

City of Preston  
Regular City Council Meeting  
June 22, 2020

Mayor Pro-Tem called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

ROLL CALL Present: Patti Hoffman, Tyler Sieverding, Richard Petersen, Adam Reuter, Matt Petersen  
Guests: None. Due to public distancing and the Covid-19 virus. ZOOM was the call-in software utilized for the call in.

ZOOM CALL IN FOR MEETINGS: Mayor Pro-Tem Sieverding announced that this will be the last ZOOM meeting. The Public is welcome to attend the meetings at City Hall.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented with the removal of Item #9, Committee Assignments. Motion made by P. Hoffman, seconded by M. Petersen. Ayes: TS, PH, AR, RP, MP. Nays 0. Motion carried.

CITIZEN/PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

CONSENT AGENDA: P. Hoffman made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by M. Petersen. Ayes: MP, AR, PH, RP, TS. Nays 0. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2020-29: T. Weinschenk explained that Eric Tietjens was employed at \$16.00 an hour. He received a Performance Increase in January, 2020. Council agreed to increase Eric's pay by \$1.00 an hour with the successful completion of Gas Boot Camp. Council congratulated Eric. P. Hoffman congratulated Eric on the completion of Gas Boot Camp and made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-29 as presented. Seconded by M. Petersen. Ayes: TS, RP, PH, AR, MP. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2020-30: T. Weinschenk explained to Council that the reason that she is recommending a 5% increase for Chief Heiar is to get him in the \$50,000.00 range. S. Heiar is doing an excellent job with the administrative duties with budget and was proactively preparing for the COVID-19 and the potential protestors. T. Weinschenk stated it is difficult to keep Police. M. Petersen stated that T. Weinschenk had reached out since he is a member of the Police/Public Safety Committee and he had a bunch of questions and T. Weinschenk answered them. After a discussion with T. Weinschenk and acknowledging that S. Heiar has done well during these trying times it is difficult being an officer, especially in 2020. M. Petersen thanked Officer Thayer for the job that he does. S. Heiar has stepped up to the plate and the department does a stellar job. Goals and expectations will be defined. M. Petersen went on to state that he supports the 5% increase. T. Sieverding stated that Preston is in a cycle of replacing Police Officers. Maybe we need to point the finger back on ourselves and come up to par with compensation like other cities as far as compensation. It is not that he is at the bottom but he isn't at the top of the echelon. T. Sieverding's thoughts that we should give the 5% increase to get S. Heiar up a little where it should be. P. Hoffman at first was not for it, but after hearing everyone talk and being a person that needs to process, we are asking more of the Police with the walking path, the housing addition and P. Hoffman thinks that the department has stepped up and with school issues. P. Hoffman supports the 5% increase. M. Petersen stated that as a Council they have higher expectations and the Council feels fortunate that not only with Scott, but with all the employees they step up to the plate. R. Petersen questioned if the City has ever considered a contract since Preston has been a stepping stone for quite a while. T. Weinschenk stated that a contract is no guarantee; you cannot hold someone hostage with a

contract. If an employee is moving on to better themselves you can't hold them back. Officer Thayer is under a four (4) year contract for total cost of the academy. If he would leave before his contract is fulfilled, he would need to pay the City back what remains. P. Hoffman stated that a contract is good for setting up expectations, but she doesn't know if she would want a Police Officer serving her community that doesn't want to be there. P. Hoffman went onto say it is the Council's responsibility to have employees want to be here. M. Petersen asked Officer Thayer (for his opinion) why a town of our size has problems and why are we a stepping stone. Officer Thayer responded that the biggest problem is pay. Fulton just put out for a Police Officer and starting pay is \$52,000 plus overtime. Officer Thayer stated that once an officer is certified he can go anywhere in the country. Pay is the big thing. Officer Thayer said that Council gives the PD everything they need; Preston is an awesome community. Best equipped in Jackson County. P. Hoffman made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-30. Seconded by A. Reuter. Ayes: RP, PH, AR, MP, TS. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2020-31: T. Sieverding being Mayor Pro-Tem, it fell on him to complete T. Weinschenk's evaluation. T. Sieverding stated that T. Weinschenk has been everything and more than what we wanted. She represents the community well and is a great leader. T. Sieverding recommends the 3.5% and honestly, she deserves more, a lot more. Going where we're going and where we have been, I thought it was fair for this year. P. Hoffman stated that T. Weinschenk has done an excellent job in her position and has placed Council on a whole new ball field. It is nice to have a member of our team in the office. P. Hoffman would like to give everybody a 5% raise, but hopes that the community, quality of life brings value. We have a lot going on right now that Council is looking at with the housing addition, filling some deficiencies from before. I think this is fine for this year, but I think next year we need to do better. M. Petersen added that the committees had to step up so hard and were overwhelmed. Sometimes I feel bad that I am not as involved as before, but there is a reason for that since we have T. Weinschenk. Thank you for doing your job and doing it well. Giving us the confidence that you do the job. You don't get offended when you are asked questions and almost view it as a challenge. You always come back with the answers. You also speak your opinion which is great. A. Reuter said that the short time he has been on the Council he is impressed with the information T. Weinschenk gives and like M. Petersen stated if there is a question T. Weinschenk is prompt with an answer. Not much to compare it to, but impressed so far. Officer Thayer wanted to throw in as an employee that T. Weinschenk is easy to work with and if you ask a question if she doesn't have the answer, she will get one. M. Petersen made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-31. T. Sieverding seconded. Ayes: PH, AR, MP, TS, RP. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

