

CLEARWATER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 2024

1. Call to Order: 7:00 p.m. at City Hall

- Mayor Lawrence called the Clearwater City Council to order Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Members present were Mayor Lawrence, Council Members Schwinghammer, Vazquez, and Winkelman. Member Luhmann arrived at 7:08 p.m. Also present was City Administrator Smythe and Fire Chief Keller.

2. Discuss City Council Compensation and Board/Commission Stipends

- Members considered some examples of compensation from other area cities (Monticello, Howard Lake, Maple Lake).
- Members considered whether changes were warranted. Members expressed that overall, Clearwater's compensation seems to be in line with other cities.
- There were suggestions for small increases.

Member Luhmann arrived at 7:08 p.m. and joined the discussion in progress.

- Staff requested that the ordinance language be simplified. Members considered changes.
- After discussion, Members directed staff to draft a revised ordinance for review at the next meeting with the following changes to the existing ordinance:
 - Leave the base salary as-is;
 - Increase the Council Member and Mayor per-meeting rates \$50 each;
 - Eliminate city events from the first chart;
 - Leave cell-phone rate unchanged;
 - Remove chart #2;
 - Remove language after the two charts and replace with clean-up language specifying certain events (City Day at Capitol, Wright County Mayor's Association meetings, Clean-up Day, and City Council Training) as meetings, along with allowing city council to approve additional meetings on a case-by-case basis.

3. Discuss 100 Elm Street Property

- Members discussed plans for the recently acquired property on Elm Street.
- Member Luhmann raised a concern about a sex offender possibly moving to the area. Other Members thought that was more an issue for the sheriff and the offender to address. If the city uses the property as a park, sex offenders will have to comply with laws about proximity.
- Members raised multiple suggestions for use of the property: fishing pier, area for kayaks, canoes, place for people to stop along the river or along the trail/ferry crossing access, municipal brewery or dispensary, amphitheater/music-in-the-park. Smythe suggested a possible 2-story rental facility similar to Annandale, where the river is visible from the upper floor and lower floor accesses a future playground.
- Members considered options to allow immediate use by the public while planning for future additions. After discussion, Members asked staff to pursue the following:
 - Check with DNR about possible uses and ability to have a dock or fishing pier;
 - Add signage in the area to direct people to the property, place information in paper, on website; signage near Elm Street and by river;
 - Check into costs to build a floating dock and/or boardwalk on shore;

- Begin clearing property towards the river for resident use/access;
- Check into trail camera options and costs to add posts/tie-offs for canoes;
- Put together a summary proposal of these items for a future city council meeting.

4. Discuss Huber Ave Land Purchase

- Members considered the benefits of proceeding with the purchase of the Huber Ave property, including having a buffer zone with the cold storage project and the ability to control development.
- Members considered possible uses, including a fire hall, senior center, childcare center, community center.
- Member Vazquez noted that the city of Zimmerman recently built a new fire hall that includes public rental space and suggested this as an option.
- Members suggested using the area closest to the cemetery for a fire hall and placing other future uses further south.

5. Discuss Options for New Fire Hall

- Members discussed the possibility of placing a new fire hall on the property on Huber Ave. There was discussion about control of sirens, etc. There was also a short discussion about other possible city services at this location, such as a library or childcare center. Members expressed support for including a rental facility similar to Zimmerman's in a new fire hall. Further discussion was deferred pending completion of the property purchase.

6. Adjournment

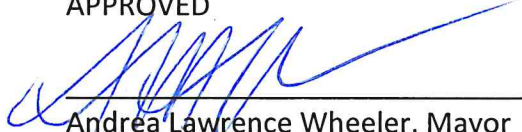
- **MOTION** to adjourn by Member Luhmann, seconded by Schwinghammer, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**
- Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

ATTEST



Annita M. Smythe, City Administrator

APPROVED



Andrea Lawrence Wheeler, Mayor