

**CLEARWATER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 15, 2022**

- 1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: 7:00 p.m. at City Hall**
 - Mayor Lawrence called the Clearwater City Council to order Monday, August 15, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Members present were Mayor Lawrence, Council Members Kruchten, Luhmann, Crandall, and Lenz. Also present were members of the staff.

- 2. Approval of Agenda**
 - **MOTION** by Crandall to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Lenz, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

- 3. Wright County Sheriff's Report**
 - None.

- 4. Public Forum**
 - None.

- 5. Consent Agenda**
 - a. **Claims/Accounts Payable in the Amount of \$ 329,923.57**
 - b. **Approval of Minutes from 07-11-2022 Regular City Council Meeting**
 - c. **Approval of Minutes from 08-01-2022 Special City Council Meeting**
 - d. **Approval of Minutes from 08-01-2022 Special City Council Workshop Meeting**
 - e. **Res 2022-48 – Declining Waiver of Statutory Tort Limits**
 - f. **Res 2022-49 – Accepting Donation for Library**
 - g. **Res 2022-50 – Approving New Hire for Fire Department**
 - h. **Res 2022-51 – Amending 2022 Budget**
 - i. **Res 2022-52 – Approving Step Increase**
 - j. **Confirm Appointment of Mike Lenz to EDA Board Effective 07/11/2022**
 - Administrator Smythe requested the addition of a claim payment to Clarke Mosquito Control for \$8,666.66.
 - Member Luhmann noted that the new hire for the Fire Department is also on the Clear Lake Fire Department and asked if they can be on both. Smythe stated that this member will serve both departments and that it is permitted.
 - **MOTION** by Crandall to approve Consent Agenda with the addition of the claim payment, seconded by Kruchten, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

- 6. Old Business**
 - a. **Reconsider Business Regulations Ordinance**
 - Mayor Lawrence gave an overview of the issues discussed by the EDA in relation to the Business Regulations Ordinance adopted last year. There are state laws that would require the city to obtain additional, private information and provide reports to the state at regular intervals. This is more in depth than the EDA intended as their goal was to simply have a voluntary forum where businesses could register and market their business. The EDA recommends repeal of this ordinance.

- **MOTION** by Crandall to repeal Ordinance 2021-08, seconded by Lenz, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

b. Discuss Proclamation Request

- Member Lenz researched the company requesting the proclamation. He noted that the request to the company had come from a few local residents. The company is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. About 10-12% of their costs go to administration, the rest to programming. They are not affiliated with any abortion pro-choice or pro-life organizations.
- Member Kruchten asked what their purpose is in requesting the proclamation. Lenz believes it is mainly a marketing tool for them.
- Lenz also stated that he does not believe the city needs a policy for proclamations as they can be handled on a case-by-case basis. He recommends adopting the proposed resolution issuing the proclamation for one-year.
- **MOTION** by Luhmann to approve Resolution 2022-45 for one year, seconded by Crandall, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

7. New Business

a. Res 2022-53 – Approving Hire of Administrative Intern

- **MOTION** by Crandall to approve Resolution 2022-53, approving hire of Heidi Eckerman as Administrative Intern, seconded by Luhmann, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

b. Review Preliminary Budget and Levy Proposal

- Smythe gave an overview of the two versions of the proposed budget. One option includes capital funding for future facility improvements while the other removes this funding in favor of issuing bonds to expand city facilities. In addition, one option retains future bond funding for a Community Center where the other option removes this. The proposals also included some estimated bond schedules showing debt service estimates for these proposals. These are the options that came from the workshop discussion.
- Members debated the pros and cons of these and other proposals. Members acknowledged that facility upgrades are needed as all city facilities are short of space. They also discussed the planned community center and the fact that the sales taxes have not generated the amount of revenue needed to build the planned facility. There was also discussion of the staffing and maintenance costs that would be needed if a new facility is built.
- Members agreed that staff should continue to pursue land acquisition, as this will be needed no matter which direction the city goes.
- Members directed staff to put together a blended budget plan that includes both the bonds for city facilities and a scaled-back version of the Community Center. Park Commission will be discussing the Community Center at their next meeting and can suggest how to scale back the existing concept plan to fit the budget. Members would like to see a levy that is within the range of the 8% proposal, as this leaves the Council with more options before they have to adopt a final levy in December.

8. Committee Reports

a. Mayor and Council

- Member Luhmann asked about plans for the plantings down the center of Kelsey. Staff had weeded them earlier this summer, but they look bad again. Smythe responded that the drought conditions have not helped with weed control or the plants. Staff are recommending that, due to

the age of these plants and the level of weeds that the area be restored with a new form of ground cover that is more weed-resistant. Staff are looking at options and will bring back a proposal.

- Member Kruchten had further questions about ADA accessibility at City Hall. Mayor Lawrence explained that because City Hall is a public facility it has to comply with ADA requirements.
- Member Kruchten stated he will not be able to attend the September 12 Council Meeting.

b. Boards

- EDA – EDA meets August 16, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.
- Sewer Authority – Sewer Authority meets August 18, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. at Clearwater City Hall.
- Park Commission – Park Commission has been rescheduled to August 24, 2022. Smythe noted that she will not be able to attend but will try to send another staff member to take minutes.

c. Staff

- Smythe explained the EDA request to add signage making the city's access points to T.H. 24 right-turn only. Members discussed the request. Members were not interested in adopting an ordinance or pushing enforcement, but thought signage was a good idea to try to improve safety. Members directed staff to place signage at Smith Street, Pine Street, Ash Street, and the entrance point to the Travel Plaza stating these are right-turn only, along with adding signage directing motorists to use frontage roads to the controlled access point at County Road 75.
- Smythe explained the citizen request for the city to sweep the trail across and on the other side of the Mississippi River bridge. Members agreed that the city should clear it for safety reasons, as there isn't another jurisdiction nearby that is likely to clean it.
- Smythe noted that she had a request from a resident to make donations to the now-defunct local historical society. Members suggested reaching out to Elaine Paumen or Tom Plaggerman. If there isn't anyone else that wants the donations, the donor could come to a future Council meeting to describe the items proposed to be donated. Members also noted the city's lack of any available space to store historical items.
- Smythe reported that she had presented a city update to the Wright County EDA Board. County Commissioner Vetsch is willing to attend a future City Council meeting to provide a county update if the Council so chooses. Members would like to hear from Commissioner Vetsch.

9. Other Business

- a. Next Regular Meeting – September 12, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.**

10. Adjournment

- **MOTION** to adjourn by Kruchten, seconded by Lenz, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**
- Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

ATTEST



Annita M. Smythe, City Administrator

APPROVED



Andrea Lawrence Wheeler, Mayor

