

The regular City Council meeting was held on Monday, August 13, 2001 at 5:00 p.m. with Mayor John Herman presiding. Council members Jack Carroll, Bob Schultz, Ron Gaines and Jay Corbin were present as well as City Clerk Dolly Schultz, Deputy Clerk Deb Redman and reporter Laurie Bonsack.

Following the Call to Order, Mayor Herman recognized several individuals present with concerns regarding the new signs recently erected in the school area. Those present included Gary Robbins, Greg Spath, Jeff Tesky, Sally Yokiell and Lynn Fendrich. Speaking for the group, Robbins indicated their concern was the real intent of the new signage and a proposal for handicap parking. Their suggestion was to designate two handicap stalls on the south side of the one-way street north of the elementary building and to eliminate left turns off that same street.

Council informed the group that the signs on the west side of Hwy. 22 and in front of the schools mean exactly what they read - No Parking During School Hours, which is from 8:20 - 3:05. Before and after those times, parking is allowed.

Following further discussion, a motion was made by Carroll, seconded by Gaines and carried to eliminate the handicap parking on the north side of the one-way street north of the elementary building, designate two stalls on the south side and replace the No Left Turn sign coming off that street onto Hwy. 22. The police department will be directed to strictly enforce the parking rules in and around the schools. The school was asked to address the issue of parking availability for teachers and students.

Mayor Herman will provide the school with a copy of the MNDOT correspondence to Chief Iverson regarding the signage in that area.

Street supervisor Rick LaVallie reported on the progress of the sewer replacement project. Council has also received a request from the contractor for a one week extension on the project. The project is expected to be completed by Aug. 15 but they would like an additional week for clean up. Council authorized the extension on a motion by Schultz, seconded by Corbin and carried. Dolly will contact Tom Brunz of this decision.

Council was informed that the City of Easton has inquired about the possibility of hiring our street crew to paint their street curbs. This would require the use of our sprayer, plus 2 men and the paint. Council had no objections and approval was granted on a motion by Corbin, seconded by Gaines and carried.

LaVallie also reminded Council that all city owned buildings, commercial and/or residential, being demolished, remodeled, etc. must first be inspected by a certified asbestos inspector. Council indicated this is also an HRA problem.

CD Director Zoa Heckman reported that MPCA has given the go ahead to do roof repairs and tuckpointing on the tax forfeited property on South Broadway (Waack building).

A gentleman supposedly interested in purchasing that building was scheduled to attend this evening's meeting but failed to show. Council directed Heckman to continue to pursue this possible sale.

It was noted that the County apparently can go ahead with the removal of the old Cleaner's building. Council was receptive to having a landscape architect (graduate student) now working with the City of Albert Lea, take a look at the site and make suggestions for landscaping when the time is right. However, this would be allowed only if there is no cost to the City.

Motion by Carroll, seconded by Corbin and carried authorizing Ron Gaines, Joanie Stenzel and Zoa Heckman to attend a 4 hr. class tomorrow regarding the website design of the Wells homepage. The class is being conducted by BEVComm.

It was noted that the EDA is working on services for lots in the North Industrial Park.

No action was taken on the appointment of a zoning administrator.

Motion by Schultz, seconded by Corbin and carried authorizing Joanie Stenzel , Zoa Heckman and council members Gaines and Carroll to attend a TIF seminar in Winnebago at a fee of \$5/each.

Motion by Corbin, seconded by Schultz and carried to approve the minutes of the July 23 meeting, monthly reports, financials, and payment of the regular bills of \$194,251.74 and liquor bills of \$39,643.68

Motion by Schultz, seconded by Carroll and carried to adopt Resolution 2001-06, an accessibility grant for the Wells Library and authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to sign all contracts, agreements and documents. A copy of the resolution is on file in the City Clerk's office and the Wells Library.

Motion by Gaines, seconded by Carroll and carried to approve and renew bin leases at \$120 each for Leo Kastenmeier, Don Chirpich, Jay Corbin, Gene Kauffmann, Dan Hart and Don Wilder. Corbin abstained from voting.

Discussed the costs for a sewer rate study proposed by Bolton & Menk. This was tabled and the City Clerk's office will contact other communities regarding their fee schedules and bring the information back to the Council.

A motion was made by Gaines, seconded by Carroll and carried to table the proposed ordinance relating to the burning of leaves until the next meeting, pending verification of the wording.

The proposed dog and cat ordinance was discussed. Councilman Schultz had concerns regarding the wording whereby it allows a police officer or dog catcher to enter upon private premises to pick up a dog or cat that has violated the ordinance. However, a motion was made by Corbin, seconded by Carroll and carried to adopt Ordinance No. 242, An ordinance relating to the keeping of dogs and cats within the City of Wells, providing for the licensing of dogs and cats, and providing a penalty for the violation thereof. Councilman Schultz voted nay.

Discussed the progress of the union negotiations regarding members of the police department. No action taken.

The next regular meeting of the Council will be held on August 27 at 5:00 p.m.

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