

The regular meeting of the Wells City Council was held on Monday, Dec. 9, 2002 at 5 p.m. Mayor Herman presided and councilmen Gaines and Schultz were present, as were City Clerk Dolly Schultz, Deputy Clerk Deb Redman and reporter Laurie Bonsack. Councilmen Carroll and Corbin were absent.

Street supervisor Rick LaVallie was the first supervisor to report to the council and presented a 2003 project report for streets, sewer, parks, recycling, airport, pool and city buildings. He also noted that the ice rink has been flooded.

Signage in and around the elevator area was once again discussed. A motion was then made by Schultz, seconded by Gaines and carried to order the no parking signs and install them on both sides of the street from behind the Swift plant to Hwy 109. Mayor Herman also voted in favor of the motion.

No decision was made regarding LaVallie's request to increase his unapproved project spending from \$1000 to \$5000.

Fire Department member Scott Linde addressed council once again asking for reconsideration of adding the "jaws" to the new fire truck. He noted that the cost is now at \$27,960 but will increase 10% as of Dec. 20. Councilman Schultz stressed the concerns on state cuts for cities for next year and indicated there was no way the City could purchase this item at this time. The request was therefore denied.

Mr. Dick Asleson, financial consultant from Northland Securities, presented the council with a summary of all the TIF Districts and made recommendations for required reporting procedures as follows: 1) Motion by Gaines, seconded by Schultz and carried to terminate and decertify District 2-4 as of 12/31/02, repay \$11,680 to the County and transfer \$107 to the General Fund. Mayor voted aye. 2) Motion by Schultz, seconded by Gaines and carried to transfer \$400 from District 2-2 to the General Fund for the purpose of closing out the district. Mayor also voted aye. 3) Motion by Gaines, seconded by Schultz and carried to close the funding on District 2-1 by returning \$1390 to the County, transferring \$193 to the General Fund and paying \$10,458 to Wells Concrete. Mayor voted aye. 4) Motion by Schultz, seconded by Gaines and carried to pay \$4430 from the General Fund to District 2-7 as the Local Contribution amount for the years '98, '99' and '00. Mayor voted aye. 5) Motion by Gaines, seconded by Schultz and carried to transfer from the General Fund, a temporary loan of \$2057 to District 2-8 and \$436 to District 2-9, at 0% interest, and that these amounts be repaid when tax increments become available. Mayor voted aye.

Discussed bond financing for various projects for next year. Dick will work up a report that nets \$500,000 on a 5 and 10 year term.

Police Chief Mike Iverson reported that the new squad car is now in service. The old equipment was removed and the new installed by Alpha Wireless. Quotes were obtained on the '99 squad with Suburban Auto offering the highest price of \$3500. Motion by Gaines, seconded by Schultz and carried to sell the '99 to Suburban Auto and have Dolly call and get a certified check from them after which they can pick up the vehicle. Mayor Herman voted aye.

CD Director Zoa Heckman referenced correspondence from Troy Timmerman whereby he recommends starting over with proceedings on the Swehla issue. He indicated his fee would be at \$50/hr. Motion by Schultz, seconded by Gaines and carried authorizing pursuing new action against Mr. Swehla. Mayor Herman voted aye.

Information on the annexation procedures and progress was shared with council. Motion by Schultz, seconded by Gaines and carried to recommend mediation to Planning & Zoning. Following their recommendation to the Board, Minnesota Planning will then determine the next step. Mayor voted aye.

Council was informed of a public hearing to be held for the purpose of rezoning the 6 lots south of the Medical Clinic to CBD. P&Z's recommendation will be presented at the 12/23 council meeting.

Motion by Gaines, seconded by Schultz and carried to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Nov. 18, financial reports, permits, monthly reports and payment of bills in the amount of \$648,176.54. Mayor voted aye.

Motion by Gaines, seconded by Schultz and carried and with the Mayor voting aye, approved the cigarette licenses for Wells Liquor, Wells Super Valu, VFW Club, Nu-Way Corp and Twin Cities Stores. Mayor voted aye.

Motion by Gaines, seconded by Schultz and carried and with Mayor Herman voting aye, to accept the resignations of Michelle Gottberg from the Clerk's office, Renae Burns and Colleen Dalton from the Library Board.

Motion by Schultz, seconded by Gaines and carried to approve the Mayor's appointment of Steve Kloos to the EDA board.

In regards to the ordinance codification agreement, it was decided to table the matter until the 12/23 meeting.

At this time, the tax levy adoption hearing was held and on a motion by Schultz, seconded by Gaines and carried, council approved and adopted Resolution 2002-09, the 2003 Tax Levy in the amount of \$371,981. This amount reflects a 13.67% increase over the 2002 levy. The 2003 city budget was also set at \$2,362,346, a 2.8% increase over last year. Mayor voted aye.

Motion by Gaines, seconded by Schultz and carried and with Mayor Herman voting aye, approved payment to Peoples State Bank for 1/2 of the cost to redo the alley by their new bank. This would amount to \$6616.47.

Discussion was had regarding the theatre manager's salary. The theatre board has recommended an increase of \$10 or \$35 per week. Council consensus was to wait until the rest of the wages are determined at the next meeting.

Motion by Schultz, seconded by Gaines and carried to approve the Local 49 Union contract for the street and office personnel, excluding supervisors, and authorize the Mayor, City Clerk and councilman Schultz to sign said contract. Mayor voted aye.

The proposed personnel policy changes were reviewed and tabled until the next council meeting.

The sound system for the council chambers is still on hold and will continue to be added to old business on the agenda.

It was noted that the interviews for City Administrator should be completed this week and recommendation will then be made.

Garbage pickup quotes are to be obtained from Cliff Frantum, who operates garbage service out of Alden. He currently does some pickups already in Wells and council felt it might be cost effective to go with someone other than Waste Systems. Information will be shared at the next meeting.

The next regular council meeting will be held on December 23 at 5 p.m.

As there was no further business for the council at this time, Mayor Herman declared the meeting adjourned.

Clerk-Treasurer