

The regular meeting of the City Council was held on Monday, Oct. 21, 2002 at 5 p.m. with Mayor Herman presiding and all members present, including Schultz, Gaines, Corbin and Carroll. City Clerk Dolly Schultz, Deputy Clerk Deb Redman and reporter Laurie Bonsack were also present.

The first item of business was to act on the snow removal bids received at the last meeting. Council had an opportunity to review the bids and on a motion by Corbin, seconded by Schultz and carried, awarded the bid for snow removal at the airport to Weber Lawn Service on a 1 year contract at \$55/hr. The airport board and street supervisor will meet with Mr. Weber to discuss and determine the best way to do the snow plowing.

Stan Bruss approached council once again regarding the Legion alley concerns and inquiring as to their decision on repayment of costs of blacktopping his alley. Statements which were previously made by Legion members and city officials regarding the Legion alley blacktopping appeared to be conflicting and as such, no action was taken regarding Bruss' alley. It is still council's belief that it was in the city's best interest to blacktop the entire Legion alley and at the city's expense.

CD Director Heckman informed Council that the EDA recently agreed to participate in the Minnesota Community Capital Fund which is a non profit organization that is trying to get 2.5 million dollars together for the purpose of making loans. Contributions of \$25,000 each from FCLRA, Wells, Winnebago and possibly Blue Earth would provide a \$100,000 membership and would allow loans of up to 1 million dollars for qualifying businesses. It was noted that MN DTED recommends and encourages participation in this program which can bring additional resources to business development and job opportunities. Also legal opinion is that this is certainly a safe program. Funds are needed by Oct. 31 and would be transferred from the DTED Revolving Loan Fund. A motion was entertained by Gaines, seconded by Carroll and carried to adopt Resolution 2002-07, approving the City of Wells to participate in the MCCF, amending the City's Revolving Loan Fund policies and procedures and authorizing the transfer of RLF Program Funds to the MCCF Loan Fund Escrow Account and authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to sign both the resolution and the MCCF Guidelines.

A suggestion for the empty lot created by razing of the old dry cleaner building was to; 1) put up a fence approximately 8' from the sidewalk, 2) put crushed rock from the sidewalk to the fence, 3) place the bike rack in that location, 4) add a 4' planter with flowers and a couple of park benches. Motion by Carroll, seconded by Corbin and carried that for now, we proceed with the crushed rock, fence and benches, pending approval from the County Commissioners.

Street supervisor LaVallie discussed OSHA requirements regarding confined space entry. Gas monitors are required to be used and since ours is very old and outdated, he obtained costs for replacement from D&M Marketing out of Eagan, MN. The cost for a new monitor is \$2049.06. If a second one were to be purchased at the same time, the cost for that one would be \$3906.42. It is possible to apply for a grant to cover the cost of the additional one and therefore a motion was made by Schutlz, seconded by Corbin and carried to purchase two Target T-4 gas monitors and to use funds from the sewer account. LaVallie was directed to pursue the grant application. If approved and received, the sewer fund will be reimbursed.

Motion by Schultz, seconded by Corbin and carried to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Oct. 7, special meeting of Oct. 16, remaining monthly reports and payment of bills in the amount of \$72,497.80

In regards to the weed complaint from the last meeting, notice was received from Mr. Murphy that he had complied. If this will continue on a regular basis is questionable. In the meantime, LaVallie was instructed to have Mr. Blank physically show what problem he sees with the property.

Motion by Gaines, seconded by Carroll and carried to join the South Central Drug Task Force Joint Powers Extended Agreement, as we have in the past, and sign the letter of commitment to pay an amount of \$1366 for the year of 2003.

Motion by Corbin, seconded by Schultz and carried to offer flu shots to all full time employees at the city's expense. A memo will be sent on this information.

As there were no bids received for the dirt fill, it was the consensus of Council to sell to whomever may request such and to sell it a reasonable price.

Seven applications were received for the position of full time bartender at the Liquor Store. After review, it was the recommendation of the manager to hire Jennifer Lindholm. Motion was then made by Gaines, seconded by Schultz and carried to hire her at \$10/hr. with full benefits, effective immediately or as soon as she can start full time.

There has been no new information received regarding the annexation matter. This item is to be left on the agenda for future meetings.

Discussed a sound system for the council chambers. Matter tabled for now.

Council was informed that the new squad car is in and ready to be picked up. Previous minutes stated that delivery should be suggested for January, however a motion was made by Corbin, seconded by Gaines and carried to transfer the money from the street project fund to make the \$21,077 payment and with the understanding that this amount will be repaid in 2003. Dolly is to notify Superior Ford that the purchase has been authorized and to make certain the vehicle is ready. Council suggested that the transfer of equipment (light bar, siren, etc.) be done by our own people, if possible, and if extra time is spent doing so, the individual would be paid at their regular wage.

Reviewed a sketch of the sign for the skateboard park. Council had no objections of the proposal and the committee for that project was given the okay to proceed. It was noted that snow fencing will be put up around the area for this year.

Dolly is to schedule a meeting with Dick Asleson as soon as his schedule allows, for the purpose of discussing bonding for next year. Council will then be informed.

Staff is to check with Mike Rebelein regarding costs to do the maintenance of the windows in the municipal building.

No action taken regarding concerns relating to the dead end alley of 1st Ave. NE.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Nov. 4, at 5 p.m.

As there was no further business to come before Council at this time, Mayor Herman declared the meeting adjourned.

Clerk-Treasurer