

**CLEARWATER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 10, 2020**

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: 7:00 p.m. Council Chambers

- Mayor Lawrence called the Clearwater City Council to order Monday, February 10th, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers. Members present were Mayor Lawrence, Council Members Petty, Scott, and Kruchten. Member Crandall was absent. Also present were members of the Public, Staff and Press.

2. Approval of Agenda

- **MOTION** by Scott to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Kruchten, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

3. Public Comment

- None.

4. Consent Agenda

- a. **Claims/Accounts Payable in the Amount of \$71,963.17.**
- b. **Approval of 01-27-20 City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes**
- c. **Approval of 01-27-20 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes**
- d. **Res 2020-11 – Approving Temporary Gambling Permit**
- **MOTION** by Kruchten to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Petty, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

5. Wright County Sheriff Deputy Report

- Deputy Linn provided a review of the monthly calls. Members asked about gas drive-offs. The number of drive-offs has recently declined. Additional security measures at local stations and law changes have made it easier to track the drivers, which has led to a reduction in the numbers.

6. Old Business

a. Discussion of Utility Rates

- Finance Director Lindrud gave a preliminary analysis of utility rates. Her recommendation is that the Council consider a rate increase for all utilities. The projections show water and sewer cash reserve balances going negative within a few years, even with significant rate increases. Members stated that the water fund had been healthy until very recently. They asked Lindrud to review historical data to see if we could determine what has caused the change in position. Members also asked if she could run a new projection that excludes the I94 Water Main Loop Project and shows the impact of existing debt coming off.

b. Consider Proposal for Concrete Repairs – El Dorado Park

- Engineer Kannas outlined his memo to address cracks in the concrete slab that was poured in El Dorado Park last summer. The contractor, R&D Concrete, has stated that the cracks were caused by the engineer's poor design and is demanding payment in full. The engineer has stated that the cracks were caused by a number of factors outlined in the memo, all of which relate to faulty installation. The engineer is proposing the city attempt to address the cracking with a sealant that

has an estimated cost of \$1,200 and withhold an additional \$18,000 for further repairs if the sealant doesn't work. The contractor doesn't agree with the engineer's position, but wants to receive at least a partial payment, as there has been none to date since the concrete was poured last July.

- **MOTION** by Lawrence to approve payment to R&D Concrete in the amount of \$37,040 per the engineer's proposal, seconded by Petty, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**
- Member Scott noted that he still believes the engineer should be doing more on this project.

c. Authorize Negotiations with MnDOT for I94 Pedestrian Crossing

- Engineer Kannas explained to the Council that a previous meeting had been held by MnDOT to explain their upcoming bridge project in Clearwater. The city had requested to add a pedestrian bridge crossing as part of the project. MnDOT asked the city to provide additional details about the preferred crossing. We are now asking for authorization to respond to MnDOT with a formal written request to have the pedestrian crossing included in the bridge project. Members would also like clarification on who would maintain the pedestrian crossing after it is built.
- **MOTION** by Petty directing city engineer to send letter to MnDOT requesting inclusion of a pedestrian bridge over I94 as part of their 2025 bridge project, seconded by Scott, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

d. Authorize Desktop Hydrogeologic Study

- *Member Petty recused himself due to a conflict of interest.*
- Engineer Kannas provided background on the city's wellhead protection plan area and how to mitigate drinking water risks in the area. He recommends the city proceed with a desktop study to determine if there are feasible alternate locations for the city's wells.
- Member Kruchten asked if the city's water towers would have to move. Kannas stated probably not.
- Member Kruchten asked how the I94 Water Main Loop project would be impacted. Kannas stated that it was possible that another crossing could be needed in the future as a result of moving wells, however, the study would need to be completed first before exploring that.
- **MOTION** by Kruchten to authorize the expenditure of \$6,500 for the desktop study, seconded by Scott, all voted aye with Member Petty recused. **MOTION CARRIED 3-0.**

e. Discussion - Blaine Brothers Reimbursement Request

- *Member Petty recused himself due to a conflict of interest.*
- Engineer Kannas explained the memo from the prior engineer Joe Pelawa, recommending reimbursement to Blaine Brothers for stormwater improvements completed by them in preparation for the city's potential County Road 75 Stormwater Project. These were additional costs incurred by the contractor for infrastructure that is for the city.
- Mayor Lawrence asked members what direction they would like to go with this item. Overall consensus was that Blaine Brothers should be reimbursed.
- Mayor Lawrence suggested we follow the engineer's suggestion to apply this as a credit towards future special assessments for the County Road 75 Stormwater Project. If the project doesn't proceed, we could revisit within 6 months to determine another course of action.
- **MOTION** by Lawrence to approve a credit in the amount of \$97,240 towards future special assessments, seconded by Kruchten, all voted aye with Petty recused. **MOTION CARRIED 3-0.**

f. Res 2020-02 – Approving Purchase of Fire Engine

- Items 6(f), 6(g), and 6(h) were discussed and considered together.
- Mayor Lawrence reiterated the letter from the townships, opposed to the fire engine purchase.

- Member Kruchten had done some research and located a used vehicle similar to the one proposed for purchase by the Fire Department. Public Works Supervisor Schmidt had looked at the vehicle and brought back photos. Concerns were raised over the condition of the vehicle and the fact that it had been a salvage vehicle that had been partially underwater for an unknown amount of time in Texas. Concerns were raised over additional needed repairs and the accompanying costs. In addition, concerns were raised about the electrical systems and the fact that this vehicle had an outside pump panel rather than inside, which is a problem in cold weather.
- Member Kruchten thought that if we had more time to look, other used options could be found. He also expressed concerns about the cost of a new vehicle and our lack of a fire protection contract with the townships for next year.
- Member Scott thanked Member Kruchten for doing the extra work to locate a used option.
- Member Petty also expressed concern about the lack of fire protection contracts but stated that we need to rely on our staff to know what their needs are, as they are the ones fighting the fires.
- Mayor Lawrence had concerns about the fact that Council has not had much time to consider this. She understands the Fire Department has worked on it for several months but stated that Council needed time to process the request.
- Member Petty is also concerned about future needs.
- Fire Chief Pridgeon agreed that there were other equipment needs coming up. He stated that the department had applied for grants but kept getting turned down.
- Fire Department Member Eldred explained that the Department had put a lot of time and effort into the design of this vehicle. They had understood that this was in the budget and were disappointed to learn that it was not. If the Council wants them to return to the drawing board to try to cut out some items to save money, they would do so. When members questioned what items they could cut, there were no clear answers. Eldred stated they had cut a lot of things out already to get to what they thought was within the budget guidelines that had been given to them.
- Mayor Lawrence asked if there was a motion to approve the purchase of the used vehicle. There were none.
- **MOTION** by Lawrence to approve Resolution 2020-02, Purchase of a new Fire Engine in the amount of \$771,714, seconded by Kruchten. Voting Aye were Lawrence, Kruchten, and Petty. Voting nay was Scott. **MOTION CARRIED 3-1.**
- g. Res 2020-12 – Approving Purchase of Used Fire Engine**
 - Resolution considered but failed for a lack of motion to approve.
- h. Res 2020-13 – Approving Reimbursement Resolution**
 - Resolution pulled as it was no longer needed following approval of item 6(f).
- i. 2019 Contract Payment from Lynden Township**
 - Administrator Smythe explained that the city had been holding on to a check from Lynden Township in payment for the second half Fire Protection fees. The check was for an amount less than billed, so had been held for several months. Smythe is unsure if the dispute over the billed amount was resolved before former Administrator Kress left. However, since the difference in the amount is less than \$300 and attorney’s fees spent on the matter have already exceeded that amount, she recommends we accept it and close the matter.
 - **MOTION** by Scott to accept payment, seconded by Lawrence, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

7. New Business

a. Consider Fire Relief Association Pension Increase

- **MOTION** by Lawrence to approve increase to Fire Relief Association pension amount to \$1,750, seconded by Petty, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**
- b. Discussion of City Facility Needs**
 - Member Kruchten would like the Council to consider the city’s future facility needs. Staff requested that the Council set up a committee to research needs and put together proposals for consideration.
 - Member Kruchten volunteered to serve on a Facility Needs Committee. Additional members will include representatives from Administration, Public Works, and Fire Department staff, along with interested members of the public.
- c. Authorize 2020 Clean-up Day**
 - Members selected April 25, 2020 as City Clean-up Day, and authorized fees based on the schedule sent by the waste contractor.
- d. Complaint – Request for a Stop Sign**
 - Smythe explained that the city had received a complaint about a lack of stop sign at the exit from Blaine Brothers parking lot.
 - **MOTION** by Scott to place a sign, seconded by Kruchten, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

8. Committee Reports

a. Mayor and Council

i. Authorize Member Crandall to attend LMC Program in Baxter, MN

- **MOTION** by Petty to authorize Member Crandall to attend the program, seconded by Lawrence, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

ii. CVBC – Upcoming Events

- Members discussed two upcoming events in town, the American Legion’s Fish Fry and Coborn’s grand re-opening. Members directed staff to post a notice of possible quorum for these events.

b. Boards

- Members Petty and Scott reported on a recent meeting with Lions Club and Food Shelf representatives, where we discussed revisiting their rental agreements. Further discussions will take place this spring. There was also discussion of the city welcome signs, which are moving ahead.
- The Sewer Authority had a special meeting to address a personnel issue. A staff member resigned his position following the meeting.
- Park Commission met and received a report from the local ball team. The ball team is requesting priority scheduling of the ball field. They will provide their schedule to staff as soon as it is available.

c. Staff

- Smythe noted that the city audit was underway. Congratulations were also extended to Public Works staffer Nick Schmidt on the birth of his daughter.

9. Other

a. Next Meeting Date

- Staff requested that Members decline a second meeting for February so that new staff members could get up to speed on several projects.
- Next meeting set for March 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

10. Adjournment

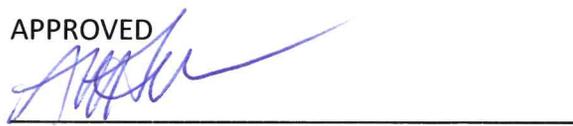
- **MOTION** to adjourn by Kruchten, seconded by Petty, all voted aye.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

ATTEST



Annita M. Smythe, City Administrator

APPROVED



Andrea Lawrence, Mayor