

The Wells City Council held their first regular meeting of 2003 on Monday, Jan. 6 at 5 p.m. The newly elected officials, Mayor Dave Jacobson, Councilmen Ron Gaines and Jack Carroll were sworn into office by City Clerk Dolly Schultz. The other councilmen Bob Schultz and Jay Corbin were also present, as were Deputy Clerk Deb Redman and Administrator Rhonda Allis.

Jack Quinlivan was first on the agenda and updated Council on the progress of the County EDA. He had met previously with the Council to explain the intent of forming this county group and was now back asking for a resolution of participation. He noted that there are 11 cities slated to join the group, however Blue Earth has some reservations. Quinlivan indicated that they will go ahead with forming the group with or without the city of Blue Earth. Following this discussion, a motion was made by Gaines, second by Corbin and carried to adopt Resolution 2003-01, that the City of Wells agrees to participate in the Faribault County EDA and that the current City EDA's shall continue to function pursuant to statute.

Rick Roemer, District Manager of Waste Management came before the Council to discuss and justify the rates they are currently charging the City for commercial garbage pickup. Rates were recently obtained from a competitive hauler and were considerably cheaper. Mr. Roemer indicated that it may be because his competitor is not hauling to a compost facility. He then referred to a public entity law whereby all public entities must comply by having their garbage hauled to such a facility - in our case, it would be to Prairieland at Truman. Council stated that they had never heard of this law but would check with the League of MN Cities and bring the information back to the table before making a final decision.

Department supervisors were next on the agenda. Ass't. Chief Fred Durfey represented the Police Dept. as the Chief had another commitment. A new monthly incident report was submitted and Council fully approved of the new format.

Discussed the possibility of developing an ordinance regarding the placement of house numbers on homes. There is concern that a house without legible numbers is at risk for fast emergency service. Staff will check with the League for sample ordinances.

Motion by Corbin, second by Gaines and carried authorizing Chief Iverson to attend the MN Chief's Convention in St. Cloud on April 14-17 at a cost of \$300.

CD Director Zoa Heckman presented information regarding the proposed annexation. There are several documents that need to be filled out and returned within 10 days. Because demographic issues are involved, a motion was made by Corbin, second by Schultz and carried to pay Region Nine a fee of \$200 for a demographic study.

Council was then informed that a public hearing regarding the petition for annexation will be held in the council chambers of the Wells Municipal Building at 11:00 a.m. on Jan. 29, 2003. The purpose of this hearing is to introduce the matter and to comply with the statute regarding annexation.

Street supervisor Rick LaVallie informed Council that the wastewater agreement with ConAgra has been signed and is on file in the Clerk's office.

Discussion was held once again regarding the ice problem created by the flowing well on the Tolzmann property on 1st St. NW. Council was informed that the HRA has a purchase agreement on the property however it still remains the responsibility of the property owner to have the well capped or sealed. LaVallie will contact the owners and inform them of this.

In regards to placing additional stop signs at the intersection of So. Broadway and 1st St. (running east and west), the County Engineer researched the matter and indicated that it was a Council decision. Council felt there will not be any additional traffic and therefore declined to make a decision until the clinic expansion is completed. If it is determined at that time that there is indeed more traffic, they will reconsider the issue.

Motion by Schultz, second by Carroll and carried to pay Nate Kalis \$64.71 to repair the damage to his siding caused by a flying rock as we were mowing the city owned lot south of his residence.

A recent OSHA inspection has resulted in penalties within the police department, library and recycling center at a total cost of \$945. All citations have been corrected and therefore a motion was made by Schultz, second by Corbin and carried to pay the fine as stated to MN Dept. of Labor & Industry.

Motion by Corbin, second by Carroll and carried to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of 12/23/02 and special meeting of 12/31/02.

Motion by Gaines, second by Carroll and carried to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$180,060.32

Motion by Schultz, second by Corbin and carried to approve the monthly reports as presented.

Motion by Corbin, second by Gaines and carried to approve the Mayor's appointment of the various boards for the 2003 year. Basically all the appointments that expired as of 12/31/02 were reappointed for the present time. As for the other positions and committees, Mayor Jacobson would like to review those further and will make his recommendation by Feb. 1.

Motion by Schultz, seconded by Carroll and carried to replace the tile in the kitchen at the Community Center and to accept the quote from R&R from Alden in the amount of \$705. This includes removal and disposal of the present tile.

Motion by Corbin, second by Gaines and carried that the General Fund loan to District 2-6, the sum of \$822.68 and to District 2-7, the sum of \$921.60 at zero percent interest to be repaid to the General Fund from the first available tax increments and that said sums of money be so transferred as of December 31, 2002.

Not much information has been received regarding coin meters for the tennis courts. Staff will contact Blue Earth for information on theirs and bring back to Council.

It was noted that Rhonda Allis will assume her duties as Administrator for the City effective Jan. 27.

At this time, Mayor Jacobson made the statement that due to the uncertainty of funding for this year, the departments are to be notified that no purchases in excess of \$500 will be allowed without prior approval of the full Council. This includes ordering and/or purchasing. They will also be advised that there is to be no overtime or comp time without approval unless in an emergency situation. If this happens, the employee will be expected to take time off in that same week, hour for hour, for the overtime worked.

The Mayor also informed Council that staff will notify the phone company to put a code restriction on the phones at 1/2 Moon Park, skating rink, recycling center and scout house.

Motion by *Gaines*, second by *Corbin* and carried that all undesignated monies, as of 12/31/02 remain in the General Fund to be used for continuing operating expenses for the City.

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 21 at 5 p.m. due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday on the 20th.

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

Clerk-Treasurer