

PURSUANT TO DUE CALL AND NOTICE THEREOF, A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FULDA WAS HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON NOVEMBER 6 , 2017 AT 6:30 P.M

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers by Mayor J. Maertens, with the following present: Councilmembers J. Troje, J. Brown, C. Ouellette and T. Roberts.

Staff present: J. Burchill – City Clerk and P. Kenney – Police Chief.

Others present: Lucas, Rachel, Grant & Micah Isder, Joe & Vicki Grandgeorge, Lenore Wendorf, Jen Hart, Chuck Lursen and Norma Dittman – Fulda Free Press.

Lucas Isder was present to give a presentation on the idea of building a new park on the southeast side of the lake, which is currently owned and for sale by Blanchette's. Isder shared a couple videos he made showing the lake as a possible place for recreation: including trails, frisbee golf, prairie golf, fishing docks and a patio or two. Isder shared there are opportunities for grants. The land acquisition would be a key piece in making this a reality. Isder felt a committee would be the best to review options, grants, etc. The council agreed to move forward with forming a committee to explore the idea. Isder has a few people already agreeable to being on the committee. The council directed Burchill to run an ad in the Free Press for volunteers for a committee. Either Ouellette or Troje would be interested in serving on the committee.

Chuck Lursen requested again for "Children at Play" signs in his neighborhood. Lursen felt there was too much traffic in the area and the stop signs didn't make enough of a difference. Roberts expressed that there are issues over the entire town and it would set a precedent. Troje moved and Roberts seconded the MOTION to deny the request for the signs.

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was had on a couple items that weren't on the agenda. One was in regards to the annual Murray County Agricultural Society meeting to be held on November 9th. No one indicated interest in attending. The second item was the draft for the library agreement with Plum Creek. Brown will follow up with Beth since he represents the council for the library board.

Roberts moved and Troje seconded the MOTION to approve the agenda with the addition of New Business – Welcome to Fulda signs.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ouellette requested the agenda item for Frodermann's probation to be a special closed meeting with the city attorney present. Discussion followed. Troje moved and Ouellette seconded the MOTION to table Frodermann's probation review to Monday, November 13th at 5:30 pm. It will be Frodermann's decision for the meeting to be open or closed.

Ayes – Brown, Ouellette, Troje; Nays - Roberts, Maertens; Motion carried

Troje moved and Roberts seconded the MOTION approving the regular meeting minutes from October 2, 2017, and special meeting minutes from October 2 and October 9, 2017, as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

Troje moved and Ouellette seconded the MOTION approving bills as presented for October, 2017.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ouellette moved and Troje seconded the MOTION to approve placement of Aquatic Invasive Species signage at Lake Ave & Baltimore.

Motion carried unanimously.

Maertens spoke with Lamar Signs and found the "Welcome to Fulda" signs were \$192 each to replace. The signs were last purchased in 2011 and at least 2 of the 3 need to be replaced. Previously, the street department installed the signs. Maertens will pursue with Lamar to see if they can install.

Troje shared that the fire department recently interviewed two applicants for firefighters. Troje moved and Ouellette seconded the MOTION to accept the fire department's recommendation to hire Zach Ramerth and Adam Jans.

Motion carried unanimously.

Roberts noted the street department has not received the quotes for a pickup and will have at the next month's meeting.

Roberts reported on the smoke testing that was completed in October. Approximately, $\frac{3}{4}$ of town was smoked. There were a few issues that were located, included a storm sewer by the Depot; sewer line on East Lake, which is not known if it's the city or homeowner; and First National Bank has a cistern overflow that is going to the ponds. It's felt that the problem with the ponds are either due to sump pumps or bad underground sewer lines. Roberts shared the suggestion would be to go house to house next spring to look at where sump pumps are being pumped to.

2018 budget was discussed. Currently, the levy is at 3.94%, but some clarification is needed on transfer money from capital outlay for Quonset painting in the amount of \$14,000 and an extra \$10,000 for street overlay. Other items were discussed including proposed budgets for fire department and street department

Troje moved and Roberts seconded the MOTION to use \$24,000 from capital outlay to transfer to 2018 budget.

Motion carried unanimously.

Brown moved and Roberts seconded the MOTION to increase the firefighters pay from \$8.00 to \$9.00/hour, starting with the 2018 budget.

Motion carried unanimously.

The fire department proposed budget had an increase from \$5000 to \$7500 for repairs and maintenance. Included in this was \$500 for weather stripping for the doors. After discussion, the council changed the budget line back to \$5000.

With the changes, the levy would be reduced to 3.30%. Troje moved and Ouellette seconded the MOTION to approve the levy at 3.30% for 2018.
Motion carried unanimously.

Kenney noted that the county is still in negotiations for a kennel for the county. The vet clinic is still allowing him to bring animals at this time.

Burchill requested for City Hall to be closed the Friday after Thanksgiving as has been done in the past. Staff would use vacation or personal day. Council agreed with the request.

Burchill gave an update on the Small Cities Development Program (SCDP). To date, 22 applications have been received, 9 projects have been completed, 6 are in process, 2 are out for bids and 3 are awaiting inspection. This will meet the goal of 20 homes. There is a possibility of exceeding the initial goal since there are funds remaining.

Burchill shared a nice thank you from Briana Wildfeuer for the curb repair at the school.

Burchill noted that the new website is up and going. The new site now includes a PDF of the ordinances. Burchill feels the website is much easier to navigate and update. The new website has some added features the previous didn't.

Two proposals were received for snow removal on the sidewalks at the city buildings. Upon review of the proposals, Ouellette moved and Brown seconded the MOTION to accept the proposal from Nelson Landscaping for snow events that would amount to 2" or more. If a snow event is less than 2", the street employees would be responsible for the snow removal.

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was had on wages for part-time help with snow removal. Current wage has been \$14.00/hour and one had requested \$18.00/hour. Roberts moved and Maertens seconded the MOTION to increase the wage to \$15.00/hour.

Ayes – Brown, Roberts, Maertens, Troje; Nays - Ouellette; Motion carried

Discussion was also had on street department with plowing early. Past practice is if they come in early to plow, they would go home early to avoid overtime. They feel they are not able to get their regular work done due to this. Overtime could be reviewed on a case by case basis as there could be exceptions depending on the snow event.

Brown moved and Roberts seconded the MOTION to approve the building permit for: S. Halverson – replace deck.

Motion carried unanimously.

The next regular council meeting will be Monday, December 4, 2017 at 6:30 pm with a special meeting, Truth in Taxation, being held at 6:00 pm.

Brown moved and Roberts seconded the MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 pm.

Motion passed unanimously.

Julie Burchill
City Clerk

John Maertens
Mayor