

City of Preston

Regular City Council Meeting

August 26, 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: Dylan Meyer, Matt Petersen, Matt Gerardy, Jason Thomson, Adam Reuter

OTHERS PRESENT: Sheryl Ganzer, City Administrator/Clerk, Police Chief, Chad Gruver, Eric Tietjens, Marc Rudin, Ken & Karen Lane, Ray Ernst, Devon Schmidt, Megan Driscoll and Nancy Kieffer.

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

CONSENT AGENDA: Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by M. Petersen including minutes of last meeting, Gas Water Heater rebate - \$25 – Steve Reding, Central Air Conditioner rebate - \$150 – Gary Roling, Gas furnace rebate \$100-Gary Roling, Building Permit – Garage – Derrick Driscoll, Building Permit – Handicap ramp – Vennetta Mootz. Seconded by M. Gerardy. Motion carried.

CEMENT REPLACEMENT, AMOS ST.: Property owners, Devin Schmidt and Ken & Karen Lane are asking council to have the cement in front of their buildings be replaced as it was and that what was anchored to the building be fixed. Mayor Sieverding explained that the area was just looked at and the street committee was in favor of replacing the concrete next to the buildings and the remaining members agreed. Sieverding also asked that they make sure to inform their renters that the sidewalk needs to stay open, free of any chairs or other property in front of the building. Marc Rudin explained that the only thing tied to the Lane building previously was the stoop and will be restored with the addition of adding a concrete walkway from the stoop to the street. It was also decided that the concrete pad for dumpsters was no longer needed, and that each apartment will be given single residential cans making garbage collection easier. Lane wanted to thank the council for allowing the side access parking that made a positive difference regarding parking.

AMOS STREET CONSTRUCTION CHANGE OF PLANS: City engineer, Marc Rudin explained they had a discussion with Mayor, Street Committee and Eric on the poured sidewalk on the west side of Amos Street. The location currently will become a maintenance issue in the years to come with snow removal. They would like to see it be torn out and moved back 3 ft and have 4 ft. of green space. Sidewalk would be lowered and pitched the other way to the inlets. Rudin estimated the cost around \$15,000. The rest of the council agreed to go ahead with the change. Rudin updated on the sidewalk in the next block to the north. There will be a curve towards the north to line up with the adjacent street/sidewalk in the next block. The rest of the project is near completion, and the paving will begin on Sept. 9th.

WESTSIDE PARK IMPROVEMENTS: Megan Driscoll and Nancy Kieffer presented potential projects that they would like council approval to seek information, quotes and possible grants to use some of the money that is set aside in the improvement fund. Projects to consider include updating the tennis court, which is currently not being used to pickle ball. This would be a 2-year process to allow applying for grants. Planting trees, which they explained, could be possible this year as now is a good time to plant. They have been approached by individuals who would like to donate the cost of trees as a memorial. They would like to also pursue hard surface handicap parking spots and work with ECIA on grants available for this. The council felt these were all good projects and gave permission to move forward and to keep them updated on their findings.

RESOLUTION 2024-6: Approving Plat of Survey – Parcel 80-2024 – Lot 8, Preston Industrial Park. Great River Surveying presented a Plat of Survey for Gerardy Outdoor Power adding 4330 square feet from part of Lot 8 owned by Duane Kunde and Jodi Feller, to square off Gerardy's lot for them to be able to expand the business. M. Petersen look at the proposed site and stated that it made sense as it currently was not beneficial to either party

the way it sits now and felt as long as both property owners wanted to do this and allow for a business to expand, he would be in favor of it. There are no utility easements in the way. D. Meyer made motion to approve Resolution 2024-6 Approving Plat of Survey Parcel 80-2024, Lot 8, Preston Ind Park #2. Seconded by JT Thomson. Motion carried with 4 votes in favor, 0 against and 1 abstention for conflict of interest by M. Gerardy.

BUILDING PERMIT – GERARDY OUTDOOR POWER: M. Gerardy explained that with the addition of property he is looking to add a 40 x 40 addition to his existing warehouse. Same height and depth. It will be 20 ft. off the neighboring property line. The easement is 30 ft. Petersen commented that we have given permission variances in the past and if the property owners are good with it, and nothing is going through it and the building-to-building distance will be 31 ft. Gerardy would like approval of a 20 ft setback. There were no issues from Lead Operator, Tietjens. A motion was made by M. Petersen to approve the building permit for Gerardy Outdoor Power. Seconded by D. Meyer. Motion carried with 4 votes in favor, 0 against and 1 abstention for conflict of interest by M. Gerardy.

ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT UPDATE: Chief Gruver reported that letters were sent out last week on Junk Vehicles. One person responded that the vehicles are junked out and sold, not as a business, but a hobby. The council would like to go back to ordinance, they need to be in an enclosed building and not left in the yard. The letters gave 30 days for response time, then a follow up to issue a municipal infraction with administration fine. Gruver is still working on the abandon dangerous properties issue. The council would like to address these as safety hazards and draft letters to the property owners then proceed if needed to the City Attorney.

ELECTRIC GRID RESILIENCE GRANT: Ganzer reported that Ray and herself were working with ECIA on establishing a project and gathering information to apply for the grant when it becomes available. This is a competitive grant through Iowa Econ Dev. Authority. The minimum award is \$250,000. And max is \$2million. Projects being considered to add to application include: A new step-down transformer and re-build the existing one as a backup and engineering fees associated with it. Converting the overhead lines to underground from the transformer to the sub-station. Residential service from overhead to underground for one area of town. Technology upgrades to switchgear that would allow remote monitoring during generation. The grant's focus is limiting the change and length of power outages. The council will be updated as we move forward.


TextMyGov update: Ganzer and Lee reported that the text alert program is getting close to being launched. The phone database resulted in 402 numbers automatically enrolled. The widget has been added to the City's website that people can opt in directly from there and can also see more information on reporting issues or requesting information to the automated text service. We will be doing a Press Release on the City's FB page soon and include opt – in information in the next utility bill. The Mayor and Council members saw how it worked and opted in. After the press release, we will launch a "Welcome" text message, anyone wishing to opt-out, can just text STOP.

ADJOURNMENT: With no other business to be discussed, Sieverding asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by M. Petersen, seconded by D. Meyer. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.



Tyler Sieverding, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sheryl Ganzer, City Administrator/Clerk