

The Wells City Council held their regular meeting on Monday, February 24, 2003 at 5:00 p.m. in the council chambers with Mayor Dave Jacobson presiding. Attending were council members Schultz, Gaines and Corbin and also City Administrator Allis and City Clerk Schultz. Councilman Carroll was absent.

Following the Call to Order, minutes of the previous meeting of Feb. 10, 2003 were approved as presented on a motion by Gaines, second by Corbin and carried.

Bills were presented for review after which councilman Schultz questioned the Alex Air Apparatus statement for the new "Jaws of Life," as the donation amounted to more than the invoice total. He also questioned the cost of safety glasses, noting that the street and police departments are supposedly on the same plan as the Utilities, yet their costs are considerably less. Staff will check on both of these items. A motion was then made by Schultz, second by Corbin and carried authorizing payment of the bills in the amount of \$145,992.82.

Next on the agenda were the commission and committee reports. A motion was made by Corbin, second by Gaines and carried to approve the reports of the HRA, ambulance board, theatre board and expense items # 1-11 as proposed by the street and sewer committee.

Motion by Corbin, seconded by Gaines and carried to accept the minutes of the street and sewer committee meeting of Feb. 20, 2003.

Motion by Schultz, second by Corbin and carried authorizing Stacie Whiteside to attend a PERA seminar in Mankato on June 18, 2003. There is no cost for the seminar.

Steve Burns has inquired as to the possibility of accessing funds through the Creative Enterprise program for the upcoming Sports Collectors Show. He indicated an estimate of \$200 for ads and miscellaneous items and up to a few hundred dollars for signs. Because of the uncertainty of "a few hundred dollars", a motion was made by Corbin, second by Gaines and carried to approve the \$200 but to obtain more info on the cost of signs. Quotes should be brought back for council consideration.

Discussed the quote from S&H Diesel for material and labor to remove and install spring packs on the '91 Ford at the street department. The quote is \$1075 for 2 new spring packs and \$787 plus tax for 2 rebuilt leaf springs. Motion by Corbin, second by Schultz and carried to approve the purchase of the 2 rebuilt springs, but to check and see if the \$787 included \$75 worth of miscellaneous supplies.

The City was notified of the availability of Terrorism Risk Insurance. This is coverage for losses caused by certified acts of terrorism and is partially reimbursed by the US under a formula established by federal law. The additional premium for the coverage is \$5,000. Discussion determined there would be no need for this coverage and therefore a motion was made by Schultz, second by Gaines and carried to inform the company that we decline the offer and that the exclusion form be signed indicating same.

Motion by Schultz, second by Gaines and carried authorizing the City Administrator Allis and Street Supervisor LaVallie to a Safety and Loss Workshop in Rochester on April 9, 2003. Registration fee is \$20 per person.

Council was informed that Bolton & Menk has notified MNDOT that the City has put the Franklin Street Sewer Improvements on hold and does not plan to do any work on this project in 2003.

The Wells EDA would like to extend 7th Ave SE into the South Industrial Park Expansion. Street Supervisor LaVallie prepared cost estimates for this expansion totaling \$14,170.00 which includes \$8300 for materials and \$5870 for equipment and labor. The EDA is considering paying for the materials and would like Council to consider waiving the equipment and labor costs. Because the Gayle/Tom Staloch family is now renting that land from the City, Council questioned if they had been made aware of this project and the timing of it. Councilman Corbin stated he would state the Council's concerns at the next EDA meeting. Therefore a motion was made by Schultz, second by Gaines and carried to waive the labor and equipment costs but to have the EDA converse and coordinate the project with the Stalochs.

City Administrator Allis has prepared an organizational chart for the City and presented it to Council for consideration. It was noted that the Assistant Street Supervisor and Ass't. Liquor Store Manager should be added immediately under the appropriate Department Head. A motion was then entertained by Corbin, second by Gaines and carried to approve the organizational chart with the two additions. Copies will be distributed to all departments.

Discussion was had regarding the labor rate exchange between the City employees and Utility employees. A \$9 rate exchange had been determined back in 1989, however the fee charged to the City for the month of January was considerably higher. Council had no knowledge of the upcoming increase and therefore Councilman Schultz was directed to take the issue to the next Utilities Commission meeting and bring back the information.

In old business, Council was informed that according to the last billing, Waste Management Systems has implemented a rate reduction on the garbage service for all the City buildings.

In regards to new cell phones, there is not enough information to present at this time.

Discussed garbage dumpsters being left in residential areas for extended periods of time and often times filled to overflowing. It was noted that Dumpster permits are to be obtained and are good only for a limited amount of days. Staff will research this matter and will also discuss the problem with Waste Management.

Motion by Schultz, second by Corbin and carried to pay Ron's Plumbing & Heating bill of \$166.76 and Bill's Hardware in the amount of \$255.00. These are the bills on the Lynn Westrum sewer repairs. However, Council elected to wait with Denny Swehla's bill.

The 6th Ave. NW street project issue remains as old business until the March meeting.

Still no action taken on coin meters for the tennis courts.

Another draft regarding an ordinance for house numbering and with a proposed effective date of July 1 is to be presented at the next meeting.

City Administrator Allis informed Council of the County Mayor's meeting to be held in Blue Earth on March 19. Also another Salute to Elected Officials will be held on August 20, however additional information regarding this will be presented later on.

City Clerk Schultz presented information regarding delinquent water, sewer, and city storm sewer charges recently certified on property owned by the Wells HRA. The property was previously owned by Mark Nyflot when the certification was submitted. The HRA would like the City to waive these charges and therefore a motion was entertained by Gaines, second by Schultz and carried to send an abatement notice to the County Auditor to remove said charges from the property.

Dolly also presented Council with a letter indicating her decision to utilize the early retirement plan and retire from her position effective April 1, 2003. Following discussion a motion was made by Gaines, second by Schultz and carried to accept the notification.

Mayor Jacobson stated that he had received a request to use one of the fire trucks to carry the wrestling team through town when they return from State on Sunday. Council voiced no objections.

Discussion was had regarding Snow Emergency notifications. There is confusion as to when it should be declared and by whom. Complaints also include the fact that there seems to be no consistency in issuing tickets. Several suggestions were given by council members but no definite decision reached. Staff and the Street Committee will visit with Street supervisor LaVallie and try to come up with answer that would satisfy everyone. Good Luck!

The next regular council meeting will be held on March 10, 2003 at 5:00 p.m.

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

Clerk-Treasurer