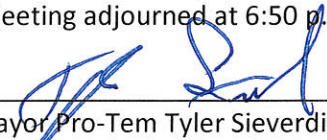
SANITATION INCREASES FOR CODIFICATION: T. Weinschenk presented Council in their packets proposed increases for Residential and Commercial Sanitation. The increase would be an extra \$2 for Residential and \$5 for Commercial. What we are hoping to do is do an increase that would build Capital and have the ability to buy dumpsters and garbage cans. So, any excess revenue stays with the Sanitation fund. T. Sieverding stated that maybe someday maybe we would want to buy recycling containers. Also, does the garbage truck come out of the sanitation budget. T. Weinschenk stated yes. M. Petersen stated that he hates raising costs but it is still less than contracting out. T. Weinschenk stated that the increase would not take place until codification is completed. M. Petersen wondered if action is needed. T. Weinschenk stated yes so it can be included in the codification. T. Weinschenk reviewed how the process will proceed with codification. M. Petersen wondered if all the changes will be in red. T. Weinschenk stated yes. P. Hoffman made a motion to accept the rates as proposed in the packet. Seconded by M. Petersen. Ayes: AR, MP, TS, RP, PH. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

PEPPERMINT PARK DONATION: WPPI is Preston's Electricity Supplier and they have a donation program. It is being recommended to donate \$1,000 to Peppermint Park. M. Petersen stated that this is the hot spot as far as a project in our community. Yes, it is. T. Sieverding stated that the fundraising has been difficult because of everything going on. Most of the fundraising has been canceled and this will probably go through most of the summer. M. Petersen noted that a few people are still hesitant. T. Sieverding stated that times are tougher and people don't have the money to donate. Appreciate the contribution. P. Hoffman would like to get a picture of Tom Westhoff at Peppermint Park. P. Hoffman likes to see the money from WPPI stay in Preston. T. Sieverding stated that a thermometer has been placed at Peppermint Park. P. Hoffman suggested putting another one at the Maquoketa State Bank. There are donation cans for Peppermint Park at the businesses. T. Weinschenk stated we should have one at City Hall. M. Petersen made a motion to approve donating \$1,000 from WPPI funds to the contribution to Peppermint Park. Seconded by P. Hoffman. Ayes: MP, TS, RP, PH, AR. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

HEALTHY HOMETOWN: P. Hoffman stated that she has sent out an email to some community members in regards to a visioning group for the Healthy Hometown which is a part of Hometown Pride. Dave Heiar is excited about the initiative. If anybody has names get them to T. Weinschenk or P. Hoffman. This group is the visioning group they can be as involved or not as they would like and take a backseat to the implementation. It is a healthy activity and it would be nice to have a Police Officer as part of the team. It will be an open-door meeting that will take place in about 3 weeks. T. Sieverding wondered where Preston's Hometown Pride signs are at. Maquoketa has signs up. T. Weinschenk stated they are posted where the DARE signs were posted as you drive into Preston on highway 64. P. Hoffman reminded Council if they have names to get them to her.

SIDEWALKS: T. Sieverding stated that the Healthy Hometown is awesome, but is probably a year out. Should we be doing something on our own in the meantime? It might be a good resume builder for grants. P. Hoffman stated that she has been hesitant until we got something going, but maybe we do a big push, since sidewalks come out streets set the amount and it is first come first serve. T. Weinschenk said the money can come out road use or local option sales tax. T. Sieverding stated that we should have a set amount. R. Petersen stated that we should be taking a look at the Marvin subdivision and sidewalks. T. Sieverding stated that yes, we need to look at new sidewalks, but also our existing sidewalks. A. Reuter stated he likes the idea of dividing the town so areas get completed at the same time. R. Petersen stated to have continuity. T. Sieverding mentioned going back to how P. Hoffman had originally mentioned to divide the town into quadrants. T. Weinschenk stated that the Electric Plant has the town broke into 5 zones (quadrants). Council decided to discuss this again at the next meeting. T. Weinschenk needs to provide the current ordinance for sidewalks, and go through the sidewalk proposal and make a recommendation on the dollar amount and what fund it will come out of. Also, T. Weinschenk needs to review the funds and see how much is available for the Marvin subdivision.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sieverding requested a motion to adjourn. Motion made by P. Hoffman, seconded by R. Petersen. Ayes: AR, TS, RP, PH. Nays 0. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

  
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Mayor Pro-Tem Tyler Sieverding

ATTEST:  
  
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Teresa Weinschenk, City Clerk/Administrator