

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
DECEMBER 3, 2018 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. Brown, C. Ouellette and T. Roberts.

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

Others present: Jim Elsing, Neil Clarke and Jerry Johnson - Fulda Free Press.

Neil Clarke presented the council with an example building for a new 80' x 140' fire hall as has been requested at the last public meeting. The example included six doors with 2 having drive-thru access. His plans include a cistern, in-floor heat, furnace, kitchen, office, meeting room, mezzanine, bathrooms, lockers, etc. This does not include a lot to build on, excavation and lot preparation and four inch water main. This is for information only, as the project has not be approved or out for bids, but shows an option for a building at less than the numbers previously discussed at the public meetings.

Ouellette moved and Brown seconded the MOTION to approve the agenda as with the additions of Public Forum- Neil Clarke and Notices & Communications - Mediacom.

Motion carried unanimously.

Roberts moved and Ouellette seconded the MOTION approving the regular meeting minutes from November 5, 2018 and special meeting minutes from November 5, November 13 (2), and November 27, 2018.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ouellette moved and Roberts seconded the MOTION approving bills as presented for December 2018 in the amount of \$264,506.28.

Motion carried unanimously.

A notice was received from Mediacom with rate adjustments for January 1, 2019.

Ouellette discussed for the City to be more aggressive on snow removal on private sidewalks. The snow ordinance is on the website, but needs to be included in the Free Press and Facebook, which Burchill will do.

Maertens shared the EDA financial statement and mentioned their next meeting will be Jan. 29th. Two council members will need to be appointed to the EDA board since Maertens and Troje will no longer be on the council.

Maertens discussed the current wage scale. He felt the wage scale was too low for beginning wage compared to other cities. The last two people that were hired, the wage had to be negotiated before the position was accepted. He proposed an adjustment to the wage scale by increasing the steps by \$1.50. This wouldn't have any cost initially to the City, but would add to the number of steps employees are yet to receive and increase the starting pay.

Discussion was had on a COLA for 2019. The social security COLA for 2019 is 2.8% and Consumer Price Index is 2.2%, which would be a proposed increase of 2.5% using an average, but only budgeted 2% for the 2019 budget. Ouellette moved and Roberts seconded the MOTION for a 2% COLA for 2019 as budgeted, effective January 1, 2019.
Motion carried unanimously.

Burchill has a group (Fulda Area Credit Union) that would like to use the police/ambulance garage for decorating their float for the Parade of Lights. Burchill had checked with Baumhoefner if there was any issue for insurance, which he indicated there was not. She also checked with Kenney and he had no issues. The council agreed that they could use the facility.

Maertens discussed the change that was made to Christmas Eve work day last year. He feels he intent was that employees had to work on Christmas Eve to be able to use the 4 hours to go home early. If an employee doesn't work that day, they would have to use 8 hours of vacation, comp or personnel day. Part-time employees would be pro-rated to ½ of their regular shift.

Burchill updated the council on the progress with FEMA on the excess rain events. Frodermann and Burchill met with a representative from FEMA on 11-28-18 and there is a possibility of reimbursement for some of the extra expenses from the June/July rain events, plus administrative costs.

Kenney requested to attend training for NiBRS, which is replacing Zuercher. He is currently on a wait list for training on December 11th. The cost of the training is \$25, but would require an overnight stay in St. Paul.

Kenney reported that the sheriff's office has not reported Fulda PD's crime stats for 2018, which he just found out about a couple weeks ago. He requested to hire Lindsey from the City of Slayton for approximately 10 hours a week to get us caught up. Kenney will discuss options with Slayton City Administrator on options for using Lindsey for help. Council agreed with hiring Lindsey to help out.

Kenney shared additional rumors from the county. One was upgrades to the ARMER radio system that need to be done and the other that the county was going to bill for dispatching, from \$10/day - \$100/day. It is not known if either of these is going to happen, but wanted to make council aware of these possibilities. Council directed Kenney to follow up with Commissioner Thiner.

Roberts had a quote Frodermann obtained from Chad Deuschle Construction to replace one of the overhead doors at the shop and include a garage door opener. Ouellette indicated he looked at the door and didn't feel it needed to be replaced and could just use weather stripping around the door. Ouellette directed that the street department could replace the weather stripping themselves.

Roberts discussed issues with Well #1, that since have been resolved. Well #9 needs to be wired yet and Loosbrock hasn't had time. It was suggested to follow up again Loosbrock or discuss with another electrician.

Roberts discussed the cost on the fee schedule for road repair due to utility repairs. The current fee schedule allows for \$400 as a flat rate, which most of the time doesn't come close to covering the cost. Frodermann suggested changing to \$4.25 per square foot to get closer to the actual cost per Fuller Paving. Council agreed and will make the adjustment on the fee schedule.

Discussion was had on the quotes for the chlorine replacement heads. Per Roberts, he didn't have any information on the quotes from Frodermann.

Brown shared Bondin Township doesn't agreed with the information Brown had given them to clarify the agreement on S. Lafayette. Bondin Township felt it would be best for them to attend a council meeting for further discussion. It was decided that no more gravel will be applied to the road until an agreement is reached.

Ouellette moved and Roberts seconded the MOTION to approve Resolution 2018-12 Approving Final 2018 Tax Levy in the amount of \$421,825.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ouellette moved and Brown seconded the MOTION to not waive the limits on the liability coverage with LMCIT.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ouellette moved and Brown seconded the MOTION to approve the cigarette/tobacco license applications from Graff's Liquor, Maynard's and Casey's.

Motion carried unanimously.

Schaap Sanitation will be raising their rates by 2.1% on garbage and recycling for an annual adjustment.

Discussion was had on the fee schedule for 2019. A couple adjustments need to be noted, including ambulance call-out pay, fire township section price, fire dept. secretary position, garbage/recycling rates and street replacement due to utility repairs.

The next regular council meeting will be Monday, January 7, 2019 at 6:30 pm.

Ouellette moved and Roberts seconded the MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm.

Motion carried unanimously.

Julie Burchill
City Clerk

John Maertens
Mayor