

**CITY OF EVART  
PRE-COUNCIL MEETING  
January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 7:00PM  
Community Room at the Depot, 200 S. Main Street**

Mayor Pro Tem Sandy Szeliga called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

**Present Council Members:** Sean Duffy, Jim Schwab, Matt Hildebrand, Sandy Szeliga

**Absent Council Members:** Mayor Chris Emerick

**Present Staff:** City Manager Pepper Lockhart, Finance Director/Treasurer Jennie Duncan, Downtown Development Director (DDA) Todd Bruggema, Director of Public Works (DPW) Don Duncan, City Attorney Jim White, Chief of Police John Beam, City Clerk Andrea Grupido

**Guests:** Deb Mishler, Mark Sochocki, Roger Elkins

**Unfinished Business:**

*Request to Appoint to DDA Board.*

The DDA and some board members interviewed candidates to fill the three vacancies and complete the board. The three candidates and their terms were presented as: Jim Schwab - 2 year term, Erin Horton - 4 year term, and Gary Hartsock - 4 year term. Bruggema stated that Erin Horton is a local and involved in the Seeds program in Marion, she is knowledgeable and excited to serve. Gary Hartsock works at Ventra and is in the union there which would be a great connection to have.

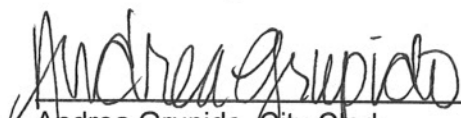
**New Business:**

*River/High Street.*

MDOT is no longer going to help with funding of the project. Their contribution was going to be \$65,000. The approved cost of the project \$752,232, the actual cost of the project has come down to \$714,752. Lockhart is proposing to continue with the project the same for the longevity of the road. In order to help cover that \$65,000, Lockhart is asking that some of the money be allocated from the sewer fund. The DPW has to dig up River Street to fix the sewer line going to Smith Lumber eventually. The road would then have to be repaved once that is done. If those two projects could be tied in together somehow, there could be cost savings there. D. Duncan suggested we incorporate some of the other projects that were in the plans to be done anyway, be done while OHM is here since most of the cost is incurred in travel to get here.

*Park Fee Structure.*

The Parks and Recreation Committee met and discussed keeping the fee structure the same as it was the last time it was open. They proposed getting rid of the "resident, non-resident" fee as well as removing the monthly fee. The goal is to keep costs low this year and get people here. Pavilion cost will remain the same with a "resident, non-resident" fee. Lockhart would like to start advertising ASAP.

  
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Andrea Grupido, City Clerk