

Whalan City Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, May 10, 2021 5:00 p.m.
Meeting held at the Whalan Town Hall and via Zoom

Present: Marlys Tuftin, Tanya Cook, Kim Berekvam, Thore E. Johnson, and Owen Lewis

Absent: None

Visitors: Dave Ruberg, Ben Ruberg, Randy Berekvam, Todd Lindsey, Johnny Halvorson, Ron Gregg, Sheila and Leah Higbe, and Barb Jeffers

Regular Meeting:

Mayor Tuftin called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Agenda: Member Johnson motioned to approve the agenda with the additions of Prosecution and Lodging Tax Contract to Continued Business and Whalan Lutheran Church Temp. Liquor License to New Business. Member Lewis seconded the motion. Vote was done by roll-call with all in favor. Motion carried.

C. Approval of Minutes:

1. Mayor Tuftin read the minutes of the Regular Meeting, April 12, 2021: Member Cook motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. Member Lewis seconded the motion. Vote was done by roll-call with all in favor. Motion carried.

D. Treasurer's Report: Clerk Peterson provided the treasurer's report. The CD has a value of \$27,067.46 General Fund \$44,652.11, Ballfield Fund \$850.00, Beautification Fund \$187.00, and Electric Fund \$12,754.54. Member Johnson motioned to approve the treasurer's report including the following accounts payable:

| <u>Claim No</u> | <u>Vendor</u> | | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Check Number</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 0510211 | MiEnergy | Monthly Fee | \$172.00 | 5843 |
| 0510212 | Plunkett's | Invoice 7034254 | \$40.00 | 5844 |
| 0510213 | Acentek | Invoice 11865094 | \$41.26 | 5845 |
| 0510214 | Manion O'Koren Law | Invoice 300 | \$435.00 | 5846 |
| 0510215 | Nu-Way - K&H | April 16 Fill | \$419.74 | 5852 |
| 0510216 | Block 12 Well | 2021 Annual | \$60.00 | 5853 |
| 0510217 | City of Lanesboro | May Rent | \$225.00 | 5849 |
| 0510218 | Whalan Museum | May Internet Share | \$35.13 | 5847 |
| 0510219 | MiEnergy | Purchase Power | \$2463.60 | 5848 |
| 05102110 | Randy Berekvam | Trimmer and Maint. | \$362.61 | 5854 |
| Payroll | Randy Berekvam | March and April | \$430.30 | 5850 |
| Payroll | Michele Peterson | April | \$404.25 | 5851 |

Member Berekvam seconded the motion. Vote was done by roll-call with all in favor. Motion carried.

E. **Welcome to Visitors and Visitor Comments:**

- a. **Ron Gregg:** County Engineer Ron Gregg provided a map of the area the County is looking to make improvements to in 2022. Gregg shared examples of cooperative agreements that will be needed for the project. Gregg also shared the Counties policy on cost share. The County is in the very beginning stages of designing the project, however estimated that \$25,000 would be the cost share for curb and gutter to the City of Whalan. Additional discussion was had regarding sidewalk additions and improvements. Discussion will be continued as more information becomes available.
- b. **Johnny Halvorson:** Halvorson noted concern for a summons notice issued prior to the meeting, as well expressed his desire to improve 2nd Avenue through to Bench Street.

F. **Continued Business:**

1. **Brochures:** Member Cook provided the following print costs: #2500 \$409.26, #5000 \$614.19, and #6000 \$630.00. Members will invoice the Lanesboro Area Chamber of Commerce for the costs associated with printing the brochures. Member Johnson motioned to approve printing 5000 brochures for a cost of \$614.19. Member Lewis seconded the motion. Vote was done by roll-call with all in favor. Motion carried.
2. **Road Improvements:** Member Cook shared information from Sveen Construction regarding gravel placement on Everyday Road and Deep River Road. Discussion also included the blading and additional gravel in alley ways. Member Johnson motioned to approve a total cost of up to \$3,925 for work to include: Everyday Road, Deep River Road, Alley ways, and the area in front of the Halvorson and Berekvam properties. Member Cook seconded the motion. Vote was done by roll-call with all in favor. Motion carried. Member Cook will coordinate with Sveen Construction. It was noted that Dust Control would be completed after the road work was completed.
3. **DNR Agreement:** Discussion to be continued as no agreement has been received from the DNR.
4. **Title 9, Chapters 91 and 92:** Members felt that the requirement in 92.04 for no alcohol in the City park should be removed. No other comments were shared.
5. **Spray Reimbursement:** Member Cook motioned to reimburse Member Johnson for Weed and Grass spray he purchased for the roads and park within the City in the amount of \$109.53. Member Berekvam seconded the motion. Vote was done by roll-call with all in favor.
6. **Prosecution:** Clerk Peterson noted that the County Attorney referred the City to the City Attorney for Prosecution needs. Discussion will be continued at the June meeting.
7. **Lodging Tax Contract Update:** Member Cook noted that the committee (Tanya Cook, Kim Berekvam, Jane Lewis, and John Smith) had met and asked that the City of Lanesboro be notified that the City of Whalan would like to renegotiate the Lodging Tax Agreement. Suggested changes include a name change to the organization to include Whalan in the title as well as the inclusion of a seat on the board of directors for a Whalan representative. Discussion to be continued.

