



The Wells City Council convened on Monday, May 18, 2015 at 5:00 pm in the Council Chamber.

Mayor Gaines called the meeting to order with the following councilmembers present: David Braun, Steve Burns, John Herman and Whitney Harig. Also present: City Administrator Robin Leslie, Deputy City Clerk Megan Boeck and Street Department Foreman Mike Pyzick.

AGENDA

The agenda for the May 18, 2015 meeting was reviewed. Motion by Burns and second by Harig to approve as presented. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ashley Seedorf was present and stated that she has concerns regarding a person interested in the Council position that was told she couldn't serve because conflict of interest.

City Administrator Leslie stated that Crystal Dulas did indicate she had interest in serving on Council and that she informed her of the potential of conflict of interest. Leslie stated she merely informed her of the potential issue because the City does business regularly with Dulas Excavating. Leslie also stated that Ms. Dulas rescinded her interest on her own accord.

Seedorf asked where the money to hire the part time office clerk is coming from since at budget time there wasn't any money for extra expenditures.

Leslie stated the cost for a part-time office clerk for the remainder of 2015 is approximately \$7,000 and that recently a transfer of \$66,000 was made from the Recycling Enterprise Fund to the General Fund, which will more than cover the cost of the part-time office clerk and related expenses. Leslie also stated that next year the position will be a budgeted item if the Council chooses.

Seedorf wanted to know why the office was closed on Administrative and Professional's Day because she thinks it's an inconvenience for people that need to handle business over their lunch hour.

Leslie stated that she closed the office this day to give City Hall staff the opportunity to be honored and to buy her staff lunch, which she is never able to do as a whole. She also said this was the second year doing so and it was only the third time in two years that the office has been closed during office hours-twice for APD and once for 15 minutes.

Seedorf also stated she has concerns with the resignation policy and the golf cart resolution that were both recently approved by Council.

Leslie stated that the purpose of the new resignation policy is so that Council can determine if a resignation has been left in good standing, if not they would have the right to withhold vacation pay. She stated the old policy of two week notices for department heads is not sufficient notice. Leslie also stated that the Golf Cart Resolution was only a clarification done for the public. The only new language was prohibiting regular travel in public alleyways and all other language was the original ordinance language, but spelled out. Golf carts are prohibited from State and County roads by statute, as the original ordinance states.

Seedorf also questioned talk about closing the cart path near Cemstone and the abandoned vehicle across the street from the Community Center.

Leslie stated there have been discussion about closing that street at the Public Works Committee level but nothing has been decided yet as that will have to come before the full Council for a hearing to close a public street. Also, she stated the City is aware of the vehicle across the street and that the City has attempted contact with the property owner, but the mail is returned. The City cannot trespass on private property to remove the vehicle. This property is on our code enforcement list but little can be don't about it at this point without a court order.

Randy Weber was present and stated he wanted to address the Wells City Council regarding his easement agreement. Weber wondered if anything was going to be done since it's been a year and a half since the project started.

Mayor Gaines informed Weber that money has been set aside to reimburse for shrubbery and fencing and that once they have been installed, a reimbursement can be made.

Leslie stated the Public Works Committee will be meeting to prepare a response for the fencing setback and the easement agreement.

CONSENT ITEMS

Minutes

Motion by Burns and second by Harig to approve April 27, 2015 minutes. Motion carried.

Payments

Motion by Harig and second by Herman to approve payments in the amount of \$214,316.21 as listed on pages 4-7 of the council packet. Motion carried.

Board Reports

Motion by Herman and second by Harig to accept Board Reports as listed on pages 12-15 of the council packet. Motion carried.

Staff Reports

City Administrator Leslie stated that the surplus sale went well and that she intends to split the proceeds between the Liquor Store and the Community Center. Leslie also stated she hopes to have the annexation issue discussed at the June 8th Council meeting now that area property owners have been notified. Leslie also informed the Council of a \$25,000 grant that was awarded to the Lions Club to make their Lions Park project larger in scope and better for storm water management. In addition, she mentioned the hazardous property on 1st Ave SW that will have to bump the other properties in abatement priority due to the nature of the hazards. She stated the power was turned off and that she was informed the property did not have running water for about eight years.

