

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
December 10th, 2019

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof a regular meeting was duly held at City Hall at 7:00 PM on the 10th day of December, 2019.

Council present: Brian Anderson, Michael Cherney, Peter Schmitz, and Karen Ruechel.

Council absent: Paul Kirtz.

Mayor Brian Anderson opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

Motion made by Ruechel, seconded by Kirtz, to approve the City Council meeting agenda. Votes in favor: Cherney, Schmitz, and Ruechel. Votes against: None Motion carried.

TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING:

Mayor Brian Anderson and the City Council reviewed the budget for 2020, as presented by City Clerk Jim Kiefer. The budget shows a \$46,866.00 (5.4%) decrease in expenses, and a \$12,200.00 (3.00%) increase in property taxes. There was one citizen present for the hearing. The resident did not feel that the tax levy should include any costs of maintaining the sewer system. The proposed budget included a transfer of \$39,000.00 from the General Fund to the Sewer Fund. The resident suggested the City Council raise water and sewer rates to provide funds for maintaining the sewer system. The City Council tabled discussion on raising water rates until the January meeting. The city clerk will gather information on surrounding town's rates. A motion was made by Cherney, seconded by Schmitz, to approve the 2020 budget as presented. Votes in favor: Cherney, Ruechel, and Schmitz. Votes against: None Motion carried. A motion was made by Cherney, seconded by Schmitz, to approve resolution #18-2019, a resolution setting the 2020 tax levy at \$419,600.00. Votes in favor: Cherney, Ruechel, and Schmitz. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Motion made by Ruechel, seconded by Cherney, to adjourn the Truth in Taxation hearing. Votes in favor: Cherney, Kirtz, Ruechel, and Schmitz. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Mayor Anderson opened the City Council meeting.

Motion made by Schmitz, seconded by Ruechel, to approve the November 12th, and November 26th, 2019 minutes as recorded. Votes in favor: Cherney, Schmitz, and Ruechel. Votes against: None Motion carried.

City Clerk Jim Kiefer reported that Mower County Deputy Mark May took possession of a rifle and handgun that were part of the police department inventory. The weapons were received from a State grant and will be returned to the government. Discussion was held on what to do with the remaining squad car. The city clerk was directed to advertise the squad car for sale on the League of Cities web site. Asking price for the squad car was set at \$20,000.00

The City Council reviewed a fire service contract that was distributed to member communities of the Adams Rural Fire Association. The Rural Fire Association is disbanding December 31st, 2019. The City of Adams will take over all fire department operations and provide services to the Cities of Elkton and Taopi, and the Townships of Clayton, Adams, Lodi, and Marshall. A motion was made by Ruechel, seconded by Schmitz to approve the service contract as written. The mayor was directed to sign all contracts as they are received from the participating communities. Votes in favor: Cherney, Schmitz, and Ruechel. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Motion made by Schmitz, seconded by Cherney, to approve Resolution #17-2019, a resolution accepting a donation of fire vehicles from the Adams Rural Fire Association. Votes in favor: Cherney, Schmitz, and Ruechel. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Russell Retterath addressed the City Council with concerns over vehicle parking and snow removal on City streets. Russell suggested that parking be prohibited on City streets during the winter months. The City Council debated different options available to keep the streets cleared of vehicles during snow storms. The issue was tabled until the January meeting.

The bills payable for November were reviewed by the City Council. Motion made by Cherney, seconded by Ruechel, to approve payment of the bills as presented. Votes in favor: Cherney, Schmitz, and Ruechel. Votes against: None Motion carried.

The city clerk presented the October 31st, 2019 financial statements. Motion made by Schmitz, seconded by Cherney, to approve the financial statement as presented. Votes in favor: Cherney, Schmitz, and Ruechel. Votes against: None Motion carried.

City Clerk Jim Kiefer requested a motion on financial year end transfers that were included in the 2019 budget. A motion was made by Cherney, seconded by Schmitz, to transfer \$34,000.00 from the General Fund to the Sewer Fund, \$10,000.00 from the General Fund to the 322 Building Fund, and \$20,000.00 from the General Fund to the Street Maintenance Fund, \$6,000.00 from General Fund to Contingency Fund, \$5,000.00 from Water Fund to Sewer Fund, and \$2,300.00 from the Sewer Fund to the Sewer Replacement Fund. Votes in favor: Cherney, Ruechel, and Schmitz. Votes against: None Motion carried.

City Clerk Jim Kiefer updated the City Council on progress of the 2020 Street project. Jim reported that plans were not ready for this meeting. The engineer will present the plans at the January City Council meeting. The next step in the project is to accept the plans and specifications from the City engineer.

Discussion was held on applying for grants for the City of Adams. Council member Ruechel suggested the City have Kris Kiefer work some hours to allow Jim Kiefer more time for grant writing.

No further business.

Motion made by Ruechel, seconded by Cherney, to adjourn. Votes in favor: Cherney, Schmitz, and Ruechel. Votes against: None Motion carried.

Jim Kiefer

Clerk/ Treasurer