

CITY OF FRAZEE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
September 9th, 2014
6:00pm

Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Frazee City Council was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor Hank Ludtke. Council members present were David Jopp, Ken Miosek, Donna Ouart, and Bonnie Julius. City staff present: Jonathan Smith, City Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer; Marian Estenson, Deputy Clerk; Larry Stephenson, Public Works Superintendent; Mike Johnson, Police Chief; Regi Ueke, Fire Chief; Jolene Tappe, Event Center Manager and Tanya Mastin, Liquor Store Manager.

Ludtke led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Open Forum

Scheduled for the Open Forum was John Dermody. Dermody listed 4 questions regarding the work being done on County 118. First question is regarding the letter the city received from the MPCA. He asked regarding its contents and the resolution given by them for correction of the issue of asbestos. Second question is what was being done to pick up the asbestos. Third question is what is being done for resident's yards and fourthly the time line on the completion of the entire project. Chris Thorson, City Engineer was present to answer the concerns listed. Thorson noted that the MPCA in its letter, addressed the pipe and gave the method of treatment and requested notification on how the Asbestos laden pipe would be treated in any future projects. Also the team that was contracted to remove the asbestos from the area completed their work by Friday afternoon and have signed off on it. All that remains is the recheck by the inspector from the MPCA to sign off as well.

Second on the open forum was Tonya Trusty. Trusty noted that she had felt that the project was being handled poorly so she called the MPCA, the EPA and OSHA. She also was concerned about the cost noting that the residents should not pay for the extra cost involved in the asbestos removal. Jonathan Smith, City Administrator noted that once the preconstruction hearing was held, it is very hard to take any added costs back to the residents. Typically the city has covered the costs of overages. He also noted that we have no idea at this time the cost of the extra work but also noted that as the city hires professionals that should be aware of proper handling of all materials that his opinion was that the city should not be liable for extra costs. Smith also reported that in all future projects this issue will definitely be treated in a different way.

Next on the open forum was Kevin Niemann. Niemann owns a house which is rented out. Niemann felt that since the city had hired professionals that the blame should fall on the professionals that should know the proper handling of this type of material. Smith noted that once we have full knowledge of expenses the city would be able to sit down with all entities, the City, Ulteig, Anderson Brothers, J & J Construction and the MPCA, and work out a fair solution to the financial problem.

Fourth on the open forum was Citizen Brenda Jepson. Jepson's daughter, Amanda Johnson, lives within the County 118 project. Jepson had concerns regarding statements that were brought up at the last council meeting as well as statements that were published in the paper.

Fifth on the open forum was Amanda Johnson. Johnson lives in the home rented from Niemann and questioned the 'downplaying' of concerns of the asbestos issue by the city. Johnson felt that they were exposed to the asbestos without being aware of the dangers.

Trusty noted the need to change the procedures relating to asbestos pipe removal and felt that the City of Frazee should help with the changes.

Council member Miosek replied to some of the concerns voiced all individuals noting that even in removal of the pipe the experts were not wearing any sort of protective gear. David Jopp, council member, noted that the City hires professionals for this type of project and we must trust those professionals to know how to handle that project. Miosek also noted that the City would definitely consider how projects will be handled from now on.

Consent Agenda

MOTION by Jopp, seconded by Julius, to approve the consent agenda items as follows:

- Approve the minutes from the August Regular Meeting.
- Approve the City claims for payment.
- Approve the Liquor Store claims for payment.

All present in favor, motion carried.

Old Business

Chris Thorson, City Engineer with Ulteig Engineering, was present to give the update on the County 118 project. Thorson noted that now with the asbestos contractors having signed off they would be able to move forward with the completion of the project. They are looking at approximately 3 more weeks for final completion. The projected date of August 29th has been moved out to September 26th.

Jopp asked Thorson if the residents have been able to get into their yards and driveways. Thorson noted that they have had access. He also reported that we are just waiting for further word from Collin, of the Department of Health to sign off.

Smith reported that council has in the packet the 2nd request for payment. He noted to council that this payment amount is up to the date of asbestos removal. The amount for that charge would be forthcoming.

MOTION by Miosek, seconded by Ouart to approve payment of the second pay order request.

All present in favor, motion carried.

New business

Under new business is Resolution 0908-14A, the 2015 Proposed Tax Levy. Smith noted that although the levy shows a 2% increase that because of new homes and change of the City tax capacity, that it is actually a 1.35% decrease. Smith noted that none of these funds go to Council member benefits. These benefits go only to full time employees and that all part time staff and council members that receive any perceived benefits are fully paid for by those individuals. Smith also noted that capital expenditures remain the same. The city invests these funds until they are needed. Some capital projects that are being viewed are the sidewalk repair, the park and rec improvements at the beach house and the Safe routes to school matching grants funds. Also there may be some infrastructure projects that need to be considered.

MOTION by Quart, seconded by Jopp to approve Resolution 0909-14A, Approval of the Budget and Preliminary Tax Levy.
Smith noted that with that preliminary budget in place the city cannot increase that amount but can decrease for the final budget.
All present in favor, motion carried.

Staff Reports

Mike Johnson, Police Department, noted that there were 123 calls for the month of August with 791 year to date. Johnson reported that Daran Borth, the newest member of the Police department has received a job offer from Becker County and he would be leaving sometime in October. Borth has given no final date but it is hoped with the longer time frame to work with, there would be enough time to find a replacement.

MOTION by Miosek, seconded by Jopp to accept the resignation of Daran Borth per his request. All present in favor, motion carried. Smith requested council consent to authorize the personnel committee to search for a new officer. Request was noted.

