

City of Preston
Regular City Council Meeting
January 27, 2020

Mayor Pro-Tem Tyler Sieverding 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, M. Petersen. T. Sieverding

GUESTS: Sandra Dusil, Karen Hensen, Mike Hensen, Marvel Grant, Gerald Grant, Roger Dusil, Phyllis Frett, Bernie Frett.

VISTORS WITH BUSINESS TO PRESENT TO COUNCIL: Annis Bear, Town & Country Twirlers.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented. Motion made by P. Hoffman, seconded by M. Petersen. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Motion carried.

CITIZEN /PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

ANNIS BEAR ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTRY TWIRLERS: A. Bear made a request to Council to consider lowering the rental rate for the use of the Town Hall. A. Bear went onto explain that with the current trend of declining membership and increasing costs they will have a difficult time surviving. A. Bear and the group suggested lowering the rental cost to \$50.00. A. Bear also stated that the Twirlers believe they align with the goals of the community offering an alternative to the public which is healthful, fun and promotes new friendships. It was also noted that square dancing is for all age groups. Council agreed with A. Bear's comments and documentation. R. Petersen stated that there should be more funding from the City since they are a nonprofit organization. T. Weinschenk stated by charging zero for the Town Hall rental the City would be donating \$150 per month. P. Hoffman stated that the Twirlers are providing the community with an activity which provides health benefits. P. Hoffman stated she would be in favor of lowering the rental rate to the requested amount of \$50. With that being stated a motion was made by P. Hoffman to lower the rate of the Town Hall to \$50 for the Town & Country Twirlers.

CONSENT AGENDA: P. Hoffman made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by A. Sullivan. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Motion carried.

FINAL PAYMENT OF WATER LOAN: T. Weinschenk presented that the interest on the loan is \$4.89 per day. If we would pay the loan off on 01-28-2020, the payoff with interest would be \$44,278.67. P. Hoffman stated we raised the water rates that it has taken 14 months or so to get the water fund at a positive balance. By paying off the loan early P. Hoffman thinks it shows a transparency to the public of Preston. The rest of Council agreed. P. Hoffman made a motion to pay the water bill off tomorrow, January 28, 2020. Seconded by T. Sieverding. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Motion carried.

APRIL 22, 2020 – EARTH DAY: Scheduling a ribbon cutting for the Walking Path on this day. The suggestion was made at the Preston Growth and Development meeting to have Peppermint Park have the big reveal of their park plans at the Walking Path ribbon cutting? T. Sieverding stated that on behalf of the Peppermint Park Committee he doesn't feel they can commit to that date. Maybe during Preston Days. T. Sieverding shared that the committee has looked at some equipment and has had a couple of meetings this winter. It is a small committee.

CLEAN-UP DAY: PG&D designated May 3, 2020 as clean-up day for the Downtown area and the Parks. This would start at 10 am. P. Hoffman stated that hotdogs and chips were provided for the volunteers.

PRESTON 150TH: T. Weinschenk presented the idea to Council to speak to the Fire Department about celebrating Preston's 150th at Preston Days. T. Weinschenk also stated that at this time there is one

volunteer for the 150th Committee. Council stated we will need to make another plea for volunteers. It was a unanimous vote of Council to approach the Fire Department and work together to have one big event.

TOWN HALL: There was much discussion on the Town Hall deficiencies. T. Weinschenk stated that during the event on Sunday, January 19th, there were issues with the furnace keeping up. Also, the two doors are not energy efficient. How does Council want to proceed? P. Hoffman mentioned this is why we need a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). T. Weinschenk stated there are a lot of upgrades that need to take place. P. Hoffman stated we have a lot of money going into the Light Plant. We should wait and see where we end up with that project. Council agreed to table the issue since there is a bigger picture.

BUDGET: T. Weinschenk presented Council an inventory list of the current equipment the City has. P. Hoffman suggested adding the Police cars to this list. T. Weinschenk stated that the 2006 pickup that Jack drives should be replaced. However, this is dependent on what Council thinks should be the appropriate age of equipment before it is replaced. T. Weinschenk went through the list. T. Sieverding and M. Petersen stated that our City workers should not have to work with junk equipment. T. Weinschenk also stated that we are looking to present quotes for a new city shed. The shed would be 36'x60'. The size is limited by the electric line that we need to stay 15' from. P. Hoffman stated that there has been discussion on a new Fire Station and the City Shop move to the current Fire Station. T. Weinschenk stated how many years will that take? The poles at the current city shop are rotting and it is in poor shape. T. Weinschenk wondered if there are any budget requests from Council. P. Hoffman stated that Cascade and other progressive communities put money in the budget for ECIA to write grants. P. Hoffman feels that having ECIA write grants would be advantageous and money well spent. T. Weinschenk stated that ECIA knows how to word things. T. Sieverding agreed and said this is something to think about and wondered how much the other cities put aside for grant writing. P. Hoffman thought maybe Cascade puts aside \$20,000. T. Weinschenk will call and see how much is put aside. P. Hoffman would like a summary of the Self-Insured Health Insurance Plan and how it is working. Mayor Betts joined the meeting and stated that the League of Cities has mentioned all the grants that are available and agrees with P. Hoffman on having some of the larger grants written by a professional grant writer.

NEW BUILDING PERMIT: T. Weinschenk presented a new building permit for Council to review. It will require more information, a site plan, instructions on how to fill out the permit a \$20 permit fee, and that it would be approved by Council. If the permit is approved there will be a permit to display on the premises. The Ordinance will state the penalty if a citizen doesn't have an approved building permit. The cost of the penalty was discussed and T. Weinschenk believes it was discussed to have a \$750 penalty. M. Petersen wondered how this is going to be enforced. T. Weinschenk said through one calls and city workers. We will be able to monitor who has completed the building permit. There were a couple of additions/changes to the permit. It was decided to approve the building permit with the rest of the codification.

Mayor Betts requested a motion to adjourn. Motion made by T. Sieverding, seconded by A. Sullivan. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Mayor Pro-Tem Tyler Sieverding

ATTEST:

Teresa Weinschenk, City Clerk/Administrator