February 28, 2022

City Council Meeting Minutes

The February 28, 2022 Regular City Council meeting was called to order at 6:00PM by Mayor Knepper. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Delaney, Kelchen, Oliphant, Knepper and Rausch answered roll call.

Motion Kelchen, second Oliphant to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Mayor asked if anyone from the floor would like to address the council. Shirley McDermott stated she broke her arm after falling down on an icy sidewalk. McDermott believes the city should be responsible for clearing the sidewalks, especially those of the elderly.

Council reviewed the items in the consent agenda including City Council minutes 2/14/22. Motion Delaney, Second Oliphant. All aye.

Mayor Knepper asked for input as to a date and time to interview applicants for the City Administrator position. Council directed the staff to poll the council members for the best time and date. Mayor Knepper pointed out we only have two applicants with Administrator experience and therefore wanted to interview all 5 applicants. Councilman Kelchen pointed out the longer we wait to interview, we risk losing applicants. After further discussion it was decided to interview all 5.

Mayor Knepper read a proclamation for Junior Achievement Day in Cascade. The Mayor Declared that April 7th 2022 will be Junior Achievement Day in the City of Cascade.

Ball asked for input on the Resolution for a project priority list. The list had the Fence/Railing of 1st Ave. Bridge as the top project. We need this resolution to apply for a grant from Dubuque County, which has a maximum of $25,000. Jake Deaver from MSA spoke and informed the council that steel prices are much higher than the initial information he used for an estimate. He now estimates that the project will cost approximately $75,000. Ball asked if the Council might want to consider expanding our crack seal and seal coat project and make that our top project. After some discussion it was moved by Rausch and Seconded by Oliphant to put the Crack Seal project as number one and approve Resolution 8-22. Roll Call- all in favor. The council then directed staff to continue to explore specs for the bridge fence and railing, so when funds become available, we have the information needed to bid it.

Moved by Rausch and seconded by Delaney to approve Resolution 9-22 Council support for the Dubuque Co. RCTP grant application. All Aye.

Moved by Oliphant and second by Kelchen to approve Resolution 10-22 approving March 28th as the date for a Budget public hearing. Roll Call- all Ayes.

Mayor Knepper wanted to make sure everyone understood the site plan for the Gazebo. There was some confusion among staff as to how it should be located. Staff believed the current new flood wall would be extended along the current line and the Gazebo constructed accordingly. Knepper pointed out the current Gazebo extends into the flood way approximately 3 ft. It was decided to direct staff to explore keeping the structure 3’ into the floodway to maintain site visibility to the Amphitheater. Deaver from MSA will contact the Army Corp to see if there are any issues with this plan.

Mayor Knepper asked about a mural that was approved for the building across the river facing the River View Park. Ball didn’t know the details. Police Chief Heim stated what he knew of the project. He believes the city was going to pay for some of the materials. Knepper thought it might be a good idea to approach one of our local businesses that might benefit from it to see if they wanted to donate.

Chief Heim had no other report for the Council.

Mayor Knepper stated he received several calls about the disrespectful nature of the last council meeting. Oliphant stated respect goes both ways and she didn’t feel the speakers were being as respectful as they should.

Terri Wollenberg then approached the podium and stated she felt she was being respectful but that council persons were not.

Ball reported on the special election. The election will be held on March 29th at the normal polling stations. Ball also believes the deadline for absentee ballot requests will be March 4th. Ball reported on trees taken down at the park. Ball stated that no trees were being taken down which were healthy. All trees were diseased, dead or dying. There are still several Ash Trees in the park. The DNR believe most or all of them will eventually die. Ball stated the city may want to put in place a plan to take down the rest of the Ash trees over the next few years and replace them. Ball also stated we found two more trees with the trunks split immediately behind the shelter to the west. Ball called Dubuque Co. Conservation who sent over an expert to inspect the trees. The inspector stated that the trees will come down- either mother nature will do it or the city will need to do it. Rausch and Sue Knepper stated they may be a hazard to the shelter and people nearby. Ball stated the trees will be cut down but didn’t know the time frame. Ball also suggested the city may want to consider a security camera system for city hall. When the front office is unoccupied it is difficult to see people entering. Also, since the gym is frequently used while city hall is closed, it would be nice to have a record of who is entering in case there was a problem.

With no other business, motion Oliphant, second Kelchen to adjourn the meeting at 6:56p.m. Motion carried.

Chris Ball, City Administrator Steven Knepper, Mayor