

PURSUANT TO DUE CALL AND NOTICE THEREOF, A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FULDA WAS HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON JANUARY 7, 2019 AT 6:30 P.M

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers by Mayor J. Maertens, with the following present: Councilmembers J. Brown, C. Ouellette and T. Roberts.

Staff present: J. Burchill – City Clerk and P. Kenney – Police Chief

Others present: David Baumhoefner, Ann Witzel, Randy Dierks, Jim Elsing, Gary Clarke, Willie Sanow, Eldon Larson, Anne Ouellette, Grace Ouellette, Nick Grothe, Stacy Grothe, Dan Webb, TJ Graber, Dave Thiner, Cheryl Thiner, Rona Brown, Duane Spartz, Darin Rahm -VAST and Jerry Johnson - Fulda Free Press.

Roberts moved and Brown seconded the MOTION to approve the agenda as with the additions of: Public Forum - TJ Graber, Stacy Grothe; New Business – J. Rucktaeschel 6 month probation review, Fire Relief Exempt Gambling Permit, Fulda Ambulance Exempt Bingo Permit, PeopleService; Special Order of Business – N. Frodermann’s resignation.

Motion carried unanimously.

Roberts moved and Brown seconded the MOTION approving the regular meeting minutes from December 3, 2018 and special meeting minutes from December 3, 2018.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ouellette moved and Roberts seconded the MOTION approving bills as presented for December 2018 in the amount of \$472,347.44.

Motion carried unanimously.

Neil Frodermann, Public Works Superintendent has submitted his resignation. Ouellette moved and Brown seconded the MOTION confirming the resignation, making it effective immediately.

Motion carried with the following votes:

Ayes – Brown, Maertens, Troje, and Ouellette Nays – Roberts

Brown moved and Roberts seconded the MOTION to accept Resolution 2019-01 declaring a vacancy for resignation of councilmember Ouellette’s position with being elected as Mayor.

Motion carried unanimously.

Chad Ouellette, Ann Witzel, James Elsing were then sworn in by taking the Oath of Office for the positions of Mayor and Councilmembers, respectively.

Witzel moved and Elsing seconded the MOTION to approve Resolution 2019-02 appointing Jim Brown as a council member.

Motion carried unanimously.

Elsing moved and Witzel seconded the MOTION to approve Resolution 2019-03 appointing Randy Dierks as a council member.

Motion carried unanimously.

Jim Brown and Randy Dierks were then sworn in by taking the Oath of Office for the positions of Councilmembers.

TJ Graber, Fulda Family Chiropractic, discussed a water issue he had resulting in a \$1489 from a break. He requested if there would be any type of forgiveness or extended time to pay the bill since their normal bill is about \$40 month. Dierks moved and Witzel seconded the MOTION to allow 10 months for repayment without penalty during repayment.

Motion carried unanimously.

Stacy Grothe has experienced backup in her basement again. She was before the council beginning of 2017 with this issue. She indicated they have replaced the plumbing in their home and hired Gass Trenching to replace the line from the house to the street, but still are experiencing problems. She also discussed it with neighbors and found Missy Reed, Dan Webb and Grothe Pro Steam have also had problems. Gass Trenching have dug up the previous problem that caused a "lip" in the system in the last year. She feels they have done everything they can do, but continue to have problems and would like the City start jetting the sewer again on a regular basis, which the council agreed with and will also discuss the issue with SEH. The council advised them to also visit with Gass Trenching again to discuss what they did when the last repairs were completed.

Gary Clarke discussed the 5 year plan on increasing the pension payout for the fire department to reach \$1500. Clarke indicated all the numbers are the same and that it wouldn't cost the city any additional amount by increasing to \$1400 per year. The investments are stronger than the previous year. The increase is currently in the 4th year of a 5 year plan increase. The maximum pension payout is at \$2262 per firefighter/per year, so as long as this number is more than the pension, it will not cost the city. Discussion was also had on the letter from the Office of the State Auditor. Burchill and Clarke will follow up and report back to the council. Elsing moved and Dierks seconded the MOTION to table the decision on increasing the pension payout from \$1300 to \$1400 until the February meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

SRDC will be having an orientation for newly elected officials on Saturday, February 2nd. Burchill will complete the RSVP and send in for Witzel, Elsing and possibly Dierks.

