

City of Preston
Regular City Council Meeting
November 25, 2019

Mayor Richard Betts called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.
ROLL CALL Present: R. Peterson, A. Sullivan, P. Hoffman, T. Sieverding
Absent: M. Petersen

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented. Motion made by R. Petersen, seconded by A. Sullivan. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

CITIZEN /PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

GUEST SPEAKER (via phone) POLICE CHIEF ALEX CHIEF LEU, FONDA, IOWA POLICE DEPARTMENT: A. Sullivan introduced Chief Leu and explained her association with the Chief. A. Sullivan's brother is a reserve officer for the Fonda Police Department and he reports to Chief Leu. A. Sullivan went onto explain that Chief Leu gives another perspective of how a small town (s) can handle 28 E Agreements and salaries. Chief Leu stated to Mayor and Council that Chief Scott Heiar knows his numbers. In his experience he has used the services of the Iowa State Patrol. For a temporary State Trooper, the cost is \$36 an hour. Most contracted police services are between \$36 and \$38 an hour. There is no golden rule. Chief Leu stated that the City of Spragueville should be paying the same as the City of Miles. Chief Leu also stated instead of looking at "how can I make money from this," the City should be looking at, "how can I not lose money from this." Also, for every 400 to 600 population the City should have one officer. Chief Leu also stated that you want to be careful charging other towns for the car and equipment. The City wants to be sure maintain control of their equipment. The Mayor stated that looking at the 28E agreement a 3% increase per year for three years is \$38 the high end, is this what you are talking about taking this into account. Chief Leu stated yes. A. Sullivan mentioned that the City was looking at a one-year 28E agreement with Spragueville and Miles. Chief Leu stated the best way is to have a set number in mind and go for three years. T. Sieverding stated that he was assured hearing from another town that we shouldn't be trying to make money but cover our costs. A. Sullivan wondered what Chief Leu thought of the police keeping the cars at their homes and not in town. Leu stated that the response time is better, and the equipment is taken care of better. Chief Leu touched on salaries and stated that the starting wage for a police officer is \$53,000 in most Iowa areas. Leu also stated that salary negotiations are difficult. Council needs to decide what the targets are and how do you get your Chief up there since he should be at \$55,000 based on his experience and time being chief. R. Petersen had a question regarding Fonda providing the patrol to Newell. Chief Leu stated they are two different counties and two different districts. Mayor and Council thanked Chief Leu for his time and information.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: T. Sieverding questioned if L.L. Pelling had been paid out of road use. T. Weinschenk stated no it was paid out of General and the amount will need to be transferred from RUT to General. T. Sieverding also made note that the travel and training. A motion was made to approve the consent agenda by R. Petersen. T. Sieverding seconded. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: P. Hoffman made the motion to open the Public Hearing for the Budget Amendment. R. Petersen seconded. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried. No discussion.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING: P. Hoffman made the motion to close the Public Hearing for the Budget Amendment. T. Sieverding seconded. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2020-17: P. Hoffman made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-17 approving the Budget Amendment for FY20. A. Sullivan seconded. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

UPDATE ON BUDGET WORKSHOP and MAX LEVY PUBLIC HEARING: T. Weinschenk updated Council on the changes to the budget process. There will need to be two different Public Hearings. The first one will be the Max Levy Public Hearing; this will be the maximum levy tax. This will be presenting to the Public what the maximum tax on SOME of the levies will be. This is not the final tax. The second public hearing will be the normal Budget Public Hearing. These public hearings need to take place on separate dates and need to follow the posting requirements.

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING: T. Weinschenk is requesting a Special Council Meeting to approve the Annual Financial Report. The special meeting is necessary in order to meet the posting requirement of 4 and 20 days. The Special Meeting will be November 27, 2019 at 7 am.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN: Mayor Betts discussed the importance of a CIP for Preston. This will assist with budgeting not only this year, but in future years.

UPDATE ON ELECTRIC PLANT: Electric Plant Project Manager, Carl Tawney, submitted a report to Mayor and Council. The report outlined the work that has been done and assured that the current schedule is to have all the installation work completed by the end of the year and start up scheduled for January 6, 2020. Carl expects the start up to be completed within a week. A "black start test" which means we have to put the system into a utility failure condition and watch the CAT pick up the entire cities electrical demands, carry the city load, and return it to utility via closed transition. Ray, (Electric Superintendent), will be involved in all of the operations as we go through the testing.

PEPPERMINT PARK: T. Sieverding stated that the Park Committee will be doing smores during the Festival as fund raising for Peppermint Park. Haven't discussed seating. The picnic tables are too heavy to move. People generally have stood around the fire. Talking about Rock & Roll Bingo again. The Mayor wondered how much fundraising money is needed for Peppermint. T. Sieverding stated that at this time they are unsure since they have not decided on the equipment, however the committee will be getting together this winter and will get a goal number.

HOLIDAY FESTIVAL: Mayor Betts stated that there will be a Police presence for Friday and Saturday. The street will be blocked. In addition, this year there will be a movie put on by the Library. "Polar Express," will be the movie for Saturday afternoon.

OTHER INFORMATION: P. Hoffman noted that there will be a Thanksgiving Day walk at Westside Park. There is no cost and if people would like to bring a canned good for the Manna Center. P. Hoffman also stated she attended a meeting at the school with Iowa State and others to set up a meeting and gather input for ideas for the old Elementary School. There will be an open house for the public on January 22, 2020.

Mayor Richard Betts requested a motion to adjourn. Motion made by A. Sullivan, seconded by T. Sieverding. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Richard Betts, Mayor

ATTEST:

Teresa Weinschenk, City Administrator/Clerk