



The Wells City Council convened on Monday, May 9, 2016 at 5:00 pm in the Council Chamber.

Mayor Gaines called the meeting to order with the following councilmembers present: Steve Burns, David Braun, John Herman and Whitney Harig. Also present: City Administrator Robin Leslie, Deputy City Clerk Megan Boeck, City Attorney David Frundt, Police Chief Tim Brenegan, Street Foreman Mike Pyzick and FCDC Executive Director Tim Clawson.

### **AGENDA**

The agenda for the May, 2016 meeting was reviewed. Harig stated she would like the full time street laborer appointment pulled from the consent agenda and discussed under new business. Leslie stated that Resolution 2016-18 is being deleted from the agenda it is not ready. Motion by Braun and second by Harig to approve the agenda with that change.

Mayoral Proclamation- Mayor Gaines proclaimed that May 7-13, 2016 is “Homes for the Aging Week.”

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Brenda Weber stated that she doesn't understand how the Council could vote on a draft ordinance without specifications listed and that a second reading shouldn't have been waived on an ordinance that lacks information. She also stated that the costs associated with sidewalks is unfair and the City should come up with means to assist homeowners.

City Administrator Leslie stated that this ordinance is already in place but that it just hasn't been updated since 1908 and that MnDOT provided the blanket guideline for standards. Leslie also stated that the City has to address hazardous sidewalks and that the specifications will be done by resolution at a later date. She also stated that the costs associated with sidewalks is unfair

Dawn Tewes and Randy Weber stated that they have never been provided with a definite road right-of-way in front of his property and is asking that one be established before the SRTS work begins. They also stated that they would like to see the established road right-of-way in writing. They also want to know who is going to clean the snow off the sidewalk.

Leslie stated that the SRTS project, including the road right-of-way, has already been approved at the state and federal levels and was also approved by MnDOT with the turn lane project in 2014. Leslie indicated that properties abutting public sidewalks are responsible for snow removal.

Arland Gregor stated that he is seeking information about agriculture land within City limits that is used for cultivation purposes only. Gregor stated that this type of land is taxed at a rate 10 to 12 times higher than what would be in Clark Township and that he would like to know what the benefit is to the landowner and the City for having land taxed at that high of a rate.

Leslie stated that land in the City limits is always going to be taxed at a higher rate than the township and that the City could look into creating a special agriculture zones and rural service districts once the annexation that is already in process is completed. Leslie also indicated she would need about six months to work on this project.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Burns and second by Herman to approve the consent agenda as listed on pages 2-32 of the Council packet. Motion carried.

Minutes, April 25, 2016

April Payments

Resignation –PT Theatre Clerk - Cynthia Hinckley

Wells Area Chamber Summer in the City Event – June 9<sup>th</sup>

Library Foundation Fun Run/Walk – June 11<sup>th</sup>

Appointment – Park Board - Park Board

Appointment – Seasonal Assistant Pool Coordinator – John Schuster

Appointment – Seasonal Pool Staff – Mikayla Gormley, Kevin Huper, Annie Schroder, Claire Christenson, Caitlyn Klocek, Kia Legred, Tyra Johnson, Ryan Kloos, Morgan Pyzick, Dylan Herman, Trevor Stencil, Wyatt Johnson, Zach Linde (new), Colby Klocek (new) & Abi Renz(new)

Board Minutes

-Wells Public Utilities, May 2016

## **STAFF REPORTS**

Street Foreman Pyzick updated the Council on the hazardous tree study that was recently completed. Pyzick stated that they will focus on trees west of highway 109 to highway 22 north and south to 12<sup>th</sup> street. Pyzick also stated that 22 trees were determined to be dead or damaged and will need to be removed. MnDOT is determining who is responsible to do so.

Leslie stated that 501 1<sup>st</sup> Ave SE was demolished and that the surplus fire equipment has been sold and picked up. Leslie also stated that the Planning & Zoning Commission continues to work on a rental ordinance and that the City Wide Clean Up will be Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **BUSINESS**

**2015 Audit Presentation-** Layne Kockelman, Abdo, Eick & Meyer, stated the 2015 audit is now complete and that there were no new findings compared to 2014, which the City is not already aware of.

Harig questions if there was one thing to point out, what would that be? Mr. Kockelman stated to continue to focus on infrastructure planning.

Leslie mentioned she is working on a five year plan with Abdo, Eick and Meyers already.

**2016-2017 Liquor Licenses-** Motion by Harig and second by Braun to approve 2016-2017 liquor licenses and to pro-rate the Wild Cat license fees to \$200 because of how closely the renewal period fell to the time they had to re-apply for their new business name. Motion carried.

**Full Time Street Laborer Appointment – Chad Klocek-** Leslie stated that the Public Works Committee met to conduct interviews for the new Street Laborer position and that out of eight applications total, the committee interviewed four. Leslie also stated that Chad Klocek was the highest scorer during the interview process and that the committee is recommending he be appointed to the position at the starting hourly rate of \$19.04 per hour subject to a six month probationary period.

Chad Harig stated that he was one of that four interviewees and that he formally withdraws his application from consideration for the position. Harig also stated that he is appalled that candidates aren't recommended based on knowledge and experience.

Councilmember Harig read a prepared statement indicating she was not pleased with the recommendations of the hiring committee.

She disclosed her conflict of interest and stated she has no knowledge of 2 out of the 4 applicants but is confident the most qualified person was not chosen by the committee.

She urged the entire council to consider her concerns and stated that demanding accountability is her greatest responsibility as an elected official. Additionally, she requested that the city's hiring procedures be added to the next agenda so that alternatives that would promote a more transparent and fair process can be discussed.

Mayor Gaines stated that the Council does not typically sway from the committee's decision.

Braun stated that he is still reluctant to put a full time employee on a mower and he wonders if the position is still justifiable without paving and recycling duties.

Leslie stated that the City Council already analyzed the necessity of the position and recommended to move forward with hiring the full time position. Leslie also stated that because it's already been budgeted, the recommendation on the table is to appoint the applicant and not to debate the justification.

Herman stated that he was in favor of hiring at part-time person as well but since the union limits the number of hours a part-time employee can work, it's gotten harder to fill that kind of position.

Harig questioned the City Attorney if she could vote on the appointment since her husband withdrew his application.

Fruendt stated that Harig could vote.

Motion by Herman and second by Burns to appoint Chad Klocek to the Full Time Street Laborer position. Motion carries 3-2 (Braun and Harig against).

### **COUNCIL REPORTS**

Burns- none

Braun- stated that with the additional staff he would like to see a more detailed weekly report from the street department.

Leslie stated that biweekly reports are already submitted with payroll and that she will share these with the Council.

Harig- stated that she wants to see the hiring process on the agenda for next month's meeting.

Herman- none.

Gaines- stated that he attended the Mayor's Conference and had a discussion with Governor Dayton regarding issues facing greater Minnesota.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Herman and second by Burns to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 pm.

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Mayor Ronald Gaines

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Deputy City Clerk Megan Boeck