

City of Ottertail
February 16, 2016
7:00 PM

Council present: Mayor Myron Lueders, Darold Woessner, Jill Carlson and Ronald Grobeck.
Absent: Heather Rosenthal.

Staff present: City Clerk/Treas., Elaine Hanson; Maintenance/Zoning Coordinator, Loren Hawes; Stuart Fleischauer, Fire Chief.

Others present: Heidi Kratzke, Perham Focus; Jerry Martin, planning committee member; Wendy Billie; Thad Sperling and associate.

Regular meeting of the Ottertail City Council was called to order at 7 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance recited by all present.

Additions and corrections were made to the Consent Agenda. A motion to approve consent agenda items was made by Carlson and second by Grobeck. Motion carried.

- a. Minutes of 01-21-16, Regular Meeting, 02-12 Work session Notes. *Correction 1/21/16 Minutes for Polka Daze Liquor s/b 3 day C & D (set-ups).*
- b. LG220 App. for Exempt Permit w/no wait-Turkey Federation Raffle at Thumper Pond March 17.
- c. 1 Day Temp On-Sale-Ottertail Lions-Fire Relief Annual Turkey Dinner, April __@CC date to be determined; 1 Day Temp On-Sale-Ottertail Lions – R & G Turkey Feed April 23rd @CC .
- d. Month End – Dec/Quarter End/Year End Financials
- e. Approved bills of \$19,076.63 and authorized paying those bills that come in late due to early meeting date.

PRESENTATIONS/PUBLIC FORUM:

Hawes gave an update on the Downtown Project. Otter Tail Power will be moving their power poles. Bob Schlieman, Apex Engineering will be in town to meet with businesses on Thursday.

Thad Sperling will be opening a business in the old Grass Roots building owned by Tom Avelsgaard. The business will be a retail store for flooring and home interior. Hopes are to be up and running by mid-April. Any required permits will be handled as needed.

Wendy Billie presented plans on a Women's Only Festival on August 20th. She shared plans for the one-day event to be located adjacent to 300 Co. Hwy 1. There will be food, music, speakers. Discussed parking and pedestrian safety.

Fire Chief Fleischauer reported on a Fire Engine search as recommended by Lueders and Woessner. Two companies with prices well over \$500,000 with one company still waiting for a price. Target is a year for delivery. Organizations will and have been approached for donations. Time line includes planning for replacement of the Rescue truck and Grass Rig. Financing options will be available when something is more concrete.

OLD BUSINESS:

Motion was made by Woessner and second by Grobeck to accept the Employee Self-Evaluation form and to begin the process of Performance Management, with Personnel Committee as raters. All voted in favor, carried.

Motion by Carlson and second by Grobeck to accept the quote from Swedberg Nursery in the amount of \$9062.30 for the 3rd and final year of the Landscape Partnership Program. All voted in favor. Carried.

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Motion by Grobeck, second by Woessner to purchase safety T-Shirts for volunteers for tree planting. All voted in favor, carried.

Motion by Woessner and second by Carlson to authorize Mayor Lueders to sign contracts for the Household Hazardous Waste collection on June 10 with Ottertail County Solid Waste Department. All voted in favor, carried.

Motion by Carlson and second by Grobeck to recind 3.2 License for Ottertail Oasis (Lakes Area Cooperative) noting they are no longer selling 3.2 On-Sale. All voted in favor, carried.

Water base rate changes and letter was tabled to be discussed further at a work session.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Carlson and second by Woessner to transfer \$15,466.03 from the General Fund to Fire Fund for 2016 contract cost share for fire department. All voted in favor, carried.

Hanson gave a short report on the Ottertail Convention and Tourism Board activities and lodging tax revenues over the course of 5 years.

Minnesota Department of Health fact sheets are available at City Hall for residents who are concerned about Lead and testing thereof in the city. Residents are also able to access MDH website for this information due to recent reports of the lead in water in Michigan.

Hanson gave a report on Health Insurance quotes. Deductibles range from \$4500 to \$6550 and co-pays at 0% - 20% - 30% and policies would see a slight decrease overall. A motion was made by Grobeck and second by Carlson to allow the staff to choose one of the three BCBS policies as presented. All voted in favor. Carried.

A request was made to place some dirt and level the area where the Lion's Club will place their tent again for Polka Daze. The equipment and materials will be donated and no cost to the city.

Viewed the recent survey sent by Perham Gas who is considering extending their line around the south side of Donald Lake.

After concern from Grobeck regarding whether Traci Ryan Consulting was for comprehensive or economic development planning instead of housing, Mayor Lueders addressed what the group is trying to accomplish with developers and the role of Ryan's services. Motion made by Carlson and second by Woessner to approve proposal for services from Traci Ryan working with the Tri-City Housing group. All voted in favor, carried.

Learned that the League of MN Cities paid engineering fees for the litigation on the bike path in the amount of \$12,205.75. There will be an invoice coming for additional engineering fees that are attributed to close-out documents that are not related to the lawsuit.

Learned that the Neptune Handheld meter reader will no longer be supported after July 29, 2016. A trade-in program is available. Chad Thompson from Ferguson has been contacted for pricing information.

Motion by Grobeck and second by Carlson to appropriate \$500 to the East Otter Tail Fair Boards as allowed by §38.14 which allows cities to pay county agricultural societies. All voted in favor, carried.

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Tyler Currie, owner of Zorba's of Ottertail, inquired with the clerk on opening an exclusive liquor store in Ottertail. After some investigation it appears that although the city could issue this license, the only way would be for the city to change the ordinance. After some discussion it was determined that there was no interest in amending the ordinance. Hanson will contact Currie.

Zoning Permits:

Matt Blaskowski – Lean-to Shed located on Sawmill Road for the Blue Barn was approved.

After investigation into allowing towers (cell tower) and with a recommendation of City Attorney Karkela to enact a moratorium would be well within the rights of the city to conduct a study to consider adoption of an amendment to the zoning ordinance. A motion was made by Carlson and second by Woessner for the City to enact a moratorium for up to one year, preventing the construction of towers of any type within the city limits to enable the City to conduct a study on the effects of such towers and whether or not the City will permit them within the City. All voted in favor of said motion. Carried.

Correspondence/Meetings/Trainings/FYI-reminders

Henning ambulance meeting on February 22, 2016 – 6:30 Henning City Hall.

Otter Tail County caucuses will be held on Tuesday, March 1st. No public meetings should be held.

Next work session is scheduled for Friday, March 4th, 7 a.m. Water Rates and Zoning will be topics of discussion with City engineer Bob Schlieman

Council meeting – March 10 (note change).

LMCIT Loss and Safety Control workshop in Fergus Falls-March 31.

Ottertail Food Drop – United Way – at Community Center April 13th

Otter Tail County 2040 Transportation Plan is available to view at City Hall

With no other business to discuss, a motion was made by Carlson and second by Woessner to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Hanson, MCMC
Clerk-Treasurer

Myron Lueders, Mayor