

City of Preston

Regular City Council Meeting

October 23, 2023

Mayor Tyler Sieverding called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

ROLL CALL Present: Richard Petersen, Matt Gerardy, Matt Petersen, JT Thomson, Adam Reuter,

OTHERS PRESENT: City Administrator Sheryl Ganzer, Deputy Clerk Tracey Lee, Police Chief Chad Gruver, Tom Westhoff and Valy Goepfrich – WPPI, Ray Ernst-Electric Supt.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A motion to approve the agenda was made by M. Petersen, seconded by M. Gerardy. Motion carried.

CITIZEN/PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

CONSENT AGENDA: A motion to approve the consent agenda including Minutes of the last meeting, Gas Furnace rebate- \$100, Electric Water Heater Rebate-\$25, Dishwasher rebate-\$50 and Air Conditioner rebate \$200 for Rick Sieverding. Gas water heater rebate-\$25.00 – Jerry Mertens and Building Permit – Garage, Devin Lundin was made by M. Gerardy, Seconded by JT Thomson. Motion carried.

WPPI MEMBER UPDATE: Valy Goepfrich, VP of Operations at WPPI Energy shared a Power Point presentation updating council on average power costs trends and WPPI's primary power supply resources. She also touched on WPPI environmental response to carbon emissions. Preston is one of 51 member utilities working together with WPPI for a reliable, affordable responsible power supply. Ray Ernst updated council on the light plant and recent DNR emission testing, which passed requirements and is good for 5 years. M. Petersen asked where we were in the 10-year contract with WPPI Capacity Credits for Generation, it was estimated at year 4 or 5 with no changes as we are locked in place. It will be decided at the end of the contract whether it will be extended or renewed with changes or will remain the same.

RESOLUTION 2023-11 - Naming Depositories for the City of Preston: Ganzer explained that the current resolution's maximum approved amounts needed to be increased from \$3million to \$4million as the City has a surplus in road use and utility accounts. Motion to approve was made by R. Petersen, seconded by JT Thomson. Motion carried.

POLE BANNERS: Tabled item from last meeting it was requested to get a 2<sup>nd</sup> quote on pole banners. Quote was received from Main Street Designs. Sieverding also had Display Sales provide new quotes decreasing the size to 45" and number of banners to total of 24. The quotes were comparable. Funding options using Community contributions and School outreach funds available from WPPI totaled \$1850 with the balance of \$615 to be paid through the budgeted funds for Beautification. Sieverding and Ganzer recommended purchasing from Display Sales as they have worked with Preston previously with Christmas lighting and other projects. A motion was made by M. Petersen to place the order with Display Sales in the amount of \$2465.00. Seconded by JT Thomson. Motion carried.

WELLMARK HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL: Ganzer presented the renewal of the City's health insurance increase of 11.82%. She explained that the actual costs that were budgeted for last year were down due to staff changes which saved the City \$20,677. There was also a dramatic decrease in claims. Ganzer requested Wellmark present the renewal of the same plan based on current staff roster. The annual change would be an increase of \$17,709.36 for a total annual premium of \$167,488.56. An Alternate option was also looked at increasing the plan deductible and co-pay amounts lowering the total annual premium to \$151,205.16. Employees recommend renewal of the same plan due to the potential for more out of pocket expenses with the higher co-pay and additional prescription tiers on the alternate plan. Council agreed because of the overall savings last year and efforts in keeping claims down to renew with the same plan as current with no changes to employee contributions. This will be approved by motion at the next meeting.

TREASURE TROVE: Since we didn't have full council at our last meeting discussion was held again about the Treasure Trove building. After discussion and consideration of overall costs, council felt it was a little far out of reach from what they were considering. Council agreed again not to invest in obtaining the property for demolition or rehab at this time.

LEAD OPERATOR: Personnel committee has met several times discussing the lead operator position. Since they are equally split on their decision of who the best candidate for the lead operator position would be they asked the council to help make the decision. It was recommended that we bring the employees back in for an additional interview with full council at the next meeting.

RESOLUTION 2023-12: Naming lead operator and setting salary was tabled.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Town Hall roof – It was reported that there was a leak near the north-west corner of the hall. Ernst has contacted the contractor who did the new roof to look at it, will report back with findings.

ADJOURNMENT: With no other business, Mayor Sieverding asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn was made by M. Petersen Seconded by R. Petersen. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

  
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Tyler Sieverding, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Sheryl Ganzer, City Administrator/Clerk