

**CITY OF EVART
VIRTUAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
November 9, 2020 @ 7:30PM**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor John Joyce at 7:30pm.

Present (by roll call): Ralph Carlson, Dan Elliott, Matt Hildebrand, Mayor Joyce, Sandy Szeliga

Present: City Manager Sarah Dvoracek, Assistant City Manager/Director of Public Works Mark Wilson, Finance Director Pepper Lockhart (Meeting Host), DDA Director Eric Kehoe, Chief of Police John Beam, City Attorney James White, City Clerk Kathy Fiebig

Guests: Chris Emerick, John and Angela Hunter, Laurie Chase, Ryan (SLC Meters), Kimberly Kleeves, Ryan Douglas, Sean, Kate, Jennie and one via phone.

Citizens' Comments:

Kimberly Kleeves: Ms. Kleeves stated that there has been no resolution regarding the matter of an outstanding high-water bill. She wrote a letter to council and was told the issue would be addressed at this meeting but does not see it on the agenda. She has a meeting scheduled tomorrow to get her meter checked and wondered why this was not done immediately after the matter was brought to the city's attention.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mayor Joyce to approve the Agenda as presented. Support by Mr. Hildebrand.
Motion passed with a roll call vote; all were in favor.

Approval of Consent Agenda

B. Regular Virtual Council Minutes – October 19, 2020

C. Special Council Minutes – October 14, 2020

D. Vendor's List \$88,846.21

Motion by Mayor Joyce to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Support by Mr. Carlson.
Motion passed with a roll call vote; all were in favor.

Unfinished Business

E. Development Agreement – Evart Industrial Properties, LLC

F. Updates to Purchasing Policy

G. Draft Ordinance – Special Events

H. Draft Ordinance – Housing Code

I. Riverside Park Improvements

Ms. Dvoracek advised council that all items are still works in progress. All were postponed.

New Business

Items for Action

J. Request to accept Water Meter Replacement Proposal from SLC Meter, LLC.

Mr. Wilson advised council that he, Ms. Dvoracek and Lead Water Operator Patrick Muczynski had met with the two water meter finalists following their presentations at the October 19, 2020 council meeting. They went over each proposal point by point with both finalists and all agree that the SLC proposal is superior. They also reached out to municipalities that are currently working with SLC and received very favorable recommendations.

Motion by Mr. Elliott to accept the Water Meter Proposal from SLC Meters, LLC. Support by Mr. Carlson. Motion passed on a roll call vote; all were in favor.

K. Request to accept Utility Rate Study Proposal from Baker and Tilly

Ms. Dvoracek believes that the City is favorably positioned to move forward with this study and believes that it is a critical component of the Capital Improvement Plan. Mayor Joyce pointed out that this issue has been under discussion for a long time. Mr. Hildebrand is confident that council has done their due diligence.

Motion by Mr. Hildebrand to move ahead with the Utility Rate Study Proposal presented by Baker & Tilly. Support by Ms. Szeliga. Motion passed with a roll call vote; all were in favor.

L. Resolution 2020-20 Approving Policies and Procedures for Virtual and Hybrid Meetings per Public Act 228

Ms. Dvoracek advised council that due to the recent Supreme Court ruling regarding Governor Whitmer's emergency powers, it is necessary to update the city policy regarding virtual meetings. Mark Watkins, County Emergency Manager, is recommending that all bodies meet virtually and has ordered all businesses to have employees work remotely whenever possible. Motion by Mayor Joyce to adopt Resolution 2020-20. Support by Ms. Szeliga. Motion passed with a roll call vote; all were in favor.

M. Recognition of Service – Mayor Joyce

Ms. Fiebig read the following certificate of appreciation: "The City of Evart proudly presents this Certificate of Appreciation to John Joyce in thanks and recognition of his distinct and loyal leadership and active participation, investment of personal time, interest and energy in the development and progression, and dedicated service to our fair city. Mr. Joyce served as a council member from November 2016 to November 2018, and as mayor from November 2018 to November 2020."

N. Recognition of Service – Council Member Carlson

Ms. Fiebig read the following certificate of appreciation: "The City of Evart proudly presents this Certificate of Appreciation to Ralph Carlson in thanks and recognition of his distinct and loyal leadership and active participation, investment of personal time, interest and energy in the development and progression, and dedicated service to our fair city. Mr. Carlson served as a council member from November 2011 to November 2013, and again from July 2015 to November 2020."

Items for Discussion

Department/Informational Reports (No Action Needed)

O. Accounts Payable Report (10/19/2020 – 11/9/2020)

P. Payroll Report (10/9/2020 – 11/9/2020)

Q. Revenue and Expense Report – October 2020

R. Winners of the Coloring Contest

S. Winners of the Halloween House Decorating Contest

City Attorney/Comment: Mr. White had nothing to report but thanked Mayor Joyce and Mr. Carlson for their years of service. He has enjoyed working with them.

Finance Director Report/Comment: Ms. Lockhart is looking at the water and sewer rates and reported that water usage has been coming up. Winter tax bills will be going out shortly, and the audit is wrapping up. She thanked Mayor Joyce and Mr. Carlson.

Department of Public Works Report/Comment: Mr. Wilson had no report but commented that it has been an honor and a privilege to work with Mayor Joyce and Mr. Carlson.

Police Department Report/Comment: Chief of Police John Beam thanked Mayor Joyce and Mr. Carlson.

Downtown Development Authority Report/Comment: Mr. Kehoe was no longer in attendance.

Citizens' Comments: none

Ms. Dvoracek thanked Mayor Joyce and Mr. Carlson for their years of service to the City. She has enjoyed working with them both and feels they have challenged her to be a better leader.

Ms. Szeliga thanked Mayor Joyce and Mr. Carlson as well and told them that she has learned a lot from them over the years. They will be missed.

Motion by Mayor Joyce to adjourn the meeting. Support by Mr. Carlson. Motion passed with a roll call vote: all in were in favor except for Mr. Carlson, who voted no.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01pm.


Kathy Fiebig, City Clerk