

Whalan City Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, June 13, 2022
Meeting held at the Whalan Town Hall and via Zoom

Present: Marlys Tuftin, Kim Berekvam, Owen Lewis, Thore E. Johnson, and Sheila Higbe

Absent: None

Visitors: Dave Ruberg, Ben Ruberg, Randy Berekvam, Melanie Murphy, Dale Peterson, David Rahn, John Gaddo, Rory Berekvam, and Attorney Joseph O’Koren.

Regular Meeting:

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

A. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. Agenda: Member Lewis motioned to approve the agenda with the additions of Johnson Reimbursement, Knight Business License, Zoning Legal Opinion, and Ball Tournament Temporary Liquor License to Miscellaneous. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor. It was noted that placement of the plum trees should be listed on the July agenda.

C. Approval of Minutes:

1. Mayor Tuftin read the minutes of the Regular Meeting, May 9, 2022: Member Berekvam motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

D. Treasurer’s Report: Clerk Peterson provided the treasurer’s report. The following are the balances as of 05/31/2022: General Fund \$36,934.85, Court Reimbursement Fund \$14,638.00, Ballfield Fund \$1,152.27, Beautification Fund \$187.00, American Recovery Act Funding \$3,606.31, Small Cities Assist \$12,153.00, General Capital \$27,333.86, and Electric Fund \$29,663.92. Member Higbe 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>
613221	City of Lanesboro	\$250.00	6020
6132210	MiEnergy	\$2,977.88	6028
6132211	O’Koren Law Office LLC	\$225.00	6029
6132212	David Hallum	\$30.00	6032
6132213	Thore Everett Johnson	\$263.21	6033
613222	NuWay - K&H Coop	\$346.63	6021
613223	O’Koren Law Office LLC	\$140.00	6022
613224	Plunkett's Pest Control	\$42.80	6023
613225	MiEnergy	\$172.00	6024
613226	Lanesboro Rural Fire Department	\$1,489.80	6025

613227	Acentek	\$40.19	6026
613228	LMCIT	\$250.00	6027
613229	Whalan Museum	\$35.13	6034
Payroll	Michele Peterson	\$557.00	6030
Payroll	Randy Berekvam	\$805.19	6031

Member Lewis seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

E. Welcome to Visitors and Visitor Comments:

- a. Dale Peterson: Still pursuing a license for a short term rental license and trying to stay informed.
- b. David Rahn: Commented that Peterson’s property has been nicely updated, and would be a good short term rental location.
- c. Rory Berekvam: Noted concern for drainage at the intersection of 2nd Avenue and the alley near parcel 120076000.

F. New Business:

- a. **Plowing of St James and River View Drives:** Residents of the area reached out to the City Office inquiring about snow removal of these two streets. Upon review of the development agreement, it was noted that those streets are currently private property, and have not been dedicated as public rights of way. Clerk Peterson will send out the agreements to the Council members for review. The homeowners will also be contacted to see how they would like to see this discussion proceed. Snow removal could only be considered if the streets were dedicated as public right of ways.
- b. **Harter’s Service Contract:** Member Higbe motioned to approve the contract as presented. Member Lewis seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- c. **Murphy Easement Request:** Attorney O’Koren recommended denial of the application for easement due to the fact that the City does not own title to the land. He offered that a possible solution would be for the Council to consider a license agreement, which would acknowledge the encroachment of the garage on the right of way. He also noted that the property owner Pearl Murphy should make an application for the license, should she want to pursue that option. Member Lewis motioned to deny the application for easement. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor. Member Lewis motioned to table the discussion to allow time to discuss the potential options with the property owner. Member Higbe seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

G. Continued Business:

- a. **Mulch Estimates:** Member Johnson motioned to approve purchase of a load of mulch in the amount of \$500 including delivery, after verifying it is at least 35 yards. If it is less than 35 yards the second option would be to go through Root River Hardwoods at a cost of \$550 for 35 yards, and \$4.00 per mile delivery charge. Member Lewis seconded the motion. Sheila will mark with white paint the grass to the north of the basketball courts for placement. Peterson will notify Council members when the mulch is scheduled to be delivered. Motion carried with all in favor.

- b. Town Hall Siding Estimates:** Member Lewis provided three estimates from Eagle Ridge Construction. Members requested an additional quote to repair the existing siding and paint, Member Lewis will get that quote. Clerk Peterson will research grant opportunities to help fund the project.
- For complete removal and replacement of cedar siding, including 3 layers of paint the cost is \$66,959.00.
 - For complete removal and replacement of LP smart siding, cost is \$58,657.00.
 - For complete removal and replacement of vinyl siding, cost is \$41,316.00
- c. Playground Inspection Form:** Members reviewed the sample inspection form for the playground equipment. Member Lewis motioned to adopt the form and have annual inspections completed. Member Berekvam seconded the motion. Member Tuftin offered to help Randy Berekvam with the inspection this year. Motion carried with all in favor.
- d. Engineering:** Bolton & Menk Engineering is taking a look at Oak Street and 2nd Avenue to investigate the erosion concerns, more information will be provided at a future meeting.
- e. Zoning Board:** Applications are still being accepted for the fifth seat on the Zoning Board, contact the City Office with any questions or to make an application.
- f. Public Bathrooms:** Member Lewis motioned to approve rental of one standard portable bathroom at the Ballfield through the month of August from On-Site. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Clerk Peterson will look into the cost of an accessible unit. Motion carried with all in favor.

H. Miscellaneous:

- a. Johnson Reimbursement:** Member Higbe motioned to approve reimbursement in the amount of \$263.21 to Thore E. Johnson for expenses incurred for maintenance material for the ballfield. Member Berekvam seconded the motion. Motion carried all in favor.
- b. Knight Business License:** Member Johnson motioned to approve a retail business license for Diane Knight for the 2022 season. Member Berekvam seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- c. Zoning - Legal Opinion:** Member Johnson motioned to approve of creating a list of questions for Attorney O’Koren to offer opinion of for the short term lodging ordinance. Member Lewis seconded the motion. List of questions will also be shared with Council members. Motion carried with all in favor. Member Lewis motioned to verify with Attorney O’Koren the requirements of a moratorium. Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- d. Ball Tournament Temporary Liquor License:** Member Lewis motioned to approve the temporary liquor license for the July 4th Ball tournament at the ballfield pending a completed application. Member Higbe seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Next Meeting: Monday, July 11, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURN: Member Lewis moved to adjourn at 6:27 p.m. Motion seconded by Member Johnson. Motion carried with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele Peterson
City Clerk/Treasurer