

CITY OF SCOTT CITY

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CITY COUNCIL MEETING

March 18th, 2019

Call to order: A meeting of the Council was held on March 18th, 2019 in the Council Chambers located at City Hall, 215 Chester Ave. Mayor Brant called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The following council members were present: Mike Rhymer, Randy Morse, Gary Spinks, Heather Ingvalson, Tim Porch and Pat Brazel.

ABSENT: Michael Ellison, Andrew Reinhart

Also, present: City Attorney, Frank Siebert; Interim Fire Chief, William Crump; Parks Director, Skylar Cobb; Chief of Police, Michael Culler; City Administrator, Mark O'Dell; Public Works Director, Dustin Whitworth.

ABSENT: N/A

Prayer and Pledge: Prayer was led by Susan Perez of the Historical Society and Pledge was led by Mayor Norman Brant.

Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve agenda was made by Councilwoman Heather Ingvalson; Seconded by Councilman Pat Brazel. All in favor; None Opposed; Motion Carried.

Approval of Minutes: from March 4th, 2019

Motion to approve minutes from March 4th, 2019 meeting was made by Councilman Tim Porch; Seconded by Councilman Mike Rhymer. All in favor; None Opposed; Motion Carried

Approval of Bills: Motion to approve bills in the amount of \$31,608.61 was made by Councilman Tim Porch; Seconded by Councilman Mike Rhymer. All in favor; None Opposed; Motion Carried.

Presentation of Scott County Mark Hensley: Regarding the possibility of the county collecting taxes for the City of Scott City:

- Scott County Tax Collector; Mark Hensley stated that he has never solicited services to collect taxes to any city and his first major concern is that if it would cause someone to lose their job, he will not pursue the matter.
- This would be a 3-way contract, which would be between the County, the County Collector and the City.
- There would be a commission paid for the service, which would unlikely exceed 4%.
- Counties in the area such a Perry County are at 1.75% plus fees and New Madrid County is at 1.5% plus fees.
- An ordinance would have to be passed in order to allow Hensley to collect on behalf of the City of Scott City. There is also already a statute which allows for Hensley to legally perform the collection for the city.
- There would be no change in late fees charges as the City of Scott City follows the same as the county which is 2-18%.
- Funds would be distributed monthly and would be received on the 5th of month, with the exception to the months of December and January when this would be closer to the 20th of the month.
- Taxes collected would be Personal Property and Real Estate. Hensley has had a success rate of collections this year of 91.27% for county within the limits of Scott City.

- Services would also include the tax sales, so this would no longer be a responsibility of the City of Scott City Collector Tina Blattel, freeing up her time.
- One bill will be issued, which tax payers appreciate according to Hensley.
- Mayor Brant requested that council meet with the commission and Mark to finalize any arrangements. Council has requested that they need to see total percentage charges that would be issued before making any further decisions to proceed.
- Any delinquent taxes Hensley will take over starting the day of the contract, but he will not be able to take any previous. He will although take notation of the current \$28,000.00 in delinquent taxes and request tax payers to pay their delinquencies.
- Mayor Brant stated that he will continue to pursue this and get the exact cost figures for the council. He will be working with Scott County Collector Mark Hensley as well as City of Scott City Collector Tina Blattel to gather this information and insure it is a good fit for the city.

Rich Cochran of Waters Engineering: To discuss waterline projects.

- Ramsey Creek and Roth/Cherry Streets waterline upgrades. Bids were sent out for this project.
- The design on Cherry Street ran into an issue on the waterline, so a change order needed to be added to total cost.
- The bid specs also included an alternate add-on cost, since the City was going to be doing some of the waterline work at Ramsey Creek.
- 5 bids were presented, and the lowest bidder came in at a cost of \$155,710.80, which included the alternate of \$21,500.00. The highest bidder came at a cost of \$293,000.00 plus change.
- Cochran estimated the total cost of the project at \$255,000.00.
- The lowest bidder was C.R. Contracting who is currently finishing up the work for the project on Wheeler Street. Cochran highly recommends C.R. Contracting as not only were they the best priced bid, they have been doing great work at Wheeler St. and the citizens have been happy with their performance.
- Cochran stated that if the change order for Cherry Street is added back into the project the grand total would be estimated at \$188,000.00. Cochran also stated \$100,000.00 was placed in contingency for previous project and only \$20,000.00 was used and that there is currently \$350,000.00 left to spend from the sewer bond.
- Cochran made a recommendation to council to award C.R. Contracting with the bid and to add the change order for Cherry Street.
- Motion to accept recommendation of Rich Cochran of Waters Engineering was made by Councilman Tim Porch, Seconded Councilwoman Heather Ingvalson.
All in favor; None Opposed; Motion Carried

Public Forum:

Chris Mier: 706 3rd Street:

- Addressing concerns regarding the alley way on the 700th block of 3rd Street.
- Mayor Brant and City Administrator Mark O'Dell will visit the area and address the concerns.

Susan Perez: Historical Society for the City of Scott City:

- Museum will be re-opening on March 2nd, 2019.
- There are new displays including a 2021 Missouri Bi-Centennial Display.
- 6 new members have been added to society. The AD-HOC Committee for the Museum will be interviewing the new members and train them beginning on the 2nd of April 2019.
- June 23rd, 2019 will be the Ladies Tea Event.
- The museum on either Thursdays or Friday nights will have Historical Speaker night.
- Attorney Frank Siebert suggested to Perez to contact Bill Eddleman at Southeast Missouri State to have him present as a speaker since he has vast knowledge of genealogical studies and would have a lot to offer the City's Historical Society.

Donnie Tubbs: 405 Keeley Avenue:

- Drainage coming off Ruth Street to their alley way.
- Rock was put in a few years ago but it has washed out
- There is a concrete ditch but could be a better solution for drainage.
- Pictures were presented showing property damage that is occurring
- Public Works Director, Dustin Whitworth, City Administrator Mark O'Dell and Mayor Norman Brant will be going to look at the area and determine solutions.

Jay Cassout: 129 Lakeview Drive

- Addressed council by saying that even though he has retired from the city, he is willing to help if he is needed. He also stated he would be interested in serving on any boards and helping out with this as well.

New Business:

1.) MO Perm Workman's Comp Renewal:

- The renewal cost for 2019, which covers from April 1st, 2019 to April 1st, 2020 will be at a rate of \$37,477.00 before the final audit is performed. This is an increase of 14% from last year.
- Motion to approve payment to MO Perm for renewal of Workman's Comp was made by Councilman Mike Rhymer; Seconded by Councilman Pat Brazel
All in favor: None Opposed; Motion Carried

2.) Dental, Vision, and General Health Discussion:

- Major Concerns are the time frame of deductions it takes for payroll. We need to determine what deductions we should be taking on as an entity according to City Administrator, Mark O'Dell.
- Enrollment time frames are scattered throughout the year, there is no set month for renewal for all services offered.
- Must procure dental and vision to get a lower rate. City's current service Ameritas is due in 2 months
- Look at all policies and clean up the services offered as well as making these easier for payroll deductions. Goal is to find a single provider.
- \$15,000.00 life insurance provided by the City. City Administrator, Mark O'Dell is trying to find out if it is possible for an employee to purchase a submental life insurance policy that is guaranteed issue at an increased cost, which would be paid for by the employee and be at no cost to the city.
- The city needs to have safety training to help prevent accidents and decrease the risk of needing to use Workman's Compensation and decrease costs.

Mayor's Report:

- **Delinquent Business Licenses.**
- We now only have one business that has not renewed since last July.
- It is coming up for them to purchase another license for the current time frame.
- According to Councilman Mike Rhymer it does not clearly state the exact deadline of the business license renewal, but they are issued July to June each year.
- Attorney Frank Siebert stated that according to ordinance, a business must have a current license, or the business can and will have charges filed against them as this is considered a misdemeanor. More information regarding all details of business licenses can be found in Chapter 600 of the City Ordinances.
- Council unanimously agreed that a ticket needs issued to the non-payment business.
- **Writing off bad debt on water bills.**

- City Collector Tina Blattel had written a letter to the council requesting to write off bad debt for water, sewer, and trash bills. Her request was to have the final water bills prior to 3 years ago, written off totaling \$89,830.10 and if that time frame was too quick then to write off unpaid final bills prior to 5 years ago into bad debt, which can still be collected for a total of \$72,860.73.
- City Administrator Mark O'Dell agreed with City Collector Tina Blattel's letter and requested that council make a motion to accept the letter and write off the unpaid final bills over 5 years old to bad debt, which can still be collected and to continue to retain name of debtors. The total is \$72,860.73.
- Mayor Brant asked council to make motion. Motion was made by Councilman Tim Porch; Seconded by Councilman Gary Spinks
All in favor; None Opposed; Motion Carried

Department Reports:

Mark O'Dell, City Administrator:

- 5 employee applications have been submitted for the Fire Chief position. A fire committee meeting will be held Thursday, March 21st, 2019 at 6:00pm inside City Hall Council Chambers.
- USDA grant meeting with Jason Hartke and Mayor Norman Brant. Everything looks good and we should have answers by May 2019 according to City Administrator, Mark O'Dell.
- Bootheel Regional has sent more information regarding the CBDG grant.
- Cameras for the cemetery will be getting installed as well as new signs per City Administrator Mark O'Dell.
- O'Dell has also determined that there is 15 years of plat areas still available at the cemetery.
- O'Dell stated that we need to hire a surveyor to plot the lower end of the cemetery to determine availability. Mayor Brant said this will be difficult and the City needs to be careful as there are many unmarked plots, as well as drainage concerns, etc.

Randy Morse, Admin/Finance:

- Noting to report

Michael Culler, Interim Chief of Police:

- Dodge Charger was sent off to Purple Wave for auction. Auction will go till April 10th.
- City of Saint Louis is using same radios as the City of Scott City are. The City's Police Department was able to help a large community in making their decision for the purchasing of radios.
- Housing more inmates by July, a few counties are interested. Attorney Frank Siebert we must have a contract drafted before we accept servicing inmates for any other counties.

Mike Ellison, Police:

- Absent from meeting

William Crump, Interim Fire Chief:

- Rubbage Fire (NBC call) was a billable call. It took all night to control. Police were involved as well. It was a large fire and worth a lot of money in lost goods.
- Keeping everything up and everything working well, continuing to clean station 1.

Pat Brazel, Fire Department:

- Nothing to report

Skylar Cobb, Parks Director:

- Scheduling meeting in Chaffee to set times for baseball, softball and tee ball games happened last week. Meeting was quite long but everything is scheduled.
- Meeting in Charleston the 20th to schedule last open team for games.
- This week was the first time that Parks has been able to get on the fields and begin prepping area.
- Games are set for next week for the High School. City leagues to start on April 22nd.
- Hire Mower this week to begin working on April 1st or April 8th depending on weather.
- St. Jude Disc Golf will be April 6th in the park.
- April 13th Easter Egg Hunt. Cletus Glueck of Public Works will be playing the role of the Easter Bunny. Event starts at 10:00 am.
- First baseball tournament to be held on April 26th-27th.

Heather Ingvalson, Parks:

- Nothing to report

Dustin Whitworth, Public Works Director:

- There was a high service pump issue at the plant. Bearings, wear rings, and other machining needed to be completed to get pump back in service. There is only one backup pump when this happens.
- The backup pump acted up and luckily it was determined that there were no major issues with it and it is possible that it overheated because of having to work double due to the other high service pump being serviced and repaired.
- Public Works continuing to work on storm drainage repairs and regular maintenance.
- Smoking sewer bids will be going out Tuesday, March 19th, 2019.
- Councilman Gary Spinks wanted to congratulate Public Works and the appearance of the Plant and Lagoon. He stated to all of council that they should visit the plant if they have not lately to see how much progression has occurred.

Mike Rhymer, Public Works:

- Nothing to report

Gary Spinks, Cemetery:

- Report of City Administrator, Mark O'Dell covered cemetery concerns

Tim Porch, Ordinances:

- An ordinance committee meeting will be held Wednesday, March 20th at 5:00pm in the City Hall Council Chambers.
- April 1st town meeting regarding land lords is tentatively set.

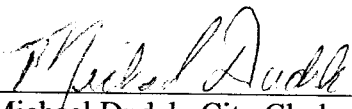
Andrew Reinhart, Planning and Zoning:

- Absent from meeting

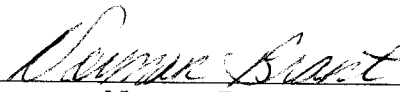
Mayor Norman Brant wanted to send out a sincere thank you to every department for all of their hard work and willingness to go above and beyond to keep the City running.

No further business being presented, moved by Councilwoman Pat Brazel; Seconded by Councilman Gary Spinks to adjourn at 8:24 p.m. All in Favor; None Opposed; Motion carried.

Attest:



Michael Dudek, City Clerk



Norman Brant, Mayor