

City of Preston  
Regular City Council Meeting  
March 23, 2020

Mayor Pro-Tem Tyler Sieverding called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.  
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.  
ROLL CALL Present: R. Peterson, M. Petersen, T. Sieverding, P. Hoffman  
GUESTS: Donna Simmons via dial in  
VISTORS WITH BUSINESS TO PRESENT TO COUNCIL: None.

P. Hoffman and D. Simmons were present via conference call. This is due to public distancing and the Covid-19 virus. FreeConferenceCall was the call-in software utilized for call in.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented. Motion made by M. Petersen, seconded by P. Hoffman. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

CITIZEN /PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

CONSENT AGENDA: M. Petersen had a question of where Ryan Sparlin lives. P. Hoffman answered the question along with T. Sieverding. M. Petersen made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by R. Petersen. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: T. Sieverding made a motion to Open the Public Hearing for Approval of the Annual Budget. M. Petersen seconded. Aye 4, Nay 0. Motion Carried. R. Petersen asked D. Simmons and S. Simmons if they had any questions or if she had something to say. D. Simmons stated no she was only listening. With no more discussion a second was made by M. Petersen.

CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING: P. Hoffman made a motion to close the Public Hearing. R. Petersen wanted to be sure that D. Simmons was listening and didn't have any questions. D. Simmons stated only listening. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION 2020-25: M. Petersen asked P. Hoffman if she had any questions regarding the Budget. P. Hoffman stated that no it looks good. T. Sieverding asked if we are good with our max levy. T. Weinschenk stated yes. No more discussion. A motion was made by P. Hoffman to approve Resolution 2020-25 (as presented) approving the FY21 Budget and Certification of Taxes. Seconded by M. Petersen. Ayes: MP, PH, RP, T S. Nays 0. Motion Carried.

CITY SHED: T. Sieverding stated that T. Weinschenk received a call from Dale Junk that Wicks is going to increase their price. T. Sieverding wondered when Wick's needs to know that Preston is approving the quote. T. Weinschenk stated that Junk needs to know by 3/24/20 to lock in the price. R. Petersen stated things go up when there is a disaster. T. Sieverding stated if we can lock in on this price if we are serious about this and move forward. M. Petersen went through the quote and numbers. There is \$20,000 for concrete, approximately \$7,000 for doors and the building is \$43,313. T. Weinschenk stated that everyone (the contractors) understand that the money is not available until July 1<sup>st</sup> when the new fiscal year begins. M. Petersen reviewed the drawing of the building. P. Hoffman asked T. Weinschenk if it can be approved and then we can decide later (May) how the payment is going to be divided up between the departments. T. Weinschenk stated yes, we can decide payment later. If we don't move forward with this it will be an 8% increase. P. Hoffman stated we will save enough in heating cost to potentially pay for the building. M. Petersen agrees with P. Hoffman and that we had a mild winter this

year and if we have a bad winter like last year it is important to have a place to store equipment and thaw equipment out to keep it running. M. Petersen asked T. Weinschenk if this is the way that Jack and her think it should go. T. Weinschenk stated that D. Michel (Jack) sat down with Dale Junk, Wick Buildings, and went through the quote again. Yes, this is the way we think we should go. M. Petersen wondered when the building would start. T. Weinschenk stated that once we are locked in the building needs to be cleaned out and we could get on the schedule. P. Hoffman stated that the guys have needed this for several years. M. Petersen and T. Sieverding agreed. P. Hoffman wondered about the heat. T. Weinschenk stated it is not included in the quote. It has been quoted at approximately \$15,000. This would be infrared (radiant) heat. Council agrees that the new shed is needed. Approximately \$7000 to tear it down and haul it away. The total cost is approximately \$100,000. P. Hoffman made a motion to accept the proposal in the packet noting that we do have additional costs that are not on the quote. R. Petersen seconded. Ayes PH, RP, MP, TS. Nays 0. Motion Carried.

