

The Wells City Council held their regular meeting on Monday, April 23, with Mayor John P. Herman presiding and all council members in attendance as well as City Clerk Dolly Schultz and Deputy Clerk Deb Redman.

Members of the Fire Dept. were present to update council on their progress regarding a new fire truck and safety equipment. Chuck Schulenberg spoke on behalf of the department and noted that a FEMA grant is being applied for, which would include \$200,000 for a truck and \$36,335 for equipment. The application must be submitted by May 2 and according to the requirements, it must include a letter from the City whereby they agree to pay 10% or \$23,633.50 of the amount of the grant if awarded. Motion by Carroll, seconded by Corbin and carried to have the letter of intent prepared and signed by the Mayor and appropriate representative of the Fire Dept.

Award notifications will be July 30, August 31 and Sept. 30. A motion was made by Carroll, seconded by Gaines and carried to call for bids until Sept. 3, with a bid opening of Oct. 1. However, if we find out that we have not been approved for the grant prior to this time frame, bids could be let earlier.

The TIF 1-1 hearing was opened by Mayor Herman who introduced Dick Asleson of Juran & Moody. Asleson explained to the council the purpose of the hearing, which was to consider an amendment that would increase the budget for that particular district. Because of a bill pending in Legislature, amending a district would be prohibited after May 1 and all monies within the district would have to be physically spent by the end of this year. Thus the proposed amendment now, which would commit all funds expected to be produced through 2007.

Following discussion, a motion was entertained by Schultz, seconded by Carroll and carried to adopt Resolution 2001-03, amending the Tax Increment Financing Plan for Downtown Development District #1. A copy is on file in the Clerk's office.

Dave Buesing, representing Wells Concrete Products Co., briefed the council on their plans to expand their business by erecting two more buildings just to the north of their existing facility. The estimated cost of this project is approximately \$3 million and this is where Mr. Asleson again came into play. He discussed and proposed the option of creating a new TIF district. This would be a "pay as you go" district with projected yearly tax increments of approximately \$35,000.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Schultz, seconded by Carroll and carried to hold a public hearing to establish the new district on June 18 at 5 PM in the council chambers.

Bill Sayre of Bolton & Menk updated the council on the bid results on the sewer improvement project from Half Moon Road to 4th Ave. SW. Nine bids were received and reviewed. Motion by Schultz, seconded by Corbin and carried to award the contract to the low bidder, Brunz Construction of Madison Lake, MN in the amount of \$63,964.80. Sayre will notify the bidder of the award and set up a pre-construction meeting.

Also discussed the need for easements from affected property owners along the sewer replacement line. On a motion by Gaines, seconded by Corbin and carried, it was decided to obtain these easements verbally and follow up with the appropriate legal paperwork.

Council approved a request to use the kids at the Recycling Center for extra summer help on the street department at 20 hrs./wk.

Spring Clean-up Day, May 12, is to be advertised in the paper and shopper 2 weeks in advance. .

Motion by Schultz, seconded by Gaines and carried to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 9, reports , regular bills of \$50,228.22 and liquor bills of \$9,824.12,

Motion by Corbin, seconded by Carroll and carried to approve and renew the lease with Spotlight Dance for the use of a portion of the lower part of the municipal building

for a dance studio at \$175 per month.

Council reviewed a letter from LaVonne Linde whereby she requests that an additional emergency siren be installed in the southeast part of town. This is already in the works, however the police committee will meet with the Chief to have more information and quotes available for the next meeting.

The May meetings have been scheduled for the 7th and 21st at 5 p.m.

Anyone interested in attending the League Conference in Duluth in June is to contact Dolly.

The ambulance squad personnel has requested permission to use the old Super Valu lot on May 9 for a required driving course. Motion by Schultz, seconded by Gaines and carried to approve the request.

Bill Schindler has requested permission to use the unimproved section of 4th Ave. SE for a garden. The tile line behind 10th St. needs to be completed and this would eventually come out to 4th Ave and hook up to the manhole there. Council felt they could not therefore grant the request for this year. Mayor Herman will notify Mr. Schindler.

Motion by Corbin, seconded by Schultz and carried to hire Bob Waack as the new dog catcher, effective immediately.

The TV franchise is still at the Attorney's office so no action was taken.

Motion by Corbin, seconded by Carroll and carried to erect No Overnight Parking signs along both sides of 2nd St. NE from Hwy. 22 to 2nd Ave. NE. Street Supervisor is to order signs and posts and install immediately.

Motion by Gaines, seconded by Carroll and carried to advertise for part time help in the Clerk's office.

The next regular meeting will be on May 7, at 5 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned.