

Mayor Unruh called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited and roll showed Councilpersons DeGross, Kletscher, Olson, Ross and Sandow were present. Lee was absent. Also present were CT Rosenow, Police Chief Klatt, PW Director Caress, Fire Chief Holden, Library Director Karlson, Lynn McIntyre, Kevin Oium, Tom Aebly, Lois Kilde, Kristin Newton, Al Schrank, Amy Roemhild, Randi Hansen, Carlton DeWitt and other members of the public.

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

Olson moved and Kletscher seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2023 Regular meeting. Voice vote showed all councilpersons present voting yes.

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

There were no Public Comments.

Kevin Fry of the Summer Rec committee was present to give a report and have discussion regarding the program. It was noted that the committee has approximately \$12,000 in their bank account which they plan to use to purchase new jerseys and replace some equipment in 2024. Fry indicated that the batting cages that were approved by the council have been delayed, as the committee is not in favor of the location that was approved. The topic will be revisited in the spring. Concerns about practice time, equipment replacement for in-town league and a master schedule for field use were discussed which Fry will bring back to the full committee for further considerations.

In the Library report, Director Karlson reported walk-in visits and circulation are up for 2023 in comparison to 2022. November had 624 patrons, there were over 180 participants at the Christmas on Oak St event and a partnership with the HS library will start in January for a teen reading program.

In the Public Works report, Caress gave a status update of the ongoing projects at the fire hall and reported the new recycling program is up and running and going well so far. It will be a learning curve for both residents and the City until a few months of the new system show what projected volume will be and how many containers will be needed.

A written Police report was submitted by Chief Klatt. Klatt also reported he has approximately \$2,000 in unspent budget and is researching the purchase of cameras for the municipal building.

There was no Clerk-Treasurer's report.

There was no Mayor's report.

In Old Business, it was learned that the potential buyer for the old school property is no longer interested, so the property will go back to an active listing and the saddle club sale is complete.

Kevin Oium of Cedar Corporation updated the council that the gutters and downspouts on the municipal building have been reconfigured and will be completed in the next couple weeks. Oium will work with Kletscher to go through the proposed trench drains and quote from Skid Steer Guy for those changes/repairs. No action was taken.

Kletscher requested to revisit the vote at the October meeting to pursue changing the City logo, stating Carlton DeWitt was not present at that meeting to answer questions. DeWitt will get the council a cost estimate of letting the City use the current logo, for action at the January meeting.

Sadow stated he would like the council to revert back to the way public comments were handled at regular meetings in the past, compared to requiring written comments be submitted prior to the meeting. After discussion, Sadow moved and Olson seconded a motion to remove the written public comment requirement and open back up to oral public comments at the regular monthly meeting. Voice vote carried with DeGross voting no.

In discussion on the dog park, Mayor Unruh reiterated that waste bags that were purchased for the park have been turned over to the Public Works department and there should be enough to last for at least a couple years. Unruh stated there has not been any update on a grant application that had been submitted which could help with expenses of the park's operations going forward. No further action was taken.

In discussion/updates on maintenance and warranty issues at the municipal building, it was learned that ongoing lighting issues in the library have been addressed and the last major item was drywall and paint issues. It was suggested that pursuing an independent option to fix the paint issues would be the best place to start and Caress and Rosenow would work with TEM Paint and Stain on a quote to repaint the interior of the building.

Mayor Unruh stated at the council's request, he'd reached out to the DOT regarding the possibility of putting in a 4-way stop at the intersection of Oak St and First St. The DOT conclusion is they would be willing to implement a 4-way stop, but it would require new poles on those corners and warning signs to the east and west of the intersection. After discussion, Kletscher moved and Ross seconded a motion to pursue options with the DOT to change the intersection to a 4-way stop with no decision being made until design options are considered. Voice vote carried with Sadow voting no.

In New Business, Mayor Unruh stated the council decided during budget discussions to raise the rent charged to the ADRC to \$5,000/annually for use of the community center space 4 days/week for the senior nutrition program. That amount was adjusted to \$400/month in the contract presented to the County. Representatives of the County ADRC were present to ask the council to reconsider the increase, stating their program could not afford that monthly fee. After much discussion, Kletscher moved and Olson seconded a motion to extend the current \$250/monthly rent on a trial basis for three months, with DeGross doing a walk through with participants of the program to further explain cleaning expectations of the space. Voice vote showed all councilpersons present voting yes.

Chief Klatt indicated he'd met with Fire Chief Holden regarding some emergency management upgrades that could be done at the fire hall which would allow that space to be used as a command center in the event of an emergency where the municipal building was left without power. Kletscher moved and Sadow seconded a motion to designate ARPA funds to purchase a WIFI system, a video conferencing system, spend up to \$500 on a larger tv and up to \$1,000 for a switch to be installed to run the systems. Roll call vote showed DeGross, Kletscher, Ross and Sadow voting yes, and Olson abstaining. Lee was absent. Motion carried.

Kletscher moved and Ross seconded a motion to designate \$30,000 to the fire department for the purchase of the new fire truck and \$12,000 for the municipal building repairs/updates being done at the fire hall from ARPA funds. Roll call vote showed DeGross, Kletscher, Ross and Sadow voting yes, Olson abstaining and Lee absent. Motion carried.

DeGross moved and Sandow seconded a motion to declare 1995 International fire engine as surplus property. Voice vote carried.

DeGross moved Kletscher seconded a motion to approve 3 new sets of turn out gear, a new mobile radio for the '06 Spartan engine and hose fitting and flange mounting plate/kit for the fire department. Roll call vote showed all councilpersons present voting yes. Motion carried.

Unruh explained that Caress presented a request for repairs to the 2011 Grasshopper lawnmower which totaled over \$2,400. Unruh questioned whether it was better to spend that much on repairs to a 12-year-old mower or to use it as trade in, with a value of \$3000, toward the purchase of a new one. Olson moved and Sandow seconded a motion to trade in the 2011 Grasshopper mower and purchase a 2023 Grasshopper mower for \$15,950. Roll call vote showed all councilpersons present voting yes. Motion carried.

DeGross moved and Sandow seconded a motion to approve the 2024-2025 election inspector appointments. Voice vote carried with all councilpersons present voting yes.

DeGross moved and Ross seconded a motion to approve the updated ambulance bylaws. Voice vote carried with Olson abstaining.

Kletscher moved and Olson seconded a motion to approve the 2024 fee schedule. Voice vote carried.

Olson moved and Ross seconded a motion to approve the 2024 pre-approved bill list. Voice vote carried.

It was pointed out that the January meeting fell on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, but no action was taken to move the meeting from that date.

DeGross moved and Olson seconded a motion to approve Operator's License application for Mellisa A.M. Massey. Voice vote carried with Kletscher abstaining.

At 9:15 p.m. DeGross moved and Olson seconded a motion to adjourn. Voice vote carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shari Rosenow  
Clerk Treasurer