

City of Preston

Regular City Council Meeting

November 22, 2021

Mayor Tyler Sieverding called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

ROLL CALL Present: Richard Petersen, Adam Reuter, Matt Gerardy, JT Thomson, Matt Petersen.

OTHERS PRESENT: Amanda Sullivan, Bill Miller, Deputy Melissa Schmidt, City Administrator Teresa Weinschenk.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented by M. Gerardy. Seconded by R. Petersen. Motion carried unanimously.

CITIZEN/PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

CONSENT AGENDA: Motion was made by A. Reuter to approve the consent agenda as presented. R. Petersen seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Approval of 11/8/21 City Council Meeting Minutes, approval of rebates for Bruce Clifton, \$50; Mike Zeimet, \$300; Matt Petersen, \$35.

RAISE THE FLAG PROGRAM: Amanda Sullivan, on behalf of the Women's Fire Auxiliary, presented the Raise the Flag Program to the Mayor and City Council. This will be a fundraiser activity for the auxiliary. The program would be modeled after Bellevue's. Bellevue is helping the auxiliary with the logistics. There will be an application form that will need to be filled out. The cost is \$40 dollars per year and the flags will be put out for five (5) holidays. People that do not live in Preston, but would still like to have a flag put out in honor of someone can also do this. Amanda went on to ask approval from Council to place these flags in either TwoGood or Westside Parks. JT Thomson stated that this is done in Maquoketa. JT is all for it. M. Petersen also stated that this is a great fundraising opportunity and it also is great for Preston. Mayor and Council agree that this is good for the town. Amanda stated that the money earned will go towards drinks and food for the firefighters, equipment and possibly helping other groups. A motion was made by JT Thomson to approve the "Raise the Flag Program" that the Women's Auxiliary is sponsoring and also allowing flags to be placed in both Westside and TwoGood Parks. Seconded by M. Petersen. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2022-16, APPROVAL OF POLICE CHIEF CHARLES "BILL" MILLER: Deputy Melissa Schmidt thanked Mayor and Council for the donation to the Jackson County K9. Deputy Schmidt went on to say how well the K9 is doing and that they have been deployed approximately 11 times. Deputy Schmidt stated that she was in attendance to support Bill. Mayor Sieverding introduced Miller and stated that there would be a 6-month probationary period and once that is completed that Miller would get an increase in pay. Miller starting December 6, 2021 at a pay of \$54,000 and one week of vacation. After a successful 6-month probationary period increase in salary to \$57,000. M. Petersen stated that there will be written expectations. Miller stated that Weinschenk has went through them with him and there isn't anything that is concerning. M. Petersen stated that he would like to see a discussion about uniforms and the PD offices getting organized. Petersen went on to say that we hold a high standard for Preston and our citizens. JT Thomson made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-16 approving the hiring of Charles "Bill" Miller for \$54,000 with a 6-month probation, and a weeks' vacation. M. Gerardy seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2022-13 ADOPT AND APPROVE A DEPOSITORY STATEMENT: T. Weinschenk stated to Mayor and Council that this was a recommendation of the auditor. M. Petersen made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-13. A. Reuter seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF ANNUAL URBAN RENEWAL REPORT: A motion was made by R. Petersen and seconded by M. Gerardy to approve the Annual Urban Renewal Report. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2022-14 AUTHORIZING INTERNAL ADVANCE OF FUNDS FOR PAYMENT OF URBAN RENEWAL PROJECTS: T. Weinschenk explained to Mayor and Council that there is a surplus in the TIF fund. Weinschenk had a call with Dorsey & Whitney, our bond attorney and with the auditor's office. All agree that if there is debt to use the funds against and not ask for TIF tax withholding for this. A motion was made by JT Thomson to approve Resolution 2022-14. Seconded by M. Petersen. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT: A motion was made by A. Reuter to approve the Annual Financial Report. Seconded by M. Gerardy. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2022-15 APPROVING A \$1.00 PER HOUR PAY INCREASE FOR ERIC TIETJENS: Mayor Sieverding stated that this has been discussed before and is coming to the table. M. Petersen stated that the retention of good employees is important. JT Thomson stated that he has not heard anything negative about Tietjens. T. Weinschenk stated that Tietjens takes initiative. When he sees something that needs to be done, he does it without being asked. M. Gerardy made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-15 approving a \$1.00 increase for Eric Tietjens. A. Reuter seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE QUOTE FOR LIFTSTATION ALARM DIALER: The quote is from Insight and is for an alarm for the southwest lift station by Steve and Angie Feller. Steve and Angie approached the Mayor and Council earlier this year wondering if some type of alert system could be installed, stating concerns with bringing on the new subdivision. Council stated that yes it would be looked into. Weinschenk stated that the delay was due to finding the right system and getting a return phone call. Insight is what is installed at the lagoon. Weinschenk stated that the dialer list is easily maintained in the office. M. Petersen made a motion to approve the quote and installation of the alarm dialer from Insight at the southwest lift station. M. Gerardy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

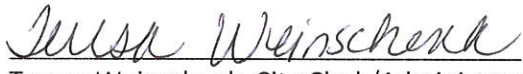
APPROVAL OF WELLMARK BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD PLAN RENEWAL: T. Weinschenk stated to Mayor and Council that the increase for our renewal is 36%. This is the first time we have had an increase since changing over to this new plan. There have been several claims this year and some of us have also changed an age bracket which goes in five-year increments. Our benefits coordinator stated that out of 40 cities only one (1) had a decrease this year. Most cities are in the same position Preston is with healthcare. Weinschenk is recommending the city absorb the increase since we did not pass the decrease in premium onto the employees. Also, see where we are next year and if there is another increase, we will need to look at what the best option would be for the city at that time. M. Petersen didn't disagree, but stated that the plan the city is on is a very good plan, better than most people have. JT Thomson stated that the plan Maquoketa has a very good plan. A motion was made by M. Gerardy to approve the Wellmark Blue Cross & Blue Shield renewal plan. JT Thomson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS: Mayor and Council agreed to have one meeting of City Council on December 13, 2021. There will be temporary street lighting installed at the Harvest Heights Subdivision due to the costs of getting new lights. The supplier is going to do one order in the Spring in order to save shipping costs. M. Gerardy shared the name of a local supplier that may be able to help us out. Weinschenk will get the information to R. Ernst (Electric). Also, we have Duane and Sally Marvin's approval of the new name of the subdivision. The street name will continue to be Marvin Lane as per the purchase agreement. The ribbon cutting is continuing to be planned. It will be on December 4<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. Invites will be going out and flyers distributed.

Mayor Sieverding requested a motion to adjourn. Motion made by M. Gerardy. Seconded by JT Thomson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm.

  
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Mayor Tyler Sieverding

ATTEST:

  
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Teresa Weinschenk, City Clerk/Administrator