

**CITY OF EVART
PRE-COUNCIL MEETING
April 17th, 2023 @ 7:30PM
Community Room at the Depot, 200 S. Main Street**

Mayor Chris Emerick called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Present Council Members: Sean Duffy, Mayor Emerick, Matt Hildebrand, Sandy Szeliga

Absent Council Members: Jim Schwab

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

Guests: Mike Fulton

Unfinished Business:

Schmude Oil and Gas Lease has been postponed until the May 1, 2023 meeting. Lockhart needs to contact the DNR agent who has been working with her on this, but the agent has been on vacation.

Budget – Second Draft for Workshop

The public hearing for the budget is planned for the May 15th Council meeting.

New Business:

Changes to the agenda tonight include a correction to item "1.", the resolution number should be 2023-07, adding item "K2." – CWSRF Resolution 2023-08, and removing item "D." Budget Amendments.

Land Division Application Fee

Osceola County Equalization is now charging a fee for all divisions and/or combinations. The cost is \$15.00 per split or combination. Most municipalities are passing those fees along to the landowner, and Lockhart is requesting that the City of Ewart do the same.

Park Host

There have been several people apply for the position, but the pay seems to be an obstacle. Lockhart took this issue to the Parks and Recreation Committee on April 11th. They are requesting that the council approve to increase the pay from \$700 per month to \$900 per month. That would result in a \$1,000 increase for the summer. If approved, Lockhart will reach back out to everyone who was interested to update them on the change.

River Street - MDOT Resolution 2023-07

This is just a formality since council has already approved the project. The agreement cannot be signed by the engineer for this project until a resolution is signed by council.

Pension Fund Relief Request

On behalf of the City of Ewart, Lockhart is working with many other Michigan communities to ban together and ask the legislature to reconsider HB5054, in reference to pension funding. The city of Ewart has taken steps to stabilize its pension program. Despite following best practices, the city of Ewart and others like it, are ineligible for pension relief allocated by the State.

CDBG Resolution 2023-06

This resolution is required as part of the Compliance Checklist to confirm eligibility for the CDBG. Several of these policies have been adopted by the city, others need updated or created. Resolution 2023-06 relates to the City of Evert Excessive Force Policy.

Meter Request Quote

Currently there are no 1.5", 3", 4" or 6" meters on hand if any were to break and need replaced. D. Duncan is asking council to approve the purchase one meter of each of those sizes. The quote from SLC Meter, LLC is \$12,241.21. Lockhart did not put this in the packet for council because it is over the purchasing policy. Hildebrand asks how many of each size are currently being used in the city. It is determined that of those 4 sizes, the 1.5" meter is being used the most. Hildebrand suggests we purchase 2 of that particular size and one each of the others. That outcome would change the quote to \$12,999.94. SLC Meter, LLC has agreed to trade in a couple extra 2" meters we have in our inventory to offset the price. Lockhart wants this in writing.



Andrea Grupido, City Clerk

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