**REGULAR SESSION**

May 12, 2021

The City Council of Essex met May 12, 2021 at 7:00 PM in the Community Room, Essex City Hall. Mayor Durfey called the meeting to order and roll call was taken showing the following members of the Council present or absent. Present: Correll, Franks, Gay, Kinney, Wenstrand. Absent: none. City Clerk Ohnmacht, City Employees Kelly Morehouse and Mark Marriott and City Attorney Sorensen were also present.

The Agenda was approved, motion by Gay, second by Wenstrand. Ayes: All.

Members of the public present: Rod Riley, Kim Tudor, Bryan Nelson, Cole and Heather Thornton, Chris Sokolowski, Gloria McComb, Dennis Gresham, Adam Gibson, Cassie Lundgren, Brian Johnson, Randy Wenstrand. Tom Ross and Lori Racine entered at 8:00 PM.

Public comments: Adam Gibson spoke concerning his property at 709 Burlington. Sorensen suggested an inspection and Gibson did not think it was necessary.

Rod Riley presented a suggestion of a fire department interview process. The Council suggested he draft a written proposal to present at the June meeting.

Public Hearing: Budget Estimate for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2021 – Ending June 30, 2022 was opened by Mayor Durfey.

No written or oral comments or objections were received. The public hearing was closed.

Approval Resolution No. 2021 – 13 Resolution Adopting the Annual Budget for the Fiscal Year 2021 – 2022. Motion by Kinney, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

Public Hearing: Budget Amendment for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2020 – Ending June 30, 2021 was opened by Mayor Durfey.

No written or oral comments or objections were received. The public hearing was closed.

Approval Resolution No. 2021 – 21: Resolution Adopting the Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2020 – 2021. Motion by Gay, second by Correll. Ayes: All.

Public Hearing: Resolution No. 2021 – 14: Chapter 106.07 1 E Dumpster Rental.

No written or oral comments or objections were received. The public hearing was closed.

Approval of first reading Resolution No. 2021 – 14. Motion by Wenstrand, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

Public Hearing: Resolution No. 2021 – 15: Chapter 136.03 Snow Removal.

No written or oral comments or objections were received. The public hearing was closed.

Approval of first reading Resolution No. 2021 – 15. Motion by Kinney, second by Gay. Ayes: All.

Acceptance of monthly police report: April 11, 2021 – May 8, 2021. Motion by Franks, second by Wenstrand. Ayes: All.

Acceptance of delinquent utilities report. Motion by Gay, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

Review of JEO Progress Report. 100% complete.

Brian Lawson of UECO and Bruce Beaver of SET gave a presentation on water meters.

Council was presented a proposal and cost estimate from the Office of the State Archaeologist for a historical survey of the existing water tower. This is necessary to move forward with the water project. Gay motioned to move forward with the survey, Wenstrand seconded. Ayes: All.

Approval of USDA-RD Letter of Conditions for the Sewer System Improvements. Motion by Correll, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

Opera House update: Thrasher plans to start the week of June 7th.

No update on the Bandstand at the park

Library: Board proposes going from 10 to 9 person board and changing the terms to 3 years. Directed to put on the Library Board agenda and reflect these decisions in their minutes. Motion by Franks to accept these changes, second by Gay. Ayes: All.

Approval of Laura Kinnison fire department resignation. Motion by Franks, second by Wenstrand. Ayes: All.

Approval of appointing new fire department members:

Motion to approve Nashton English by Gay, second by Wenstrand. Ayes: All.

Motion to approve Clayton Falk by Franks, second by Wenstrand. Ayes: All.

Motion to approve Philip Franks by Gay, second by Wenstrand. Ayes: All.

Approval of Resolution No. 2021 – 17: Library Transfer of Funds. Motion by Franks, second by Wenstrand. Ayes: All.

Approval of Resolution No. 2021 – 18: USDA Financial Assistance Agreement. Motion by Gay, second by Correll. Ayes: All.

Approval of Resolution No. 2021 – 19: Authorizing Mayor and City Clerk to File a Copy of Resolution, Map and Legal Description for Voluntary Annexation. Motion by Gay, second by Wenstrand. Ayes: All.

Approval of Resolution No. 2021 – 20: 28E Agreement Animal Control. Motion by Gay, second by Correll. Ayes: All.

Approval Casey’s General Stores: Cigarette/Tobacco/Nicotine/Vapor Permit Application. Motion by Franks, second by Wenstrand. Ayes: All.

Approval Casey’s General Stores: Liquor License renewal: Class E Liquor License (LE): Class B Wine Permit, Class C Beer Permit (Carryout Beer), Sunday Sales License #LE0003263. Motion by Gay, second by Correll. Ayes: All.

Approval of tree removal bids from RC Tree service. Motion by Gay, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

Council was presented with 2 bids for street work. Midwest Coatings for $45,469.60 and Blacktop Service Co. for $58,600. Motion by Gay, second by Franks to use Blacktop Service for $58,600 due to quality bid and product. Ayes: All.

Heather Thornton representing the Essex Community Club presented proposal for alcohol to be served at the bull riding event the Saturday evening of Labor Day. Wenstrand motioned to approved this, second by Kinney. Ayes: All.

Approval of Engagement Agreement with Ahlers & Cooney for Urban Renewal update. Motion by Gay, second by Kinney. Ayes: All.

Council presented with bid to update current sesquicentennial banners. Gay motioned to change the bid from 11 to 12 to include putting one in the time capsule. Franks seconded. Ayes: All.

Approval of bid from FTC for purchase and installation of camera on east side of City Hall. Motion by Franks, second by Wenstrand. Ayes: All.

No action will be taken at this time concerning the school restaurant.

Sorensen is working on the 28E Agreement to share maintenance with the school.

Gay updated the Council on the last Comprehensive Plan meeting. The next meeting will be June 1st at 6:00 PM.

The sesquicentennial time capsule was discussed. The Council will be adding one of the new banners and the sesquicentennial book to it.

Work orders were reviewed.

Public comments on Agenda items: None.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Minutes: April 14, 2021; Treasurer’s Report April 30, 2021; Abstract of Claims: April 15, 2021 – May 12, 2021. Motion by Wenstrand, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

Sorensen updated the Council on the progress at 607 Motley. He suggested getting bids for scrapping. The City should be getting title in approximately 60 days. Murphy case has been transferred to a different judge.

Mayor Durfey informed the Council mowing letters had been sent out. Gay asked to review the nuisance ordinance with the vague time requirements. It will be on the June agenda.

Durfey read a letter of resignation from Councilman Kinney.

Wenstrand would like to see the Council find a way to support the Labor Day celebration.

Adjournment at 9:05 PM. Motion by Franks, second by Wenstrand. Ayes: All.

Mayor Marian V. Durfey

ATTEST:

City Clerk, Mary A. Ohnmacht