

**CITY OF EVART
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
March 21, 2022 @ 8:00PM
Community Room at the Depot, 200 S. Main Street**

Mayor Pro-Tem Sandra Szeliga called the meeting to order at 8:00pm, then led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present (via roll call): Sean Duffy, Dan Elliott, Matt Hildebrand, Sandra Szeliga

Absent: Mayor Chris Emerick

Present (staff): City Manager Pepper Lockhart, Finance Director/Treasurer Jennie Duncan, Director of Public Works Dustin Moma, City Attorney James White, Downtown Development Director Todd Bruggema, City Clerk Kathy Fiebig

Chief of Police John Beam Jr. arrived at 8:24pm

Guests: John and Angela Hunter, Gloria Jones, John Tanner (OHM Engineering)

Citizens' Comments:

Gloria Jones noted that it is no longer possible to dodge the potholes on 1st Street at the entrance to Centennial Arms. She asked that temporary patches be made as soon as possible to avoid damage to resident's cars. The holes are numerous and very deep.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mayor Pro-tem Szeliga to approve the agenda with the addition of the Fire Department budget as Item G2. Support by Mr. Elliott. Motion passed with all in favor.

Approval of Consent Agenda

A. Regular Council Minutes – March 7, 2022

B. Vendor's List \$208,312.27

C. Budget Amendments

Motion by Mr. Hildebrand to approve the consent agenda as presented. Support by Mr. Duffy. Motion passed with all in favor.

Unfinished Business

New Business

D. Appointment to Board of Review

Motion by Mr. Hildebrand to appoint Kathy Maddern to fill the remainder of the vacant term on the Board of Review. This term will expire in 2023. Support by Mayor Pro-Tem Szeliga. Motion passed with all in favor.

E. Council Meeting Dates and Election Conflict

Ms. Fiebig pointed out that the 2022 election schedule is in conflict with two regularly scheduled council meetings and requested that either the meetings be rescheduled or the location moved. Motion by Mr. Hildebrand to reschedule the August 1 meeting to August 8, and the November 7 meeting to November 14. Support by Mr. Elliott. Motion passed with all in favor.

F. GIS Parcel Update for Osceola County

Ms. Lockhart stated that City Assessor David Kirwin is currently updating all City of Evert parcel information. Osceola County would like to buy the file once completed as the County is updating all records. The funds received will pay for a software update to our assessing system. Motion by Mr. Hildebrand to approve the sale of the file to Osceola County. Support by Mayor Pro-Tem Szeliga. Motion passed with all in favor.

G. OHM Engineering – River Road paving Proposal

John Tanner of OHM Engineering presented several options for the potential repaving of River Road from Jefferson Street to US10. Mr. Hildebrand would like to see a full breakdown of costs for options 2 and 5a. Mr. Elliott would like to see the soil boring results, detailed costs, and driveway approach plans before making a decision. Ms. Lockhart suggested using the ARPA funding of roughly \$196,000 as the project is now eligible for these funds. She asked council to begin considering where the rest of the funding will come from. No action taken.

G2. Fire Department Budget

Mr. Elliott stated that there will be a couple of minor changes to the budget but the bottom line remains the same. Mr. Hildebrand asked about the significant increase in salaries, and Mr. Elliott stated that employees were given a raise after a number of years at the same pay, and that part of the increase is due to staffing the station with one to two first responders rather than always relying on volunteers. Motion by Mayor Pro-Tem Szeliga to approve the budget for the Evert Area Fire Department. Support by Mr. Elliott. Motion passed with all in favor.

Department/Informational Reports

H. Accounts Payable Report (3/8/2022 – 3/21/2022)

I. Payroll Reports (3/8/2022 – 3/21/2022)

J. Summary of all Funds – February 2022

City Attorney Report/Comment

K. Monthly Report – February/March 2022

Mr. White stated that the deed for the land swap with Lume has been recorded. He continues to work on the sale of Lot 2 and the McClellan building. The title search showed an outstanding mortgage, and after research, the mortgage had been paid in full years ago and has now been duly recorded. He is still working with Lume to void the sale of Lot 1.

City Clerk Report/Comment

Ms. Fiebig is working on the final tree order for the grant from the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly, and Lume will again send volunteers to assist with planting. Lume will also send crews out on Earth Day, and has committed to doing this yearly. The Garden Club will be back out in the bump outs soon and she will submit a new budget for the 2022 season.

City Manager Report/Comment

Staff is working on the new budget. The second round of CDBG grants opens soon and John Tanner of OHM Engineering has a list of what they want changed to increase the chance of approval. Baldwin Electric will be at Riverside West to check out the electrical at the Park Host site. There are a number of fire hydrants that are not in good working order and this will be a priority for the Department of Public Works (DPW). DPW will be patching potholes as soon as the weather permits with 1st Street being highest priority.

Finance Director Report/Comment

Staff is already working on the new budget. The City has settled all final tax disbursements.

Department of Public Works Report/Comment

L. Monthly Report – February 2022

The September 7 storm took our five large trees at the old landfill site and destroyed part of the fence. DPW staff will rebuild, using recycled materials whenever possible.

Police Department Report/Comment

M. Monthly Report – February 2022

Chief Beam noted that he is forced to be creative with scheduling as the department is again short-handed. He is reaching out to police academies in hopes of filling a position with a recent graduate and stated that some departments are now paying to send new hires through the academies as a way to fill vacancies.

City Assessor

N. Board of Review Recap

Downtown Development Authority Report/Comment

O. Meeting Packet – March 8, 2022

Mr. Bruggema is educating himself on the DDA and Main Street programs and is doing outreach to local business owners. He is also trying to contact the owners of vacant buildings in the downtown business district. The DDA has three concerts planned for the summer. There's been a verbal resignation from the Board, and he is waiting for written confirmation of that before looking for a replacement. The Board will be doing a self-assessment next month.

Evart Area Fire Department

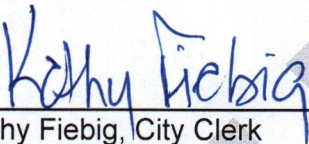
P. Meeting – March 15, 2022

Evart Housing Commission

Q. Minutes – February 2022

Citizens' Comments: none

Motion by Mayor Pro-Tem Szeliga to adjourn. Support by Mr. Hildebrand. Motion passed with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:42pm.



Kathy Fiebig, City Clerk