Street Department Forman Pyzick stated staff is working diligently to have the pool prepped for a June 6th opening. Pyzick also stated that blacktopping and sealcoating projects are next to be completed.

Leslie covered the highlights of Interim Chief of Police Brenegan's report as he was unable to be in attendance. Leslie stated in part of the city surplus sale, 21 bikes were donated to the Department of Corrections and will be refurbished as part of one of the programs for under privileged kids. Leslie also stated the Police Department will continue to work with the school on replacing the school resources

officer position and is currently back grounding part-time officers. In addition, she mentioned the donation of the AED and the grant received from the SMSC for first responder equipment.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2015-19 Issuing G.O. Equipment Certificates for 2015- Monte Eastvold from Northland Securities was present to address the Council regarding the purchase of a \$650,000 General Obligation Certificate for a new fire truck. Eastvold stated the bond will be payable entirely from the tax levy and if approved, the funds will be made available on June 11th. Motion by Herman and second by Braun to approve Resolution 2015-19 Issuing G.O. Equipment Certificate for 2015. Motion carried 4-0.

Wells Gun Club Layout Change Request- Gun Club President Donn Browne presented the Council with proposed layout changes for the Wells Gun Club. Brown stated that since area trap leagues have expanded, the plan is to make more room for the trap shooting area and alleviate parking issues. Leslie questioned if any trees would be removed and noted there may be wetlands present. Mr. Browne said the trees would remain and he would work with the City on the wetland issue. Motion by Braun and second by Burns to approve change request on pages 37-38 of the Council packet subject to property addressing wetland issues. Motion carried.

Library Board Resignation- Motion by Burns and second by Harig to approve Library Board resignation from Linda Sonnek with appreciate for service. Motion carried.

Part-Time Police Office Appointment- Motion by Burns and second by Braun to appoint Tyler Linde as a Part-Time Police Officer subject to a six month probationary period. Motion carried.

Street Department Truck Purchase- Leslie stated the Street Department is in need of a new $\frac{3}{4}$ ton pickup. She stated funds for this truck were cut from the Capital Equipment Fund to decrease the 2015 levy but recently the Council approved a transfer of \$50,000 from the Recycling Enterprise Fund after it was closed. Leslie stated this transfer will cover costs of the new truck. Motion by Burns and second by Harig to authorize purchase of a new $\frac{3}{4}$ ton pickup from Blake Greenfield Chevrolet plus outfitting equipment. Motion carried.

2015-16 Liquor License Renewals- Motion by Braun and second by Herman to approve the following liquor license renewals: Wells American Legion- Club/Sunday, VFW- Club/Sunday, Wildcats 1 (37 South Broadway)- On-sale/Sunday and Wildcats 2 (34 1st Street SE)- On-sale/Sunday. Motion carried.

Temporary On-sale Liquor Requests – Motion by Herman and second by Braun to approve Temporary On-sale Liquor Requests from the Wells Area Jaycees for a beer garden at Half Moon Park on August 14th and 15th and a street dance at the Municipal Parking Lot on August 15th; and from St. Casimir's Church for a cash bar in the church basement on July 11th. Motion carried.

Seasonal Pool Appointments- Motion by Burns and second by Braun to approve returning seasonal pool staff, as well as Ryan Kloos, Trevor Stencel, Dylan Herman, Morgan Pyzick and Annie Schroeder, who are new to the pool this year. Motion carried.

Declare 412 1st Ave SW a Hazardous Structure- Leslie informed the Council that property at 412 1st Ave SW is without electricity and running water and has been posted uninhabitable. Leslie stated the City Attorney has been notified and she would like to move forward with designating the property as a hazardous structure in order to start the removal process as soon as possible. Motion by Burns and second by Herman to declare 412 1st Ave SW a hazardous structure. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Gaines- None.

Braun- asked about the process for hiring the new Chief. Leslie stated the Public Safety Committee will begin that process soon. He also asked about the speed study on 109 and limits on 11th Ave/6th Street. Leslie stated MNDOT has added Wells to their list but 109 may not get done this year. She also stated speed studies are not required for school zone speed limits unless the streets under other jurisdiction.

Burns- None.

Herman- None.

Warmka- None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Harig and second by Burns to adjourn the meeting at 6:28 pm.

Mayor Ronald Gaines

Deputy City Clerk Megan Boeck