Sheldon, Iowa City Council October 16, 2019

The Sheldon City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. Mayor Greg Geels called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken. Present: Brad Hindt, Shawn Broesder, Wayne Barahona, Pete Hamill and Tom Eggers by telephone. Also present: Todd Uhl, Sam Kooiker, Curt Strouth, and Angela Beckman.

A motion was made by Hamill and seconded by Barahona to approve the agenda adding 3f to the consent: change order #2 for the Spartan fire pumper truck. Roll call was taken. Ayes, all. Motion carried.

Public comments: Marv Van Riesen asked Kooiker to update the franchise information on the City’s website to include items like trial by jury and imminent domain. Kooiker stated that both franchise ordinances, in their entirety, are on the website. Terry Braaksma stated he has been working with Kooiker and looking at the city’s finances. He said that MidAmerican Energy doesn’t have commitment to Sheldon and we aren’t getting anything by entering into a franchise agreement. Braaksma then added that as far as the Pavilion, it does not break even but does indeed lose money. If you factor in the debt payment expense and take out the donation revenue, it is in the red significantly. He continued that Sheldon has a spending problem. Harvey Bauman asked what advantage do we get from the franchise agreement if we vote yes? Hamill responded that the right of way and relocations of utilities was important for the City and that the voters would soon have an opportunity to weigh in.

A motion was made by Broesder and seconded by Eggers to approve the consent agenda with the following items:

1. Minutes of October 2, 2019, and the boards & commissions.
2. Summary list of city claims, with additional as presented, boards & commissions.
3. September financial reports.
4. Approve the appointment of Bill Boscaljon to the Library Board.
5. Approval of liquor license renewal for Los Panchos at 101 Park Street.
6. Approval of change order #2 for the Spartan fire pumper for a decrease of $325.58.

Roll call was taken. Ayes, all. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Hindt and seconded by Eggers to acknowledge receipt of FEMA findings and appeals process. A motion was made by Eggers and seconded by Hamill to approve Resolution R19-4468 A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE CITY DOES NOT OBJECT TO THE FEMA FLOOD HAZARD DETERMINATIONS REGARDING CITY-OWNED PARCELS. Roll call was taken. Ayes, all. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Hamill and seconded by Barahona to set November 6, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. for a public hearing on Ordinance amending the zoning ordinance section 12.3 pertaining to residential uses in Business Commercial (Downtown) district. Roll call was taken. Ayes, all. Motion carried.

Staff comments: Uhl stated that the mill work is done on certain roads for blacktopping. We hope the paver will be in town next week. He also stated that RUT has in the budget to purchase a used plow truck. They have located a 2002 plow truck that they will purchase from the IA DOT and he would like to liquidate a 1984 International truck. Council agreed.

Council & Mayor comments: None.

Eggers was participating by phone and was unbale to stay on for the workshop.

Council then broke out in a workshop to discuss the prior fiscal year and future goal setting session. Beckman gave an overview of some of the revenues and expenditures. Several revenue streams, including hotel/motel, Road Use Tax and Interest income were higher than anticipated. Kooiker stated Eric Christiansen is planning on a goal setting session on December 11, 2019 starting at 4:00 p.m. This will be a special council meeting with public comments at the very beginning. Council, Mayor and staff will be receiving a questionnaire prior to the session. Strouth stated SCDC is not planning on a goal setting session this year. Mayor Geels asked if some members of the SCDC executive committee could be involved. Braaksma asked how much debt the City has. It was noted that the City has over 18 million dollars in debt, and he asked Council to take that into consideration when in the goal setting session and working on budget. He stated the City does not have a revenue problem, but a spending problem. Mayor Geels said the City has reduced debt significantly and is now at 64% of debt capacity, rather than the previous 94%. 2.3 million in TIF debt has been paid down. Van Riesen stated that things need cut. He continued that the City needs to cut health insurance. Mayor Geels stated cuts can’t be made on the backs of the 31 employees. Van Riesen said Council “snuck” something into the budget. Carolyn Marshall asked if the city employees pay deductibles. Kooiker explained that 19 employees changed to a qualifying high deductible account (HSA) which has a $4,500/$9,000 deductible. Nine of the 14 union employees switched, when they didn’t have to, since there is another year left on the contract. The city does fund the family at $7,000, but increased the employee’s contribution for the family insurance from $500 to $2,000 This saved the City nearly $40,000 for FY19-20 (10 percent per employee). Mayor Geels pointed out that the levy is now 10 cents less than in 2003 and Van Reisen responded that it was too high then. Hindt stated that Council is planning for the future, and improvements, and things take money. We have to keep the town moving forward and keep moving forward.

A motion was made by Hindt and seconded by Barahona to adjourn at 5:15 p.m. Roll call was taken. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

 Angela Beckman, City Clerk