

City of Preston

Regular City Council Meeting

September 23, 2024

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

ROLL CALL: Present: Jason Thomson, Matt Gerardy, Adam Reuter. Absent: Matt Petersen, Dylan Meyer.

OTHERS PRESENT: Sheryl Ganzer, City Administrator/Clerk, Tracey Lee, Deputy Clerk, Gwenn Rickertsen, Kelley McDonald, Amanda Frett.

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

CITIZEN/PUBLIC COMMENTS: Gwenn Rickertsen and Kelley McDonald spoke on behalf of the Preserve Clinton & Jackson Counties Coalition in support of Clinton and Jackson Counties to establish Ordinances requiring setting city limit setbacks for the construction of wind turbines. They outlined a list of reasons the City Council should consider passing a resolution in support of a suggested 2-mile setback from City limits. Highlights included the size of industrial wind turbines of 700 ft tall, limitations for growth of our town over the next 50-60 years, lease owner agreements regarding flashing lights, noise and flicker infringing on landowner/neighbor rights and complaints if construction too close to our population. They encourage the role of the council is to protect the school, it's students, town and residents.

CONSENT AGENDA: Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by M. Gerardy including minutes of last meeting, Refrigerator rebate - \$50 – Leland Lane, Electric water heater rebate - \$25 – Keeya Kunde, Building Permit – New House – Connie Bormann. Seconded by A. Reuter. Motion carried.

Discussion item on Jackson County's Zoning Ordinance request of setting city limits setback restrictions for wind turbines was held. Gerardy questioned if the 2-mile recommended setback is the farthest we could go, which is correct based on other town's direction by city attorneys. This would be 2 miles from the farthest plat, not the center of town. Sieverding asked about the timeline, Rickertsen explained that the counties are in a moratorium allowing the time for Ordinance revisions and Jackson County had initially had a year and is in the draft stage with Public Hearing to be held on October 21st. Counties will need their recommendations from the cities before they can finalize their ordinances. Rickertsen highlighted points to consider that the proposed project are the largest turbines in Iowa, nearly double in size. With size comes increased noise which is the biggest complaint. Concern on damage to roads by the heavy equipment that will be needed to transport the turbines and the large amount of cement on the properties it takes for construction causing permanent damage to property. The topic was tabled until the next meeting with decision on consideration of passing a resolution at that time.

PRESTON LIBRARY BOARD: A letter from Library Board Director, Caroline Bredekamp was presented requesting approval of replacement of Jim Vorland's seat of 12 years on the library board by Don Wentworth of rural Preston. Wentworth was instrumental in his involvement with the Preston History books and presenter at other events and programs. A motion to approve Don Wentworth as Preston Library Board member was made by A. Reuter, seconded by JT Thomson, motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Ordinance Enforcement Updates – Chief Gruver shared in the council packet, a Notice and Order to Abate Nuisance Property letter that was drafted by Preston's City Attorney for violation of various provisions of the Code of Ordinances for abandoned property

- There were 5 bids on the used Peppermint Park playground equipment received at City Hall. Sieverding announced that a generous bid was received and awarded to James and Tina DeShane. These funds will go toward the construction of the new Peppermint Park equipment project.

ADJOURNMENT: With no other business to be discussed, Sieverding asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn was made by JT Thomson, seconded by A. Reuter. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.



Tyler Sieverding, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sheryl Ganzer, City Administrator/Clerk