



**City Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 14, 2016, 5:00 pm
Wells Community Center**

The Wells City Council convened on Monday, March 14, 2016 at 5:25 pm in the Council Chamber (after the Board of Adjustment and Appeals meeting).

Mayor Gaines called the meeting to order with the following councilmembers present: Steve Burns, Whitney Harig and John Herman. Council members absent: David Braun. Also present: City Administrator Robin Leslie, Deputy City Clerk Megan Boeck, City Engineer Travis Winter, Police Chief Tim Brenegan and Street Foreman Mike Pyzick.

AGENDA

The agenda for the March 14, 2016 meeting was reviewed. Motion by Herman and second by Harig to approve as presented. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Larry Majeski stated that he would like to see the Lions emblem in the Lions Plaza because the stone that is there now does not explain who the Lions are.

Bill Groskreutz stated that he is thankful for the work that City Administrator Leslie has done on the Lions Plaza which ultimately expanded and impacted the overall the scope of the project but that he would like to get permission for Lions recognition as well.

Leslie stated that there is a Lions Plaza Committee and that decision can be made within that committee and wouldn't need Council approval. Council approval would be necessary for larger, more permanent alterations to the City property.

Brenda Weber questioned a check to Karls Carquest Auto Parts and Karls of Wells for the same amount. Leslie stated she would look into the matter. She also questioned reviving the old recycling program. Leslie stated it was no longer cost effective for the City to be in that business.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Herman and second by Harig to approve the consent agenda as listed on pages 1-26 of the Council packet. Motion carried.

Minutes, February 8, 2016

February Payments

Probationary Employees-Remove from Probation- Tami Beto & Betsy Bushlack

Library Foundation Resignation – Chris Ratelle

2015 Deputy Registrar Recap

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Variance Fee Waiver

Board Minutes -Wells Public Utilities, February 2016

STAFF REPORTS

Police Chief Brenegan stated that dogs running at large continues to be an issue and that he is now giving public nuisance citations to chronic offenders verses ordinance violations and fees. Brenegan also stated that his department has received their City issued firearms and that they will be training with them in the coming weeks. He also reported on the gun show starting Saturday went well with additional

officer and volunteers working but on Sunday 17 parking tickets were issued for fire lane, wrong way and crosswalk parking. He suggested that next year the gun club have an officer each day to direct traffic and prevent these issues. In addition, he mentioned he was going to start citing snow contractors for littering, which causes a heavier fine than an ordinance violation because they continue to violate city policy of no dumping on the streets. Lastly, he will continue work on the rental housing and social host ordinances.

Street Foreman Pyzick stated that there were issues with contractors leaving snow on City streets this year and that he will work with Chief Brenegan on enforcement ideas for next year. Pyzick also stated that with the early spring weather his crew has already started working on potholes and blading gravel roads. In addition, mill and overlay, crack filling and sealcoating contracts have been approved.

City Administrator Leslie stated that the annexation hearing has been cancelled and the petition recalled until she is able to meet with the township residents again. Leslie also stated that she obtained two roofing estimates and that Kato Roofing was the lowest at \$45,000 for both City Hall and the Flame Theatre.

Motion by Burns and second by Harig to approve estimate from Kato Roofing in the amount of \$45,000. Motion carried.

She also mentioned the 2015 audit was completed, updated Council on SRTS and the Deputy Registrar statistics.

BUSINESS

2016 Transportation Economic Development (TED) Grant, Rhonda Allis, Tim Clawson & Travis Winter- Rhonda Allis stated that MnDOT has an interest in how the City moves forward with the project and that she is looking for a decision from Council tonight.

Tim Clawson stated that the EDA has been discussing creating a development district for TIF as a tool to assist with project and assessment costs.

Harig stated that she is uncomfortable raising taxes but will make a commitment to keep other budgets down. She also stated that all development is going to be expensive but that the EDA and the City Council will continue to look at financing options and ways to keep project costs down.

Jim Hassing stated that he owns property next the NIP, that he is against the project and that he hasn't received any communication from the City about the project.

Leslie stated that public notices haven't been required thus far because Council hasn't decided on anything yet.

Herman stated there are no other options and it will be expensive but any project, including street projects will be expensive. Also, that the City has no other place to grow.

Harig stated this property is prime real estate and that the project makes sense.

Burns stated it will take a few years with a little tax burden but after that we will be generating more property taxes.

Motion by Herman and second by Burns to move forward with the project and accept the TED grant. Motion carried.

2016 Kernel Days Car Show, Gene Kaufmann- Kaufmann stated that he is requesting permission to close one block of Broadway for the 2016 Kernel Days Car Show as has been done in the past. Motion by Herman and second by Harig to approve closure of Broadway for the 2016 Kernel Days Car Show. Motion carried 4-0 with mayor voting.

Habitat for Humanity A Brush With Kindness Program, Staci Thompson- Staci Thompson from Habitat for Humanity presented the Council with a new program option for low-income homeowners who struggle to maintain the exterior of their homes. She also stated that assistance can come in the form of exterior home repairs, painting, landscaping and garbage clean-up. In addition, she stated that this program uses volunteers and donated materials so that project costs are minimal and can be paid for via no interest loans. Lastly, she stated that she hopes the City Council and staff will encourage Wells residents to apply for this program.

Expansion of Hog Operation, 58258 180th Street, Wells, Steve Schultz- Leslie stated that Mr. Schultz is proposing to expand his hog operation east of town and that because he is within one (1) mile of city limits, he is required to obtain approval from the City and County to do so.

Motion by Herman and second by Harig to approve expansion of hog operation at 58258 180th Street. Motion carried.

Resolution 2016-06 Approving Minnesota Lawful Gambling Exempt Permit for Raffle, WFD- Motion by Herman and second by Burns to approve Resolution 2016-09. Motion carried.

Resolution 2016-10 Approving Minnesota Lawful Gambling Exempt Permit for Raffle, Heartland Chapter of Pheasants Forever- Faribault County- Motion by Harig and second by Herman to approve Resolution 2016-10. Motion carried.

Prioritize 2016 Goals- No action taken. Leslie informed the Council that she prepared a list of prioritized goals after the Council's discussion in February and that it can be amended anytime as the year progresses. The consensus was to keep all items on goals list as presented.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Burns- stated that he has been contacted by the Boy Scouts about needed repairs to the Scout House and that hopefully they have more information for Council soon.

Harig- stated that the TED grant was the main focus of the last EDA meeting.

Herman- none.

Gaines- none.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Harig and second by Herman to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 pm.

Mayor Ronald Gaines

Deputy City Clerk Megan Boeck