

The Wells City Council held their first regular meeting on Monday, December 10, 2001 at 5p.m. in the council chambers. Mayor Herman presided with council members Jack Carroll, Bob Schultz, Ron Gaines and Jay Corbin attending as well as City Clerk Dolly Schultz, Deputy Deb Redman and reporter Laurie Bonsack.

Following the Call to Order, Don Schuster, new owner of the car wash facility came before the council to discuss and apologize for a recent mishap to the squad cars. He explained that incorrect tips were put on the washer brushes and consequently peeled some of the decals off the vehicles. He assured council that the problem has been resolved and that he will take care of the damages.

Fire department members were present to discuss bids for a new pumper. John Sonnek acted as spokesperson for the group, noting that three bids were received - Custom Fire, Forstner Fire and Central States, however the bid from Custom Fire did not include any of the equipment. There were also two state bids on just the chassis. Following discussion, the recommendation of the firemen was to award the bid to Forstner Fire - body and equipment, \$168,940 and chassis from Boyer Trucks for \$48,569 (State bid). This brings the total cost to \$217,059. Delivery of the chassis would be 6-8 weeks and the body and equipment would take 220-250 working days. Council took no action at this time but agreed to discuss the issue later in the meeting.

Assistant Police Chief Fred Durfey addressed the request of the department to purchase security lockers for the officers, indicating the \$1200 cost could come out of their leather budget as well as \$300 for a printer for their computers. Councilman Schultz expressed concern over a budgeted amount that has never been used throughout the year and the necessity for such a line item. Following this, a motion was made by Corbin, seconded by Carroll and carried authorizing the purchase of the lockers. Purchase of the printer was tabled.

It was noted that effective in January there will be no more Friday night coverage with part time officers - Saturday nights only.

Councilman Schultz also inquired about the mutual aid calls and was informed that because we are the only community with 24-hour police coverage, we get many more calls to assist the Sheriff's department.

The Community Development Director Zoa Heckman presented a proposed joint resolution between Clark Township and the City designating an area for orderly annexation. No action taken by City at this time - Clark Township will be given a copy of the resolution for review and discussion to be had at their informational meeting on Dec. 12.

Motion by Corbin, seconded by Schultz and carried to approve and adopt an amendment to Ordinance 239, relating to sump pumps and roof water drainage.

Council received and reviewed an update from Attorney Bichler regarding a proposed settlement from the attorney for Prime Ventures. No action was taken.

Motion by Schultz, seconded by Carroll and carried to accept a settlement proposal from Gerald Swehla, whereby he will be paid a total of \$7300 for the blighted property owned by him. This will

eliminate further condemnation proceedings through the courts and which would ultimately create additional costs.

Received a quotation for service to establish a city presentation on the internet. This is in conjunction with the seminar that Zoa and Ron Gaines recently attended at BEVCOMM. No action was taken at this time as there was a discrepancy in the population of the City and information on other sites utilizing this service was requested for the next meeting.

Information from the County Auditor indicates that the Dry Cleaner building will be coming down this winter and that MPCA will be doing the Phase II Environmental Study next summer.

Street supervisor Rick LaVallie reported that Kurt Niebuhr's probationary period is up and that he is working out very well. However, Council will consider his salary increase at the same time they do the rest of the employees for the coming year.

Rick was given permission to use extra kids to work at the recycling center on Dec. 26.

Motion by Corbin, seconded by Gaines and carried to send Mike Pyzick' to a two day seminar to renew his license for pool operations at a cost of \$90 plus room for one night.

Motion by Gaines, seconded by Carroll and carried to approve the minutes of the Nov. 19 meeting, payment of the regular bills of \$125,644.77, liquor bills of \$49,096.07, financials, licenses, permits and monthly reports as presented.

Motion made by Schultz with a second by Corbin to decrease the 2002 budget by \$204,500 with cuts to be made in the areas as presented. Schultz and Corbin voted in favor of the motion while Carroll and Gaines voted nay. Mayor Herman broke the tie by voting aye.

Motion by Schultz, seconded by Corbin and carried to adopt Resolution 2001-10, approving the 2002 tax levy of \$327,236, This reflects a 25% levy increase from 2001.

Council members acknowledged the resignation of Ross & Betsy Hermanson from the Theatre Board.

A Special meeting will be held on Monday, Dec. 17 at 5:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing and acting on the new fire truck and the 2002 wages for the city employees. If a personnel issue should arise, Council may elect to move into Executive session.

It was noted that the Union contract still has some glitches and has not been settled.

The next Regular meeting of the Council will be held on Monday, January 7, 2002 at 5:00 PM. There being no further business to be discussed at this time, Mayor Herman declared the meeting adjourned.