Mark Flemmer, Frazee Rescue Squad, reported 14 medical calls, 9 in town, in the month of August. Flemmer noted that the Rescue Squad pig roast fundraiser is on track for the 21st of February with the meal from 5-8 and dance from 8 to midnight. Flemmer also reported that the Rescue Squad will be meeting tomorrow evening to discuss the role of the rescue squad during school home games.

Regi Ueke, Fire Department, reported 2 calls in the month of August. One vehicle accident and one false alarm at the school. Ueke also reported that the railroad was offering a free class in Colorado. Brad Billett and Joe Nelson would be attending. The railroad would fly them out and cover all expenses. Ueke also noted that the planned disaster drill is to be postponed until April and the radio deal that was mentioned at the last meeting has fallen through. Coming tomorrow evening would be training in Detroit Lakes from 6-10PM for the 800 mhz radio system.

Speaking for the Fireman's Relief Association was Nathan Matejka. He noted that the firemen receive at this point \$1200.00 for each year served in a lump sum upon retirement and is asking for an increase of that amount.

Larry Stephenson, Public Works Superintendent reported that 5,624,000 gallons of water were pumped in the month of August. Stephenson also reported 3.08" of rain, and 2.81 million pumped out to the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Stephenson reported discharging has gone well with 54 million,654 thousand gallons being discharged to date. They are planning to discharge within the next few days. One sidewalk repair quote has been received from Jepson Concrete for \$11,455. Smith stated that all concrete companies in the area were called personally to offer them this work and Jepson Concrete was the only one who responded with a quote. Stephenson noted that plans are to complete the worst sites first, in front of the City office, in front of the Frazee Forum, by the Methodist Church and in front of Cool Cuts Salon. Stephenson also noted that hopefully we can budget each year to keep up with this type of sidewalk repair.

Stephenson requested the council to consider allowing for the hiring of Rij Koehnen as a full time employee. Stephenson stated that Koehnen has been with the city for 4 summers and has been a good help. Starting wage is considered at \$12.20 an hour and he would be put into the schedule to receive an increase with the rest of the full time staff for the beginning of January. Stephenson requested that the 3 month probationary period be waived as he has been on staff as a seasonal employee.

MOTION by Miosek, seconded by Quart, to approve the hiring of Rij Koehnen for full time public works starting at \$12.20 starting immediately.

All present in favor, motion carried.

MOTION by Quart, seconded by Julius, to approve the bid from Jepson Concrete for the sidewalk work proposed.

All present in favor, motion carried.

Tanya Mastin, Frazee Liquor Store, reported her numbers for the on and off sale. Mastin reported a gain of \$5,111.18 in the Off Sale and a gain of \$1,259.47 for the On Sale. Mastin reported that she sees quite a few sales for We Fest which has really helped her August numbers.

Jolene Tappe, Event Center Manager noted that the Event Center had a loss of \$657.33 for the month of August and she also reported that the White Pine Room had a great month of a positive \$1,753.38. Tappe stated that she had a wedding cancel only a couple weeks before their event making it impossible to fill that slot. That left her with only 2 weddings for the month of August. Tappe also reported that she has purchased a few items that she will rent out to weddings and has done so already which will help the profit for the facility. Tappe also requested that the council look at the feasibility of expansion or addition of a bar in the Event Center. She stated that during the large events there are difficulties with the small bar and the placement is not the best.

MOTION by Quart, seconded by Jopp, to put together a committee to come up with suggestions on how to move forward with this option.

All present in favor, motion carried.

Tappe also reported that the company looking at the roof has not been there yet to do the repairs.

MOTION by Julius, seconded by Miosek, to accept all staff reports as presented.

All present in favor, motion carried.

Council Member reports

EDA – Ludtke reported Dan Jule and Mr Holland attended the last EDA meeting and gave a presentation on solar options for the city. Also discussed at the meeting was the money available in the revolving loan funds and the closing date that is set for September 30 for the sale of the Sunrise Sr. Villa to the Frazee Care Center.

PLANNING AND ZONING – Mike Johnson, Police Chief, reporting for Planning and Zoning noted that they discussed the existing building permits, and the need to update the Comp plan. That update would be in partnership with the EDA and Council.

PERSONNEL AND FINANCE – Miosek noted that they met in regards to the preliminary budget and now will need to discuss the replacement of Officer Borth.

PUBLIC SAFETY – did not meet.

WACCO- Did not meet.

LARL- Julius reported that the library had an event just Monday, September 8th at 1:30 that was well attended and another would be coming September 26th, a Friday at 5:PM

MOTION was made by Jopp and seconded by Julius to accept the Council Member Reports as presented. All present in favor, motion carried.

Clerk/Treasurer Report

Jonathan Smith, City Administrator/ Clerk/ Treasurer reported that the membership enrollment time it here for the League of Minnesota Cities. He noted that the dues have gone up a small amount.

MOTION by Quart, seconded by Miosek to maintain the City of Frazee membership in the League of Minnesota Cities, and to pay the dues as stated, all in favor, motion carried.

Smith also noted that in their packet is the upcoming regional meetings schedule for the League with the closest location in Vergas. He encourages the council members to attend this close meeting. The meeting will be October 29th in the afternoon. Also up for renewal is the Mayor membership.

MOTION by Jopp, seconded by Julius to approve the Clerk/Treasurer report as presented. All present in favor, motion carried.

Having no further business, meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

ATTEST;

Marian Estenson, Deputy Clerk