

City of Preston
Regular City Council Meeting
November 27, 2023

Mayor Pro-Tem, Adam Reuter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: City Administrator Sheryl Ganzer, Deputy Clerk Tracey Lee, Kelley Brown, JCEA, Travis Kieffer, Jaide Petersen, Bobby Jo Cox, Landon Ruchotzke.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A motion to approve the agenda was made by JT Thomson, seconded by M. Gerardy. Motion carried.

CITIZEN/PUBLIC COMMENTS: Jaide Petersen asked council to consider approval of consent agenda item – Building permit for Home Grown. An enclosed structure was built for the purpose of having a drive thru window at the rear of her business. A building permit had not been received prior to the start of the project, and she is asking council to consider allowing it. Discussion was made regarding City Property lines, pulling up facing against traffic, setting precedence for other business owners and liability issues. Council asked for more time to look into an alternate solution before making a final decision.

CONSENT AGENDA: A motion to approve the consent agenda except for Item C – Building permit for Home Grown, and including Gas furnace rebate - \$100- Pam Brondyke, minutes of the last meeting, Sidewalk replacement payment-Linda Budde - \$773.44, Sidewalk replacement payment -- Rick Sieverding - \$1160.16 and Refrigerator rebate - \$50 – Matt Gerardy was made by JT Thomson, Seconded by R. Petersen. Motion carried.

DOWNTOWN INCENTIVE APPLICATION: Travis Kieffer submitted application for the Preston Upper Story Renovation Project. Kelley Brown with JCEA was also present to explain the Catalyst Grant application process that they are also applying for. The Downtown Incentive award was for a total of \$20,000 for renovating 2 upper story apartments. Kieffer explained that if it was awarded, it would take them to the next level to be able to apply for the Catalyst Grant. The Downtown Incentive committee approved and made recommendation to Council for the \$20,000. The overall cost of the project is estimated to be \$389,700. Kieffer added that the \$20,000 from the City would only be issued if they were also awarded the Catalyst Grant of \$100,000. If that funding is not secured, he would not be pursuing the project at this time. Motion to approve the Downtown Incentive grant to Travis Kieffer for \$20,000 was made by J Thomson, seconded by M. Gerardy. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2023-15 – TIF CERTIFICATION. Resolution Authorizing the Internal Advance of Funds for Payment of Urban Renewal Projects. Kelley Brown assisted in informing council that this is to certify to the county auditor the amount of any “loans, advances, indebtedness or bonds” that qualify for payment from TIF revenue from a TIF district. A motion to approve Resolution 2023-15 was made by J. Thomson, seconded by M. Gerardy. Motion carried.

ANNUAL URBAN RENEWAL REPORT: Kelley Brown completed the report on the City’s behalf and explained that this comprehensive report is submitted to the State which shows the status on how TIF is being used. A motion to approve the 2022-23 Annual Renewal report was made by J. Thomson, seconded by R. Petersen. Motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Fire Chief Landon Ruchotzke joined by Corey Driscoll is asking for council’s consideration for help in funding for the annual celebration due to the increase in cost to continue having a carnival. This year’s cost is \$6,000. It was noted that the carnival is an asset to the event which in turn benefits the whole town. Ganzer commented that it would be ok to make a contribution out of each or part of the utility funds for this year and

discuss for future years during the budget process. J. Thomson made a motion to approve contribution to the Preston Fire Department up to \$3000 for the Carnival. Motion seconded by R. Petersen. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2023-12: Appointment and Setting Salary for Lead Operator. The resolution presented at the last meeting was amended to include and hourly increase of \$1.00 instead of \$2.00, appointing the position of lead operator to Eric Tietjens. Motion to approve was made by J. Thomson, seconded by M. Gerardy. Motion carried.

GATOR GRAPHICS REVIEW: The Downtown Incentive Award was re-visited due to the change in overall cost of the project with the elimination of a section of concrete being replaced. Ganzer re-estimated what the original quote would have been with the reduced square footage and determined it would still fall w/in the one-to-one match guidelines of the project. It was agreed to keep the award as originally approved.

ELECTION UPDATE: Ganzer told Council the Oath of office for newly elected officials will be done at the next meeting. If any candidate declines the position, that would determine a vacancy. It would need to be decided by council to decide to either fill the vacancy by appointment or election. If we decide to appoint, we will give adequate time to allow any interested party to submit name for consideration. The vacancy would be to fill a two-year term until the next election.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Lagoon Access to public. Ganzer reported to council concerns from Police Chief Gruver that there was damage at the shooting range, someone shot up the target stands, plus city staff reported there continues to be illegal dumping of junk. It was discussed to close the lagoon to the public except during working hours. Following discussion, council would like to try placing some signs and look into seeing if cameras could be used first before going back to having it locked.

Town Hall Rental was discussed. It was determined that a rental agreement needs to be implemented and a review of the rates to include cleaning. The bringing in of alcohol has been an issue and guidelines need to be specified.

Fitcore Events – There is a committee that wish to hold a “Westside Warrior Competition” 2 times a year at the Fitcore Course. They are asking for council’s blessing to allow before making final plans. Council was in agreement.

Main Street Square – Ganzer was asked to let everyone know that a Thrivent card in the amount of \$250, was generously donated by Delores Franzen. The funds will be used to purchase decorations and other items for the area.

ADJOURNMENT: With no other business to be brought to Council, Reuter asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn was made by J. Thomson, seconded by R. Petersen. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.



Adam Reuter, Mayor Pro-tem

ATTEST:



Sheryl Ganzer, City Administrator/Clerk