

**The December 12th, 2022, Council Meeting was called to order at 5:31pm with Councilmembers Colomer, Faber and Komnick present as well as Mayor Moore. Councilmember Baker was absent.**

**A motion to go into closed session to discuss Personnel Section 2 (C) (1), Purchase or Lease of Real Estate Section 2 (C) (5), and Litigation Section 2(C) (11) was made by Councilmember Komnick, seconded by Councilmember Faber. Motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion to adjourn to regular session was made by Councilmember Colomer, seconded by Councilmember Faber. Motion passed unanimously. The closed session was adjourned at 6:19pm.**

**The December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Council Meeting was called to order at 6:21pm with Councilmembers Colomer, Faber and Komnick present as well as Mayor Moore. Councilmember Baker was absent.**

**The consent agenda included the following items:**

- A. Minutes from the Council Meeting on November 28<sup>th</sup>.
- B. Payroll for the pay period ending December 3rd in the amount of \$222,061.10.
- C. Staff Reports.

**A motion to approve the consent agenda items was made by Councilmember Colomer, seconded by Councilmember Faber. Discussion: None. Motion passed 4-0.**

**Bills for the Council Meeting of December 12th, 2022 were presented in the amount of \$439,997.53. A motion to approve the bills was made by Councilmember Komnick and seconded by Councilmember Faber. Discussion: None. Motion passed 4-0.**

**Public Comments:**

Michael Mulcahy addressed the Council concerning the short-term rental he owns in town. He felt there was a lack of information given to him regarding his need to pay taxes when he rented out the home. There also seemed to be miscommunication about how much was owed. Mayor Moore stated that Mr. Mulcahy was informed that a tax was owed. He did agree that the process could be made better and steps have already been taken to address that. The form for paying the taxes was also addressed and has been updated.

**New Business:**

- A. Consideration of Resolution #5379 to award demolition work at 916 N Vine St. to Boers Excavating LLC. Motion to approve was made by Councilmember Faber and seconded by Councilmember Komnick. Discussion: None. Motion passed 4-0.**
- B. Consideration of Ordinance #4115 abating the tax heretofore levied for the year 2022 to pay the principal of, and the interest on \$3,755,000 General obligation bonds (Alternate**

revenue source), Series 2012. **Motion to approve was made by Councilmember Komnick and seconded by Councilmember Colomer. Discussion: City Manager Bradley reminded the Council that there is a safety mechanism built into the bonds that if they do not generate the needed revenue, we can then tax the community. Since the bonds did what they were supposed to, we can abate the tax. Motion passed 4-0.**

- C. Consideration of Ordinance #4116** abating the tax heretofore levied for the year 2022 to pay the principal of, and the interest on \$5,935,000 General obligation Waterworks and Sewerage Refunding bonds (Alternate revenue source), Series 2013. **Motion to approve was made by Councilmember Faber and seconded by Councilmember Colomer. Discussion: None. Motion passed 4-0.**
- D. Consideration of Ordinance #4117** abating the tax heretofore levied for the year 2022 to pay the principal of, and the interest on, \$3,640,000 General obligation Waterworks and Sewerage Refunding bonds (Alternate revenue source), Series 2015. **Motion to approve was made by Councilmember Colomer and seconded by Councilmember Faber. Discussion: None. Motion passed 4-0.**
- E. Consideration of Ordinance #4118** abating the tax heretofore levied for the year 2022 to pay the principal of, and the interest on, \$1,555,000 General obligation Refunding bonds (Alternate revenue source), Series 2022A. **Motion to approve was made by Councilmember Colomer and seconded by Councilmember Faber. Discussion: None. Motion passed 4-0.**
- F. Consideration of Ordinance #4119** vacating the eastern most 125 feet of the east-west public alley connecting Main Street to Tremont Street between 8<sup>TH</sup> Street and 9<sup>TH</sup> Street. **Motion to approve was made by Councilmember Komnick and seconded by Councilmember Colomer. Discussion: Councilmember Faber stated that he could not find the alley. It goes through the standing Hodge's building. It is unknown if it was vacated before the building was built. This was done back in the 1960's and processes were different back then. The City is correcting the issue by making sure it is properly recorded. Motion passed 4-0.**
- G. Tax Levy – Discussion: The City Manager presented a draft copy of the levy. Our EAV went up from \$87 million to \$91 million. Some things went up to cover pension expenses but lowers property taxes for households in the community. Residents may not see an overall decrease in property taxes because other entities may raise theirs. He reminded the Council that this is just a recommendation and that the Council can set it anything. Councilmember Colomer asked what helps to raise the EAV. Bradley stated that there are many factors that include new homes being built, targeted minor home repairs, buildings downtown that are getting fixed up, new businesses being built, as well as some of the more run down homes being demolished. Mayor Moore thanked Director of Community Development, Keith Edwards, for all the work he is doing to get those homes taken care of.**

#### **Council Communications:**

**Councilmember Faber:** As the Christmas decorations were being put up in Berrien Park, some of the outlets kept tripping. He asked Kevin Newton to get those repaired. He also asked for an explanation as to why a garbage truck is picking up recycling. City Manager Bradley said that it is easier for us to pick up recycling in the compactor truck. Those items are usually light but have a lot of volume. When we used the regular recycling truck, we would have to make multiple stops to empty the truck. Using the compacting truck allows us to pick up more recycling before emptying the truck. These loads are still being recycled and not put into the landfill.

**Councilmember Komnick:** Hopes that people are taking advantage of all the local holiday festivities such as the recent lighted parade, park lightings, and community choir performances.

**Councilmember Colomer:** Questioned where we were in the process for the downtown grant that we recently received. City Manager Bradley stated that we have not yet received the grant agreement with the State. We cannot move forward until we have the agreement in place. Colomer also questioned the delay when waiting for the traffic light at Prospect and Main St. Kevin Newton stated that the company that diagnoses and repairs these has a backlog. They are due to be here by the end of the month and will look at all crossings while they are here. He also mentioned that there will be a gift wrapping fundraiser this Sunday at Visitation where people can bring their gifts to be wrapped by a local baseball team.

**Mayor's Communications:**

Congratulations to both the Visitation and Central Junior High Girls Basketball teams. They both won their regional games but lost in the first round of sectionals. Mayor Moore reminded everyone to drive by both Northeast Park and Windmont Park to see the lights. Condolences to the family of Bill Haupt. He was a long-time employee of Kewanee's Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**Announcements:** Reminder that there will be no more burn days until April 2023. City Hall and the Transfer Station will be CLOSED Friday December 23<sup>rd</sup> and Monday December 26<sup>th</sup>. The only change to the trash schedule will be that Friday's recycling will be picked up on Thursday December 22<sup>nd</sup>. A Reminder that residents may put out (2) 32-gallon overflow bags near their cart, on their regular trash day, the week after Christmas.

**Motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Colomer and seconded by Councilmember Komnick. Motion passed 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:03pm.**