Roberts requested to speak on streets about a problem with the chlorine at the treatment plant. Hawkins is supposed to come to inspect, but a date has not been set yet. Roberts indicated the chlorine heads had not been replaced as was discussed at previous meeting. Per Roberts, the water and wastewater reports are done. Brown will follow up with the public works department and Hawkins.

Burchill discussed that the street department had sanded three locations on Jan. 3rd. The locations were St. Paul's Church, Maple Lawn Nursing Home and at the golf course for Deslauriers Fishing. Burchill wanted to confirm what to bill for the service. Witzel moved and Brown seconded the MOTION to invoice the locations for \$75 for the sanding service.

Motion carried unanimously.

Lutheran Social Service had requested to use the meeting room for training on March 26th and to have the rental fee waived since they are a non-profit and some from our senior dining will be attending the training. Brown moved and Witzel seconded the MOTION to waive the fee for them to use either City Hall or the ambulance hall for the training.

Motion carried unanimously.

Burchill requested to attend LMC Region V meeting in Slayton on Feb. 7th. Council agreed for her to attend.

An agreement hasn't been reached with Bondin Township for S. Lafayette. It was suggested for them to attend a council meeting to discuss further.

Duane Spartz updated the council on well #9. The well is complete and has plenty of water. He shared that either well (8 or 9) is capable to run the city and has quick recovery. The water samples he sent to the state did have high arsenic, but that is a norm for water in the area. He did share this information with MDH, John Bloome. The wells have to be manually switched to alternate. His suggestion would have been to have it set up to automatically alternate. This is still something that can be added to the system and he thought the cost would be a minimum amount.

Witzel moved and Elsing seconded the MOTION to approve the Town & Country exempt gambling permit.

Motion carried unanimously.

Dierks moved and Witzel seconded the MOTION approving both the Fulda Fire Relief exempt gambling permit and the Fulda Ambulance exempt Bingo license.

Motion carried unanimously.

Brown moved and Elsing seconded the MOTION approving Resolution 2019-04 stating annual designations for 2019.

Motion carried unanimously.

Elsing moved and Dierks seconded the MOTION approving Resolution 2019-05 for authorized signers for 2019.

Motion carried unanimously.

Dierks, Elsing and Witzel will all be attending the LMC Newly Elected Officials conference in Mankato on January 25 and 26.

At least one council member will need to take the online training for Board of Appeal & Equalization. Information was included in the council packet for the training. Brown indicated he would complete the training and Ouellette encouraged each council member to take the online training. The dates of the training were in question. Burchill will check into the dates and let council know.

VAST submitted a proposal to the City for phone and internet services. Ouellette indicated he would be abstaining from this conversation and turned it over to Brown. Darin Rahm from VAST was present to discuss the proposal. This would include internet and phone to all locations and add a new phone system. Option 2 would be for internet only would be \$79.99 per location, with an install fee. After discussion the council tabled any decision on the proposal.

Brown moved and Elsing seconded the MOTION to approve the 6 month step grade increase for J. Rucktaeschel and remove him from probation, effective January 9, 2019.

Motion carried unanimously.

PeopleService will be submitting a quote for wastewater and water treatment plant needs. Ted VandenBosch will submit a quote for wastewater. A special meeting will be scheduled to review the quotes.

The next regular council meeting will be Monday, February 4, 2019 at 6:30 pm.

Witzel moved and Dierks seconded the MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 pm.
Motion carried unanimously.

Julie Burchill
City Clerk

Chad Ouellette
Mayor