

The regular meeting of the Wells City Council was held on Monday, March 11, 2002 at 5 p.m. with Mayor John Herman presiding. Council members Carroll, Schultz and Corbin were present, as were City Clerk Dolly Schultz, Deputy Clerk Deb Redman and reporter Laurie Bonsack. Councilman Gaines was absent.

Following the Call to Order, the public hearing was opened regarding the proposed street improvement on 9th Ave. SW, from 3rd St. SW to 6th St. SW. Several residents along that street were in attendance and received information from the council on the estimated costs involved, assessment policy and procedures, repayment time frame, etc. They were asked to state their preference but little response was received. Because there are concerns as to whether the State will be doing more budget cuts for cities, a motion was entertained by Carroll and seconded by Corbin to delay the improvement one year. Voting in favor of the motion were council members Carroll and Corbin. Councilman Schultz and Mayor Herman voted nay. Because this now creates a tie vote, the issue will be brought back for a vote at the next meeting with a full council.

Mr. Russ Elmer was next on the agenda and was prepared to provide the council with a different perspective that they might not have considered concerning the school bond issue. Additional property tax information had previously been received from the school, but because it was neither prepared on letterhead nor signed, councilman Schultz felt Elmer should not be recognized nor the tax info be discussed, but rather be addressed at the public hearing being held at the theatre tomorrow evening (3/12) on this same issue. Therefore he elected not to listen to Mr. Elmer's presentation and left the meeting at this time. Mr. Elmer then read his statement with no comment or action being taken by council.

CD Director Zoa Heckman updated council on the progress of the sump pump/roof drain inspections noting that everything has been going very well. Of the 963 owner occupied buildings, 779 have already been inspected - 52 buildings failed sump pump compliance and 6 failed roof drainage inspections.

Police Chief Mike Iverson reported that the siren located at Wells Electric was malfunctioning during the last testing but has since been repaired, got the okay to purchase a door for their new room in the basement of city hall and on a motion by Corbin, seconded by Carroll, and carried, was authorized to attend the Chief's Training to be held in St. Cloud on April 15-18.

It was noted that the police department is to obtain a key from the Utilities for the filter plant thus eliminating the need to call out Utility personnel and having to reimburse them for time spent solving a problem, such as turning off the alarm.

Street supervisor Rick LaVallie discussed the railroad crossings within the city noting that the Dept. of Transportation has informed us that we must once again install lights or stop signs at the tracks on North Broadway and on Hwy. 22. Also discussed the need for surface work on these crossings and the Mayor will correspond with the railroad regarding this matter.

Street department will be picking up tree branches broken off and blown down from the recent wind /ice storm. People will be advised to put the branches on the boulevards, as we will not pick up in alleys or from yards. Notice of the clean up will be put on the radio.

Information regarding storage of Waste Systems dumpsters has not been received as yet. Rick will keep in contact with them.

Motion by Corbin, seconded by Carroll and carried to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Feb. 25, financial reports, building permits, regular monthly reports and payment of the regular bills of \$129,319.16 and liquor bills of \$35,176.05.

Motion by Carroll, seconded by Corbin and carried to approve the Auditor's recommendation to close out the liquor store checking account at Peoples and combine it with the regular account at Paragon, close out the skateboard fund checking account at Wells Federal and combine it with the regular account at Paragon and close out the Park & Rec Fund as of 12/31/01 and combine it into the General Fund.

Motion by Carroll, seconded by Corbin and carried to approve the On/Off Sale 3.2 liquor licenses for Jake's Pizza, Mary's Cookin, Nuway Coop and Twin Cities Avanti Store.

Motion by Corbin, seconded by Carroll and carried to table any discussion on black topping the alley by the Legion Club until the next meeting when there should be a full council.

Mayor Herman noted that the Union Contract has been received for signatures. However, he would like to compare this with the copy he has to make certain there are no typographical errors. Motion by Carroll, seconded by Corbin and carried, authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to sign the contract if it is found to be correct.

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, March 25 at 5 p.m.

As there was no further business to be discussed at this time, Mayor Herman declared the meeting adjourned.