

City of Preston
Regular City Council Meeting
June 23, 2025

Mayor Pro Tem, Adam Reuter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

ROLL CALL: Present: Dylan Meyer, Matt Gerardy, Leesa Budde, Adam Reuter. Absent: Matt Petersen

OTHERS PRESENT: Sheryl Ganzer, City Administrator/Clerk, Police Officer Adam McPherson, Fire Chief, Landon Ruchotzke.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented by Meyer, seconded by Gerardy. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING BUDGET AMENDMENT #2: A motion to open the public hearing was made by Meyer, seconded by Budde. Motion carried. No one was present from the public and no comments for or against were received at city hall. Motion to close public hearing was made by Meyer, seconded by Gerardy. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA: Including minutes of last meeting, Electric Water Heater Rebate - \$25 – Judy Schaefer, Gas Water Heater Rebate - \$25 – Annis Bear, Building permit – Matt Johnson – fence, Gas Furnace Rebate – Jeremy Sullivan - \$100 and Class E Retail Alcohol License – Oly's Garage. Motion to approve the consent agenda made by Meyer, seconded by Budde. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2024-34 – Approval of Budget Amendment. Motion to approve was made by Meyer, seconded by Budde. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2024-33 – Approving Wages for Fire Department Officers: Chief Ruchotzke requested a change in the distribution amounts be divided between 3 officers instead of 4 officers. The overall budget amount of \$1400 remained the same. Motion to approve was made by Budde, seconded by Gerardy. Motion carried.

LEASE AGREEMENT – ALEX HINERICHSEN: Hinerichsen, doing business as Preston Family Chiropractic has occupied the City Incubator building for a period of 1 year. Hinerichsen would like to continue his business at that location for a second year. The agreement is to pay \$200 per month lease plus utilities, renewable annually. The business has been a great addition to the downtown. Motion to approve the lease agreement was made by Meyer, seconded by Budde. Motion carried.

LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM – Fire Chief, Landon Ruchotzke reported that the Firemen's Association signed into law the LOSAP program effectively July 1, 2025. The program is designed to recruit and maintain volunteer firefighters. There is a points system that members would earn points on calls, meetings and trainings. Landon understood it that the city could fund the maximum amount of \$500 per qualified member and the state would match it 3-1. There needs to be a registration and list submitted by July 15th to be eligible for the first-year funding. The program is new and many of the details will need to be ironed out yet. Council gave the go-ahead to submit the roster and develop the point system for the registration.

LOT DISCUSSION – HARVEST HEIGHTS: Ganzer gave an update on establishing incentives for the sale of lots. Kelley with JCEA will be updating our Urban Renewal Plan, and we decided it would be a good time to include an allowance for using TIF if we decide to go that route. Another option would be to budget incentives from the general fund. Ganzer also is working with the city's realtor for Harvest Heights, Dana Olsen on providing me the contact information for contractors that may be interested in putting up spec homes and Marla with ECIA is helping me reach out to other city clerks to see what they have done. Ganzer was advised to contact our bond attorney to assist in putting incentives in place.

Sale of Digger Derrek – After brief discussions, the decision on selling the truck was tabled until a full council is in attendance.

OTHER BUSINESS/DEPARTMENT UPDATES: Electric – Ernst is getting costs for installation of electric service options for the Sr. housing complex and the developer has expressed willingness to pay for getting it to his preferred location. Sewer – A committee meeting will be held for discussing sewer options, Tim would like to coordinate with Easter Iowa plumbing to attend to determine if existing sewer connection is possibly. Nuisance Update – Quinn with ECIA referred Ganzer to reach out to Terry Goerd, who is a retired building inspector now has a consulting service to be able to assist in providing resources for nuisance properties. Ganzer will contact him. Vacant lot sale – Farley St. - Ganzer was approached to see if the city would be willing to sell the vacant lot for the purpose of building a nice shed. The initial thoughts were that other parties have been denied in the past, as it has been the city's preference would be for building a home. It was also discussed on what other

possible locations are available. The council would like them to explore other options first but may possibly consider the request if that is determined to be their only option.

ADJOURNMENT: With no other business, Reuter asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn was made by Meyer, seconded by Budde. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:27 pm.



Adam Reuter, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:



Sheryl Ganzer, City Administrator/Clerk