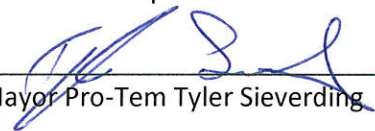
COVID-19 AND UTILITY SHUT OFFS: T. Weinschenk explained that in the Council Packet was an example of what another City is using for a shut off notice for water. However, it states in the notice that the City is not going to shut off the water off at this time. T. Weinschenk explained that the State has extended the moratorium for shutting off gas and electricity for non-payment until May 1<sup>st</sup>. We have been monitoring what other cities are doing and it is being suggested that we do not shut off utilities at this time for non-payment. T. Weinschenk stated that citizens need to be calling if they are unable to pay their bill so City Hall knows what is going on. Sheryl knows a lot of the citizens in time and how they pay. M. Petersen stated that he feels at a time like this want to be able to work with people. That is the kind of community we want to be. T. Sieverding agreed that at a time like this we need some leniency. T. Weinschenk stated that it is best if people can keep up and pay since it is difficult to get caught back up on your bill once you are behind. Council agreed. T. Weinschenk then asked Council if they were in agreement with not shutting people off at this time. M. Petersen stated that yes, he is in agreement, T. Sieverding wondered if it should be on a month-by-month basis. M. Petersen agreed it should be reviewed on a monthly basis. T. Weinschenk said yes, Council will be updated on a monthly basis. M. Petersen wondered if Council could receive a list of outstanding accounts on a monthly basis. T. Weinschenk stated that yes, a list will be provided without names. T. Weinschenk stated that the City was looking at a parks and downtown clean-up in May. Keep Iowa Beautiful, sent out a notice that the state-wide Iowa Pick-up project is postponed. P. Hoffman stated that yes we should postpone this and that the ribbon cutting that was slated for April 22<sup>nd</sup> is being postponed until maybe Preston Days. In regards to Council Meetings, T. Sieverding wondered if we should cut back to one meeting a month. M. Petersen stated he would rather have two shorter meetings. T. Weinschenk stated that cities are keeping the meetings to essential business. R. Petersen agreed that he would rather have two shorter meetings per month. Motion was made by M. Petersen that at this time Preston will evaluate utility bills and shut offs on a monthly basis and send out notice, but not shut off utilities while the virus affects our community and nation. The late fee will still be applied. P. Hoffman seconded the motion. Ayes P H, RP, MP, TS. Nays 0. Motion Carried.

REQUEST FROM MATHY'S: T. Weinschenk stated that Mathy's will be transporting blacktop from the Preston Redi-Mix plant and is requesting to drive empty on North Main (Z34). M. Petersen thought it was fine that they drive back on it empty. R. Petersen said if it is a gentleman's agreement it is fine. M. Petersen thought it was great that they are being proactive, but is there really anything we can do? Let's have Jack talk with them and take pictures and if there becomes a problem lets talk about it. M.


Petersen stated we knew this was a patch. T. Sieverding thought it was nice that they reached out even though they did not need our approval, I agree with M. Petersen and having some pictures. Council wants Jack to reach out to Mathy's. P. Hoffman agrees with this. T. Weinschenk will have Jack reach out to Mathy's and let them know they can drive empty (not loaded) on N. Main St. and look at the condition of the road now before Mathy's starts traveling on it.

REPLACEMENT OF MAYOR & COUNCIL: T. Weinschenk stated that she had reached out to the League of Cities and there is 60 days to replace an open seat, however the Governor has extended the time. T. Weinschenk can't recall how long the extension is, but will get back to Council with the number. The County Auditor has highly recommended appointing if we can. Due to the Covid-19 a special election may not be able to happen. P. Hoffman stated that the Council can appoint, but the community can call for a special election. T. Weinschenk concurred with P. Hoffman. T. Weinschenk also informed Council that Amanda Sullivan, Council Member, presented her resignation effective immediately. T. Weinschenk stated that Council should reach out to community members to see if there is interest in either the vacant Mayor or Council seat. T. Sieverding said to reach out to people and see if they would be interested. M. Petersen if someone is interested have them call T. Weinschenk. Appointment would save Preston dollars.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sieverding requested a motion to adjourn. Motion made by M. Petersen, seconded by R. Petersen. Ayes TS, PH, RP, MP., Nays 0. Meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

  
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Mayor Pro-Tem Tyler Sieverding

ATTEST:

  
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Teresa Weinschenk, City Clerk/Administrator