

## Regular/Public

February 1, 2021

Council President Paul Vance called the regular meeting to order. Pastor Chuck Davis led the prayer. The pledge was recited.

Roll call. Handwerk, Aspiras, Lorson, Mosley, Foy, Widmer and Wilson all were present.

Council minutes of regular meetings held January 19, 2021, were presented for approval. Lorson moved to approve those minutes; Wilson seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

Parks and Recreation – Handwerk: No report. Reminder of the upcoming committee meeting on February 15, 2021, 6:30 p.m. prior to the regular council meeting.

Utilities – Foy: No report. Following up on a Daily Record article about a resident's sewer backup, it had very helpful information and a backflow device is available through our wastewater department. President Vance reminded everyone that the Public Utility Board meets on the off council Monday's and is open to the public via zoom. Also that homeowners can also increase their insurance limits on sewers and drains coverage to cover these type of incidents.

Transportation – Mosley: The committee met last Monday. Request made to pass Resolution 3-21 on first reading tonight for OPWC project engineering. And to let Resolution 4-21 go three readings; this is the final phase of city sidewalk projects.

Health and Safety – Aspiras: Met last Monday to discuss the purchase of a second ambulance a few years early with some funds available. Resolution 5-21 is coming up tonight.

### **Administrative Reports**

Mayor Handwerk: Armstrong rates are rising by \$1-\$3. Also property taxes were revalued at an increased rate, done by the county not by the city.

Safety-Service Director Wheeler: Salt usage for the past weekend, 120 tons used. We have 350 tons remaining in stock with an additional 100 tons being delivered this week. Cost is about \$52/ton for salt. In 2009, salt was \$120/ton.

Utility Director Brediger: AMP (American Municipal Power) filed a lawsuit against the United States attempting to recover approximately \$76 million in interest that is owed to us on our Prairie State and hydro project financing where we utilized the Build America bonds at the request of the Federal Government who were pushing those bonds. Those came with guaranteed interest rates. Since the sequestration several years ago, and the continuing and renewal of the sequestration, the federal government has pulled back on those interest rates which has cost our customers a little over \$800,000 in extra interest payments. This will be our third administration with President Biden, where we have had to update and discuss our concerns. We are joining the other six owners of the Prairie State project in filing this suit. We could pay an additional \$2.4 million in interest payments if this isn't corrected during the current expected term of the sequestration. If nothing gets done over the life of the Build America Bonds, we have exposure of about an extra \$30 million. Big interest rates.

Council President Vance: Welcomed a new grandchild early this morning.

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**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

Resolution 3-21 Lorson moved that it be placed on first reading. Handwerk seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried. **Resolution 3-21**, A Resolution authorizing the Safety-Service Director to enter into a contract and/or contracts for engineering services for the 2021 OPWC Asphalt Street Resurfacing Project and declaring an emergency.

Discussion: The proposed streets for resurfacing are West High, West Paradise, Maple, Evergreen, Crestview, North Walnut and Lake. This piece is to begin engineering on the project. State funds are not released until July. We try to complete engineering and go out for bids in June and have the contractor ready to go by July when the funds are released by OPWC. All indications are we will receive OPWC funding of about half a million, which is the maximum amount they provide. Request was made to pass this piece so we can move forward to meet the schedule.

Lorson moved, due to time constraints, that the rules, regulations, and statutes requiring the reading of a resolution on three separate days be suspended. Mosley seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried. Lorson moved that Resolution 3-21 be adopted as read. Wilson seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried.

Resolution 4-21 Lorson moved that it be placed on first reading. Mosley seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried. **Resolution 4-21**, A Resolution authorizing the Safety-Service Director to enter into a contract for engineering services for the design of sidewalks for Phase IV of the Orrville Sidewalk Program and declaring an emergency.

Discussion: This is engineering for Phase IV of the sidewalks, the final phase of residential areas. It includes Viking Avenue, Lakeview Drive, Primrose Lane, Meadow Lane, Heatherwood Lane, Heights Avenue, Lee Drive, Magnolia Lane, Tammy Court, Kenwood Drive and Lynn Drive. Once council approves the engineering, we expect it to take between 120-180 days to complete engineering. Once engineering is complete, another resolution will be brought for council approval allowing us to move forward and notify property owners that the project is taking place. Once letters are sent out, property owners have three years to install their sidewalks. If they are not installed within the three year period, we will hire a contractor to come in and do the remaining sidewalks and invoice the property owner. The property owner can pay the invoice or allow it to be assessed to their property taxes which then is broke down over a five year period. It was questioned as to the Redwood development if they would be included, Rohrer Road portion. Only one side of Rohrer is within city limits and would require sidewalks. Redwood can be added to the contract with the engineers without altering this piece of legislation. This piece will go to second reading.

Resolution 5-21 Lorson moved that it be placed on first reading. Aspiras seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried. **Resolution 5-21**, A Resolution authorizing the Board of Control to enter into a contract with PFund Superior Sales, without bidding, for the purchase of a 2021 or 2022 Life Line Ambulance, and declaring an emergency.

Discussion: This was discussed at the committee meeting Monday. We are proposing purchasing a new ambulance to replace a 2005. We would use \$75,000

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in surplus general fund as a result of CARES Act funds, \$100,000 from the general fund we will receive from EMS receipts and \$100,000 in capital funds with the potential to refund from EMS funds once we rebuild that fund. We can let this go three readings. There is a chance to have the '20/'21 chassis if we ordered it rather quickly. The advantage is a quicker delivery time. We have the opportunity to use those additional funds if we do it now. Also, waiting the two years, the purchase price will be higher. We were able to get discounts with this company as we just purchased one from them. EMS runs have been increasing quite a bit. No long term debt liability. If we borrow from the capital and general we would pay that back through the EMS receipts that we will take in in the next year or two. If we don't use the CARES funds to purchase it, then we will still have to purchase it in a couple year but without the extra funds and at a higher purchase price. We will save money without having to sacrifice any other projects

Lorson moved, due to the points raised, that the rules, regulations, and statutes requiring the reading of a resolution on three separate days be suspended. Aspiras seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried. Lorson moved that Resolution 5-21 be adopted as read. Aspiras seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried.

**Safety Service Department Annual Report – Director Steven Wheeler**

Director Wheeler presented his power point presentation. Copy on file.

**Good of the Order**

Director Wheeler presented two applications for agricultural district designation for property taxes. By ORC we can schedule a public hearing on those for next meeting or we simply do nothing and in 30 days it is automatically approved. Both are renewals. The Shoup property adjacent to the pond on North Crown Hill as you leave town. The Dean and Linda Arnold property behind the industrial park, a portion within city limits and a larger portion in the county. Both are currently being used agriculturally. There have been no complaints. We will proceed without the public hearing.

Aspiras thanked council and administration for all their input in coming to the final decisions for Health and Safety.

President Vance shared a picture of his grandchild Theodore born this morning.

**Adjournment**

Wilson moved to adjourn the council meeting; Lorson seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried.

Council adjourned.

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Jeanne Gault, Clerk of Council

\_\_\_\_\_, 2021  
Date

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Paul Vance, President of Council