

**CITY OF EVART  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
March 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:** Jon Nailor, Deb Mishler, Ken Wirth, Mark Fuller, Allen Fox, June-Marie Essner

**Citizens' Comments:** None.

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion by Mayor Emerick to approve the amended agenda with the addition of the first item in new business, "Schmude Oil Lease". Support by Szeliga. Motion passed with all in favor.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

- A. Pre-Council Work Session Minutes – February 21, 2023
- B. Regular Council Minutes – February 21, 2023
- C. Vendor's List \$46,648.29
- D. Budget Amendments

Motion by Hildebrand to approve the consent agenda. Support by Mayor Emerick. Motion passed with all in favor.

**Unfinished Business**

**E. Water Ordinance**

The new water ordinance is drafted and has been reviewed by the city attorney. The next step is to move forward with a public hearing. Motion by Mayor Emerick to go forward with scheduling a public hearing to change the water ordinance. Support by Hildebrand. Roll call vote as follows: Hildebrand – yea, Szeliga – yea, Duffy – yea, Schwab – yea, Mayor Emerick – yea.

**F. Backyard Animals**

Lockhart will bring back to council a drafted ordinance after Mr. White and Chief Beam review it.

**New Business**

*Schmude Oil Lease Discussion*

Schumde Oil is proposing a 5-year lease agreement on 13.3 acres with a one time payment of \$1,335. The land in question is currently dedicated to public outdoor recreation. The proposal states that if production occurs, the city will receive 1/8<sup>th</sup> royalties. Mr. White has reviewed the lease and let the city manager know that he is familiar with Mark Fuller, and the company is very reputable.

**G. Request for US 10 Street Lamps**

There are seven broken lamp posts on US 10. D. Duncan has found a company that makes a similar style with the same bolt pattern as the old ones. The cost for this proposed pole is \$1,845.00 each. Hildebrand suggests that we purchase 10 lamp posts at this time to have extra on hand, and to also save on freight costs in the future. Motion by Duffy to approve up to \$20,000 for the purchase of 10 lamp posts, to be paid for out of General Fund Fund Balance. Support by Hildebrand. Motion passed with all in favor.

**H. Household Hazardous Waste**

The contractor used for this event is no longer available. The new company found as a replacement for this service is significantly more expensive. To keep cost down there will need to be changes made to the program. Starting this year, collection sites will alternate between Osceola and Lake counties annually, however, residents from each county are able to use either site. Finally, collection dates will change from weekend to a weekday. Motion by Mayor Emerick to approve Lockhart signing the contract with Mecosta and Osceola-Lake Conservation District for collection and disposal of household hazardous waste. Support by Duffy. Motion passed with all in favor.

**I. City Manager Emergency Approval Policy**

Recently we had a snowstorm and an essential piece of snow equipment needed to be fixed. The repair was over Lockhart's spending limit of \$3,000. As a result, council asked the city manager to bring back an emergency policy. Lockhart is proposing to change the spending limit and allow her to spend up to \$10,000 only on emergency basis. Motion by Hildebrand to approve Resolution 2023-4 that allows a \$10,000 emergency approval policy. Support by Mayor Emerick. Roll call vote as follows: Hildebrand – yea, Szeliga – yea, Duffy – yea, Schwab – yea, Mayor Emerick – yea.

**J. Vaping Ordinance**

In order to incorporate the legal age change and proper terminology to include vaping devices, a change in language is proposed to revise the current ordinance. The next step is to move forward with a public hearing. Motion by Duffy to move forward with scheduling a public hearing to change the current vape ordinance as presented. Support by Hildebrand. Roll call vote as follows: Szeliga – yea, Duffy – yea, Schwab – yea, Mayor Emerick – yea, Hildebrand – yea.

**Department/Informational Reports**

**K.** Accounts Payable Report (2/22/2023-3/6/2023)

**L.** Summary of Funds – (December 2022 & January 2023)

**M.** Revenue and Expense Report (through March 2, 2023)

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

Andrea will be going to training next week for the first year of the Clerk's Institute.

**Finance Director Report/Comment**

Tax assessment change notices went out. A MERS representative came in to talk with some of the city employees about retirement options. The chart of accounts is in the final steps. The Board of Review will be getting together March 7<sup>th</sup> at noon for an organizational meeting. March 13<sup>th</sup> the Board of Review will be from 9am – 3pm, and March 14<sup>th</sup> from 3pm – 9pm. J. Duncan also balanced the 2022 tax season with the county.

**Department of Public Works Report/Comment**

13 water meters left to replace, including non-active houses. Picked up the water truck with the new box on it. Repaired SRE snowblower and replaced the toolcat snowblower. Operation picnic table repair is underway and will be completed before the campground opens. D. Duncan attended the MRWA conference. Trouble calls are being responded to within 45 minutes.

Completed a couple projects at the cop shop. Started reviewing grant plans with F&V on site for clean water and drinking water.

**Police Department Report/Comment**

The school resource officer started today. Chief will be meeting to finish the school plan on Friday. Starting next week, the PD will be fully staffed for the first time in 2.5 years.

**Downtown Development Authority Report/Comment**

Michigan Main Street has chosen Evert Main Street to pilot a new program. Bruce Johnston of Revitalize, LLC, will be coming to the Depot April 25<sup>th</sup>, and presenting on the funding opportunities for property owners and potential developers. On April 26<sup>th</sup>, Bruce will walk through buildings with property owners and provide insight on the redevelopment potential, estimated costs, and funding opportunities of their specific buildings.

**Fire Department Report/Comment**

**City Manager Report/Comment**

Lockhart has been working with Williams & Works and the Planning Commission on the Master Plan. The city received \$1,600 from Point Broadband after they hit our line out at the airport. Lockhart and Grupido have been working on getting a list together of all the people who serve and volunteer on boards, and right now that list is over 50 people.

**Citizens' Comments:**

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

  
Andrea Grupido, City Clerk