the lagoon and there will be some contingency money left in the budget that will possibly be spent on a line locator and brush mower and recommended approving the final pay request to August Winter & Sons. DeGross moved and Peterson seconded a motion to approve payment of \$40,707.35 to August Winter & Sons for the WWTP project. Roll call vote showed all councilpersons voting yes. Motion carried.

Chief Darwin explained there have recently been some issues with snowmobiles on school property which has raised concern with them driving on the back side of Hinman Park between E. Oak St. and Maple St. City ordinance does not allow snowmobiles in the parks and Chief Darwin said he'd spoken to Pete Johnston who stated if the City allowed a pathway on the east side of Hinman Park, the snowmobile club would be willing to mark it with signs as they do the rest of the trails. After discussion, Unruh moved and DeGross seconded a motion to pass a resolution to allow a pathway for snowmobile use on the east side of Hinman Park. Voice vote carried.

Lee moved and Peterson seconded a motion to approve Operator's license applications for Gabriella M Loenser and Joshua L Eads. Voice vote carried.

DeGross moved and Peterson seconded a motion to adjourn. Voice vote carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Shari Rosenow
Clerk-Treasurer