

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
RAND CENTER
AUGUST 18, 2015
6:00 P.M.

Mayor Sargent presided over the meeting and called it to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following Council members present: Johnson, Ratliff, Isom, Struble, Thompson. Also present were City Clerk/Administrator Miller, Chief Murray and visitors: Dolores Ring, Jack Peterson, Roger Gunderson, John Riley, Mark Smith, Marilyn Smith, Shawn Kelly, Caleb Wohlers, Rashelle Wohlers, Jim Dozier, Ada Isom, Jesusa Christians.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Moved by Council member Isom to approve the Agenda for August 4, 2015, seconded by Council member Struble. Motion carried on a 5-0 vote.

Moved by Council member Struble to approve the Consent Agenda with an addition to the Claims list, seconded by Council member Thompson. Motion carried on a 5-0 vote.

During citizen inquiries a citizen commented that he felt if the City had funds to pave a street for a business, it should consider resurfacing several streets around town. Mayor Sargent explained the City's policy on new construction vs resurfacing and the process gone thru at budget time to determine street projects.

A question was asked about the work to be done on S 9th Street. City Clerk/Administrator responded she had been notified the company would be here on Wednesday and Thursday.

Marilyn and Mark Smith addressed the Council about the ground offered to the City at the top of N 2nd Street. The property abuts their property and they have maintained as their back yard for 47 years. Mrs. Smith expressed concerns about how the property would be maintained by the City and liability issues because of the hill. Mr. Smith felt the area has a historical significance and buildings would ruin the look of the area. He thought a park with a few picnic tables would fit the area.

Fire Chief Kelly informed Council of the repairs necessary to the 2003 Ford F350 crew cab pickup (#124) to be able to put it back into service. Woodhouse's inspection put the costs at \$9,392 and the Blue Book value (fair conditions w/o repairs) is \$9,340 so he did not feel it made sense to repair the vehicle. The truck is primarily used for transporting personnel and equipment to training and to haul additional manpower/equipment to fire scenes. To meet that capacity, it was recommended either a Suburban or Tahoe be purchased, the difference being in the amount of cargo room. Woodhouse's quote for a Suburban was lowest of three obtained at \$42,683. Used vehicles vs new vehicles, time frame for replacement, and budget were discussed. Fire Chief and City Clerk/Administrator will get together to review sources of revenue and bring information back to the Council on funding options. Moved by Council member Thompson to table discussion pending additional information, seconded by Council member Struble. Motion carried on a 5-0 vote.

Council considered the request for paving on Joliet Avenue. After considering the cost and that it benefited only one property owner, moved by Council member Struble to deny the request, seconded by Council member Johnson.

Council reconsidered the offer to donate land to the City, which had been accepted at the previous meeting. After viewing the property, Council had concerns about the use and benefit of the ground to the City. Moved by Council member Johnson to rescind the acceptance, seconded by Council member Struble. Motion carried on a 4-1 vote with Council member Isom voting nay.

Kay Hinkel gave an update from the Caboose Committee. They are working on getting paint bids. They have switched from the 'heritage' design restoring the original to the UP design which will require different color paint than they originally received. She is contacting Diamond Vogel about an exchange and UPRR about getting the decals. She asked permission to add an "in memory of (Robert) Bob Lance stencil or decal in honor of Mr. Lance's participation on the Caboose Committee. Council was in agreement. She also reported they are coordinating with the Chamber on where to place the windmill.

Jack Peterson addressed the Council with a request that he be allowed to turn the ground floor unit in his building at 309/311 E Erie into a residential apartment. He stated he hasn't been able to rent it as commercial and because the rest of the building is residential, he would like to rent that out as residential as well. Mayor Sargent pointed out this would require a change to the zoning ordinance because ground floor apartments are prohibited in the current zoning. Mr. Peterson responded he was willing to take it to the Planning & Zoning Board but was looking for Council's support first. Following discussion, moved by Council member Thompson to table the item to the next agenda, seconded by Council member Isom. Motion carried on a 5-0 vote.

Moved by Council member Johnson to hire Robert Maule and Jeremy Bellis as part-time officers, with total hours not to exceed 24 hr/week, seconded by Council member Thompson. Motion carried on a 5-0 vote.

Moved by Council member Struble to approve Resolution 15-29, "Resolution Setting Wage", seconded by Council member Johnson. Motion carried on a 5-0 vote.

Moved by Council member Struble to accept the proposal for postage meter lease, seconded by Council member Isom. Motion carried on a 5-0 vote.

City Clerk/Administrator reported she had been approached with an inquiry about naming rights for the new City Hall/Fire Station. A work group will come up with recommendations.

The bids for demo of the house at 317 N 5th Street were read. Moved by Council member Struble to award the bid to Mocha & Sons, seconded by Council member Johnson. Motion carried on a 5-0 vote. Council felt the City's previous experience with Mocha & Sons and their proximity should over-ride the \$100 difference in bid amount.

Moved by Council member Struble to table Item #17 because Mr. Scott was not present, seconded by Council member Thompson. Motion carried on a 5-0 vote.

Moved by Council member Struble to adjourn, seconded by Council member Isom. Motion carried on a 5-0 vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Clint Sargent, Mayor

Attest:

Rita M. Miller

City Clerk/Administrator