

DUNKERTON CITY COUNCIL met in regular session, **February 14, 2022**, in the City Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Michael J. Schares presiding. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Brian Roquet, Derek Shaner and Monica Smith. Let the record show that Allison Baugher and Ron Reichen joined via phone. Quorum present. Mayor Schares led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Residents could participate via an online session at Zoom.us by entering meeting ID: 816 9040 2090 and Password: 301726. Residents could also participate via audio by dialing 1.312.626.6799.

Unless otherwise noted, all actions were passed by affirmative and unanimous vote of the council members present.

Consent agenda: Roquet moved, Reichen seconded to approve the Consent Agenda by one motion a) Feb 14, 2022 Agenda, b) Jan 10, 2022 Regular Meeting; January 13, 2022 Special Meeting; January 18, 2022 Special Meeting; February 3, 2022 Special Meeting; c) Jan 2022 Monthly Reports: Clerk Financial Reports, Bank Reconciliation, UB Reconciliation, Ambulance, Fire, Police, Building Permits, Library, Fehr Graham Water Filtration Plant update, Ambulance Departmental Run Totals for 2021, Fire Department addition – Lonnie Newhall, Police Department resignation – Andy Snyder, and Bills Resolution 2022-08.

#### Department Head Reports:

- Library Director Wheeler stated hot spots have been received. These hot spots will be used by residents who do not have access to an internet connection and is a federally funded program that will be reimbursed to the city.
- Fire Chief Manahl had no additions to his written report.
- Police Chief Stafford had no additions to his written report.
- Clerk Steffen had no additions to her written report.
- Public Works Director Loftus stated due to the materials shortage, certain aspects of the filtration plant project have been delayed. The EPA has just finalized the municipality rules for lead and copper lines and the city will need a complete inventory of all lines by Oct 2024.

Mayor Schares opened the public hearing for the maximum tax levy rate required by State of Iowa statute 384.15A. Mayor Schares asked if the city had received any comments either for or against the proposed tax levy rate of \$12.73295. Clerk Steffen stated the city received two phone calls from residents Judy Olson and Judy Gray stating they were opposed to the rate increase. Let the record show that Council Member Roquet provided letters from residents Judy Olson and Judy Gray at the council meeting. Mayor Schares then asked those in attendance and those attending via Zoom if there were any comments either for or against the proposed tax levy rate. Hearing none, moved by Smith, seconded by Reichen to close the public hearing.

Mayor Schares reviewed levy rates for property and liability insurance, FICA & IPERS and employee benefits. Moved by Smith, seconded by Baugher to approve Resolution 2022-09 setting the property tax levy rate at \$11.52543 with a maximum property tax dollar amount of \$378,687.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Roquet to approve setting the public hearing date for the FY2023 proposed budget for March 14, 2022.

Moved by Baugher, seconded by Shaner to approve posting for a part-time police officer. Council member Smith mentioned Fairbank is seeking a part-time officer as well and suggested that both cities may be able to share an officer between both communities.

Mr. Lane LeBahn from Oakland Corp. made a brief presentation to the council on Laserfiche, a document management software. Current service is with Gordon Flesch Company, his former employer. Clerk Steffen said she's worked successfully with Mr. LeBahn in the past and recommended that the city consider Oakland Corp. Moved by Roquet, seconded by Shaner to approve Oakland Corp. as the service provider and terminating the Gordon Flesch agreement.

Moved by Roquet, seconded by Shaner to approve moving Laserfiche services to Oakland Corporation.

The Bremer County Planning and Zoning Administrator is requesting the city adopt 2021 Uniform Plumbing Codes and 2020 National Electric Codes to be in compliance with Iowa Administrative Code. In addition to building code updates, Mayor Schares stated that Council Members Roquet and Reichen will be working on additional ordinance changes pertaining to garage dimensions.

Moved by Roquet, seconded by Shaner to approve DOT compensation of \$133.37 for a detour that occurred from September 30, 2021 – October 18, 2021 for IA 281 subgrade repair and PCC patching of bridge.

Moved by Roquet, seconded by Baugher to approve a 28E Agreement with the City of Jesup for the sharing of mosquito spray equipment.

Moved by Roquet, seconded by Shaner to approve renewal of Chucky's Tollgate Restaurant and Lounge Class C Liquor License.

Moved by Shaner, seconded by Roquet to approve renewal of Kwik Star's Class C Beer Permit.

Moved by Roquet, seconded by Smith to approve a one-time reduction of the Dunkerton Community Hall utility bill by averaging the past 12-month period for a total of \$63.06.

Dr. Laura Jackson from the UNI Tallgrass Prairie Center and Ms. Pam Wolters presented the council with information regarding the native prairie on the West edge of Dunkerton. The native prairie is owned by the Iowa Northern Railway and was initially 3 acres but has been neglected and is now closer to 2 acres at this time. Ms. Wolters requested the council complete a railroad application allowing volunteers to begin removing woody vegetation and to potentially burn the prairie this summer. Dr. Jackson mentioned there will be volunteers from the Tallgrass Prairie Center that may be able to help with this endeavor. Moved by Roquet, seconded by Smith to approve completing the Iowa Northern Railway Application for the proposed maintenance of the Dunkerton Remnant Railroad Prairie.

Public Comments:

- Ms. Elaine Nordman asked if a letter has been sent to the homeowner of 400 W. Dunkerton regarding the demolition of the home as it is in disrepair.
- Mr. DJ Manahl stated that he has seen many improvements within the city and commends the council for tackling these needs but stated there are still many items needing attention.
- Mr. Tom DeLong mentioned the levy rate printed in the newspaper reflected a possible increase of 43% and stated this may have residents worried.

Mayoral and Council comments:

- Mayor Schares praised department heads and commended them on the reduction of their budgets. Overall cuts were approximately \$167,000.
- Council member Smith read a draft of an article to be submitted to the Dunkerton News.

With no further discussion, Roquet / Shaner to adjourn at 8:21 pm.

Michael J. Schares, Mayor

ATTEST: Sheila K. Steffen, City Clerk