G. **New Business:**

- a. **Council Walking Tour Findings:** Council Members met on April 24th, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. to complete a walking tour of the community to assess concerns. Members Lewis, Johnson, and Mayor Tuftin were present, along with visitors Ben Ruberg and Dave Ruberg. Items Noted as Follows as recorded by Mayor Tuftin:
 1. Crushed rock needed in multiple areas:

- New Street edges between 1st and 3rd Ave. including driveway exit for Church Hall.
 - Corner of New St. and 3rd Ave. edges
 - Alley outlet on 3rd Ave.
 - Oak St. shoulder 833 & 835 Oak St. area
 - Grade all alleys, add crushed rock as necessary
 - Ball Park turnaround road (can use crushed rock located at BallPark).
2. Paved street areas of concern (compare with scheduled road work for possible overlap):
- Corner of New St. and 3rd Ave., eroded area
 - 2nd Ave. near bike trail intersection/Stop sign; pothole erosion
 - 2nd Ave. and Oak St. Consider building up road edge lip to prevent water run-off (near cement stairs leading to E. end of Town Hall)
 - 1st Ave. on top of Church Hill; repair road crack.
3. Other items for consideration:
- Clean out drain at BallPark turnaround and suggest cement surround for the drain grid. Randy Berekvam will look into this.
 - Remove and replace 3 broken picnic tables at the BallPark. Clerk Peterson will look into cost estimates to replace.
 - Bench St. electric pole and bent guy wire evaluation for possible replacement. Clerk Peterson will request a quote from MiEnergy for repairs.
 - Wood fence Bench St. right of way; consider removal vs. paint. It is believed to be personal property that was placed in the right of way. A Council Member will discuss with the property owner.
 - Retaining wall 2nd at Town Hall Ave. evaluate and plan for future repair needs. Members would like to add funding in the annual budget to prepare for repairs in the future.
 - Museum ceiling repair; evaluate and repair as necessary. Randy Berekvam will further investigate the repairs needed.
 - Mulch & pea gravel application for Plaza and Gazebo areas. Randy Berekvam will look into this, funding was included in the 2021 Budget.
 - Tree branches near electric lines 1st Ave. and New St. at Stop sign. It was noted that the last City wide tree review was completed in 2018. A City Wide tree inspection should be completed every three years, therefore it should be completed this year. Member Cook motioned to request Norby Tree Service to provide the annual inspection. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Vote was done by roll-call with all in favor. Motion carried.
4. Banner Placement (suggested): Member Johnson will assist Randy Berekvam in the placement of the banners.
- Bridge outlet inside city (not outlet to highway) - Fish Banner
 - Gazebo lamp vs. light pole between Main and Oak Streets
 - Corner 3rd Ave. and Main St.
 - Main St. mid-block between 2nd and 3rd Ave.
 - Near Museum, street light (Museum Baner)
- b. Bathrooms at Ballfield:** Member Johnson brought forward the idea of renting a portable bathroom for placement at the ballfield for the months of June, July, and August. Members felt that it should be an ADA compliant facility. As no budget was set for this expenditure, Member Johnson noted he would personally cover the expense.
- c. Electric Rates Review:** Discussion to be continued next month, once the revised contract is available from MiEnergy.
- d. Vacation Consideration for a portion of Bench Street:** Discussion was had regarding the past considerations for vacation as well as the precedent this would set moving forward. Member

Cook motioned to consider the vacation request and call for a Public Hearing. Member Berekvam seconded the motion. Members Cook and Berekvam voted in favor, Members Johnson, Lewis, and Tuftin voted no. Motion failed. Members then noted the desire to have additional information regarding the cost of survey work to be completed, exactly how many feet were being requested, and total legal costs. Clerk Peterson will research the information and report back, members noted a special meeting could be scheduled if necessary.

- e. **Solid Fuel-Fired Heating Device Ordinance:** Attorney O’Koren shared his opinion that criminal charges should remain as part of the ordinance, keeping the administrative penalties as well. Clerk Peterson noted that the Zoning Commission had previously voted to remove the criminal charges as a penalty for violating the ordinance. Peterson will post notice of a Public Hearing for the June 14 City Council meeting, as well post a copy of the draft ordinance on the City Website.
- f. **2020 Audit:** Member Lewis motioned to accept the 2020 Audited Financial Statement. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Vote was done by roll-call with all in favor. Motion carried.
- g. **Title 7:** Discussion will be continued.
- h. **Whalan Lutheran Church Temp Liquor License:** Member Berekvam motioned to approve the Temporary Liquor License for July 2,3, and 4 2021. Member Cook seconded the motion. Vote was done by roll-call with all in favor. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: Monday, June 14, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURN: Member Berekvam moved to adjourn at 7:05 p.m. Motion seconded by Member Cook. Vote was done by roll call with all in favor. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele Peterson
City Clerk/Treasurer