

Mayor John P. Herman presided at the regular council meeting of August 12, 2002. Present at the 5:00 meeting were council members Carroll, Schultz, Gaines and Corbin as well as City Clerk Dolly Schultz, Deputy Clerk Deb Redman and reporter Laurie Bonsack.

Mrs. Tiny Gottberg was recognized first on the agenda and presented the council with a petition signed by approximately 150 individuals, all opposing a recycling fee being added to the monthly utility bills. They are suggesting rather, that the \$2.00 fee be collected at the gate since the service is not used by everyone on a monthly basis, plus the fact that non residents will still be using the facility and will not have to pay. Council explained that they are working on a way to charge outsiders, but made no changes to their previous decision regarding the monthly charge. Gottberg felt that the public should be more informed on this issue.

Rhonda Allis, Administrator Clerk-Treasurer of the City of Winnebago was present to discuss blighted property and how it is handled in that city. Handouts were distributed with Allis explaining the process they use for these properties and noted that the program has worked well and been very successful for them. The information will be kept on file and shared with the local HRA.

Ann Schuster and street supervisor Rick LaVallie discussed a potential water shed problem at the site of the new Peoples State Bank. Because of the grade of the alley, water will pool and cause a problem for residents south of the building. The recommendation would be to remove the bituminous, lower the alley and resurface. This would also then create a continuous flow of blacktop across the bank's parking lot and alleviate the water problem. The work could be coordinated, with the city tearing out the bituminous and bringing the alley back to grade and SMC doing the paving. Therefore a motion was made by Schultz, seconded by Carroll and carried to redo the alley at an approximate cost of \$6000 and to proceed as soon as possible. Costs will be covered by the City paying half and the bank half.

The truck issue for the street department was again brought to the table. The State bid has been extended until 8/31/02 and the costs presented were \$42,044 for the chassis and \$42,500 for box, hoist, plow, wing and sander, or a not to exceed figure of \$90,000 for the total package. Discussion followed with a motion by Schultz, seconded by Corbin and carried to proceed with the new truck, (cab & chassis) this year and the rest of the items to be purchased next year out of the 2003 budget. Carroll opposed the motion. The 1980 and '83 trucks will be offered on sealed bids.

Discussion was had regarding the bathroom at Thompson Park. \$10,000 has been put in next year's budget for this project and it was then decided to stay with the existing building for the remainder of this year.

Correspondence from MN/DOT indicates they will be redoing Hwy. 22 from the north junction of Hwy. 22/109 to the south edge of Wells and Hwy. 109 from the north junction of Hwy. 22/109 to WFS Feeds. With work on both highways, cost participation by the City will be required including the parking lanes and the wanitary and water casting adjustments. MN/DOT covers costs of the storm sewer adjustments and catch basins, as well as the other work involved. The estimated cost to the city is \$19,000. Motion by Corbin, seconded by Gaines and carried to adopt Resolution 2002-03, stating that the City is willing to participate in the cost of the project at an estimated cost of \$19,000. This will be included in the 2003 budget.

Byron Jost, from the firm of Pettipiece & Cessario came before Council to discuss the annexation process. Because Orderly Annexation efforts have not been effective, the next best option is to use Annexation by (Municipal Board) Order. Jost reviewed the steps necessary to accomplish this and indicated that their firm could prepare the Resolution required for submission to the Board of Adjustments. He also suggested that the Council inform Clark Township of the City's intent to proceed with annexation in this manner. A motion was then made by Gaines, seconded by Corbin and carried to authorize Mr. Jost to draft the resolution and backup information and have ready for the council meeting in September. It should be noted that the annexation boundary to be proposed will not include Area #4 as originally proposed by the Long Range Planning Committee.

Motion by Schultz, seconded by Corbin and carried to hire Mary D. Tietjen, Attorney with Kennedy & Graven, to review the annexation documents and attend the hearing, as well as work with consultants as needed.

CD Director Zoa Heckman updated Council on the sump pump inspections noting that there are 17 homes that have not been inspected though they have been contacted several times and 15 failed inspections that have not yet been rechecked for necessary repairs. Zoa was instructed to put a reminder in the Shopper and Wells Mirror indicating that persons have until Sept. 30. to come into compliance with the sump pump ordinance before the fine is imposed.

Zoa discussed a county bus meeting she had attended in June. An informational sheet was distributed showing that during the time from 1/16/01 - 5/6/02, 15,000 rides were given, 12.00 of which were in Blue Earth! It was also pointed out at the meeting, that one of the buses needs to be replaced.

Discussed the Housing Code Ordinance. CD Director was instructed to have the League review it first before any decision is made by the Council.

As there was no officer present representing the police department, the written request for a new computer and software was tabled until the police committee can verify the need.

Councilman Schultz requested that the police be notified that an officer, full time or part time whichever is available, be present at the first council meeting of the month to represent the department. Mayor Herman will send a formal notice to the PD.

Discussed the issue of the tennis court lights being left on all night long last Sunday evening. Council felt there was no excuse for this negligence by the officers on duty.

Payment of the bill for replacement of a lens for Gary Kauffmann's glasses was denied pending the need for more information, noting there should have been charges filed if he was involved in an assault incident.

Motion by Gaines, seconded by Schultz and carried to approve the regular meeting of 7/15/02 and special meeting of 7/31/02, the financial reports, licenses and permits, regular monthly reports and payment of the bills in the amount of \$270,834.51.

Motion by Carroll, seconded by Gaines and carried to renew the bin rentals at \$120/bin per year for Don Wilder, Leo Kastenmeier, Dan Hart, Don Chirpich, Gene Kauffmann and Jay Corbin. Councilman Corbin abstained from voting.

Motion by Corbin, seconded by Schultz and carried to approve the election judges for the Sept. 10 Primary Election as follows: Head judge, Dolly Schultz as well as Jan Carlson, Annella Clarke, Doris Wood, JoAnn Ovrebo, Lynn Steele and Lori Stenzel.

Motion by Schultz, seconded by Gaines and carried to approve a one time event license for the Wells Fire Dept. to host their annual Fireman's Dance on Saturday, August 24, 2002 during the Kernel Days Celebration. Insurance coverage has been provided as well as the \$50 fee.

Motion by Schultz, seconded by Corbin and carried to accept the resignations of Chrissy Bathke at the Liquor Store, Brenda Jones from the Theatre Board and Kathy Durfey from the Library Foundation Board.

It was noted that the Council needs to review the Personnel Policy for the City, especially the response time for police officers.

Filings for the Mayor's seat and two Council seats will be open from Aug. 27 to Sept. 10. At this time Mayor Herman announced that he would not be seeking another term as Mayor.

Motion by Carroll, seconded by Corbin and carried to increase the personal mileage rate to 36 1/2 cents per mile.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was declared adjourned.  
Clerk-Treasurer