

**CITY OF EVART  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 7:30PM  
Community Room at the Depot, 200 S. Main Street**

Mayor Chris Emerick called the meeting to order at 7:30pm, then led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Present (via roll call): Sean Duffy, Jim Schwab, Mayor Emerick, Matt Hildebrand, Sandy Szeliga**

**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 Clerk Andrea Grupido**

**Guests: Matt Biolette, Brian Rowley**

**Citizens' Comments:** none

**Approval of Agenda:**  
Motion by Mayor Emerick to approve the amended agenda with the added items J1. and J2. Support by Duffy. Motion passed with all in favor.

**Approval of Consent Agenda:**  
A. Pre-Council Work Session Minutes – January 16, 2023  
B. Regular Council Minutes – January 16, 2023  
C. Vendor's List \$260,912.19  
Motion by Mayor Emerick to approve the consent agenda. Support by Hildebrand. Motion passed with all in favor.

**New Business:**  
E. Request for Engineering Services – CWSRF Project Proposal.  
Hildebrand states that these projects were a big part of the Strategic goals, so moving forward with these plans are a good idea. Duffy asks the reasoning behind using Fleis & Vandenbrink rather than OHM. Lockhart speaks to the advantageous aspect of Fleis & Vandenbrink listening to what the City is asking for. Fleis & Vandenbrink will not only work *with* us but *for* us. That's not to take away from OHM, but it may be beneficial to the City to branch out and see what Fleis & Vandenbrink have to offer as well. Lockhart and D. Duncan both agree that Fleis & Vandenbrink are very responsive and can provide many resources. Lockhart and D. Duncan also express they will apply every year if need be. Lockhart states that if all we get out of these plans are new lead service lines, then it's a win. Fleis & Vandenbrink finish by ensuring they don't do plans just because, they do plans where they make sense. They speak to their success of projects coming in on budget and having very few change orders. Motion by Mayor Emerick to approve the CWSRF Project Proposal in the amount of \$14,000. Support by Hildebrand. Motion passed with all in favor.

F. Request for Engineering Services – DWSRF Project Proposal.  
Motion by Mayor Emerick to approve the DWSRF Project Proposal in the amount of \$14,000. Support by Hildebrand. Motion passed with all in favor.

**G. Resolution 2023-03 To Amend Resolution 2022-08.**

General ledger line 590-538-970-200 was created for CDBG funds only. Current CDBG projects are being coded to this line. However, Resolution 2022-08 approved for the funds to come out of line 590-538-970-100. Resolution 2023-03 will amend for funds to come from City of Evert Sewer Fund General Ledger Line 590-538-970-200. Motion Mayor Emerick to approve Resolution 2023-03 to amend Resolution 2022-08. Support by Hildebrand. Roll call vote as follows: Duffy – yea, Schwab – yea, Mayor Emerick – yea, Hildebrand – yea, Szeliga – yea.

**H. 101 S. Main St. Final Parking Agreement.**

Duffy and Hildebrand both point out that they would like to see a clause in this agreement stating that if the property is no longer used for residential, or if the property is sold, the parking agreement will then be renegotiated with the City of Evert.

**I. Sewer Credit Request.**

The December 2022 billing read was taken on December 27, 2022. The waterline going into the old airport building burst on December 28, 2022. The break was not discovered until January 18, 2023. The credit requested is for the leakage of 664,282 gallons in the amount of \$6,729.18. Motion by Szeliga to approve the sewer credit request of \$6,729.18. Support by Hildebrand. Motion passed with all in favor.

**J. 2023-2024 Strategic Plan – draft before council input.**

The visions for 2025 and 2030 remain the same.

The key objectives for 2023-2024 are:

1. To complete RRC.
2. Start wayfinding signage, applying for grants to help with this.
3. The Master Plan will be complete in March.
4. Pass the Landlord/Tenant Ordinance and work to create a Landlord/Tenant Committee.
5. The sidewalk assessment is complete, just waiting on the school surveys to move forward.
6. Capital improvement projects, including River/High Street in 2023. Working with MDOT on the US10 project for 2026, and doing an assessment of Jefferson.
7. Re-opening Riverside West Campground this year.
8. Collaborating with MEDC to help develop our Downtown District in creating housing and upgrading buildings.
9. Working with Middle Michigan in applying for grants.
10. Collaborating with the Housing Commission to expand housing there and in the community as well.

Grants being applied for to move forward include: DWSRF and CWSRF.

Lingering goal from 2022 will be finishing up the last water meter replacements as soon as the weather breaks.

**J1. 2008 NavStar International plow truck repair.**

Motion by Hildebrand to approve repair cost up to \$10,000 for the 2008 NavStar International plow truck taken from Equipment Fund Balance. Support by Schwab. Motion passed with all in favor.

**J2. Asset #P661-110 removal.**

Motion by Duffy to remove asset #P661-110. Support by Hildebrand. Motion passed with all in favor.

**Department/Informational Reports:**

**K. Accounts Payable Report (1/17/2023 – 2/6/2023)**

**City Attorney Report/Comment:****City Clerk Report/Comment:**

**Finance Director Report/Comment:**

J. Duncan, Chris Mulkerns, Hildebrand and Schwab met for a Water/Sewer Committee meeting and discussed an updated water ordinance that will hopefully be brought to the next council meeting for review. The City received a good amount of personal property money, but the DDA did not receive their portion of that due to certain reports not being filed with the State on time. J. Duncan and Bruggema completed those reports and the DDA received their portion. Bruggema was unaware of those reports needing done and has made it a point to make sure they aren't missed in the future.

**Department of Public Works Report/Comment:**

Continuing their work on energy saving projects and replacing broken fire hydrants (only 3 to go). DPW has completed PM's on multiple vehicles including the PD's. Signs and meters are being replaced, as well as repairing the old chipper so its operational.

**Police Department Report/Comment:**

The new reporting system is saving lots of time already. Chief and Lockhart have been working on the vaping ordinance.

**Downtown Development Authority Report/Comment:****City Manager Report/Comment:**

Lockhart met with the new County Inspector. Community Coffee is starting back up the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month.

**Evert Area Fire Department:****Evert Housing Commission:****Citizens' Comments:**

Motion by Mayor Emerick to adjourn. Support by Duffy. Motion passed with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:08pm.

  
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 Andrea Grupido, City Clerk