

City of Preston
Regular City Council Meeting
February 26, 2024

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: City Administrator Sheryl Ganzer, Deputy Clerk Tracey Lee, Police Chief, Chad Gruver, Lead Operator, Eric Tietjens, Origin Design Engineer, Marc Rudin, Carol Atkinson, Linda Skoff, Andrew Conroy, Rhonda Eickert

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

CONSENT AGENDA: A motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, including the minutes from the previous meeting, Clothes Washer Rebate - \$35 – Mike Yaddof, Gas Furnace Rebate - \$100 – Adam Riepe, Building Permit – Tad Billmeyer, Building Permit – Ashley Jess. Motion by JT Thomson, seconded by A. Reuter. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING on the plans, specifications, form of contract and estimated cost for the City of Preston, Iowa Amos Street Reconstruction 2024 project: Motion to open the Public Hearing was made by A. Reuter, Seconded by M. Petersen. Motion carried.

Comments from Public: Andrew Conroy questioned the payment options for the Curb and Gutter assessment if unable to pay with options provided in the letter and commented that curb and gutter was of no benefit to him as property owner. He was advised to contact the office to discuss other payment arrangements. Marc Rudin and Council explained that the curb and gutter is a very small portion of the project and has historically been assessed to other property owners for other street projects. It was also explained that the curb and gutter will benefit water runoff and addresses safety concerns. Carol Atkinson was not in agreement with adding the sidewalk on her property. Council explained that during goal setting, sidewalks were a top concern and the goal being to continue placement and improvements through-out the city. Rhonda Eickert asked about the city having a plan that allows property owners to budget for cost to property owners and how the projects were funded. Council explained that historically, projects are funded after enough funds are received from Road Use Tax and the City prioritizes what projects will be done based on what are the highest cost to maintain those areas. Council thanked those in attendance. With no other comments, Sieverding asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing. Motion to close was made by M. Petersen, Seconded by JT Thomson. Motion carried.

Discussion on Bids received for Amos Street project was presented by Marc Rudin, Origin Design. Bids were opened and read at 2:00 p.m. on February 20, 2024. Low bids were announced from the nine bids received for the various options of: Option 1-Amos Street Reconstruction \$357,343.00 – Offset Construction, LLC, 13.9% below engineer's estimate. Option 1 + 2-Amos Street Reconstruction and Resurfacing \$402,503.50 – Offset Construction, LLC, 14.5% below the engineer's estimate. Option 1 + 3 Amos Street Reconstruction and Farley Street Reconstruction \$484,252.85-Eastern Iowa Excavation & Concrete, LLC. 14.4% below the engineer's estimate. Option 1 + 2 + 3 Amos Street Reconstruction and Resurfacing and Farley Steet Reconstruction \$484,252.85-Eastern Iowa Excavation and Concrete, LLC. 13.4% below the engineer's estimate. Rudin researched the companies and has confidence that they can complete the work. Ganzer discussed funding of the project would be secure through unspent Road Use funds for current budget year and estimated revenues yet to be received for current year and projected funds received for FY24/25. Council was all in agreement that since the bids came in lower than estimated and funding is secure, it would be beneficial and less expensive over-all to do all 3 Options at the same time. M. Petersen made a motion to approve the award for Options 1, 2 & 3 to Easter Iowa Concrete and Excavating LLC in the amount of \$484,252.85. Motion seconded by JT Thomson. Motion carried.

SELLING OF VACANT LOT: Rhonda Eickert expressed interest in purchasing the City's vacant lot, previously known as the Edwards Property on Farley Street. Her intentions are to construct a residential home with garage. Petersen noted that there had been interest in the lot in the past and the goal was not to sell it as green space but to utilize the space by having something built on it which would benefit the city from property taxes, and utilities and show growth in the community. Eickert said her timeframe to build would be this year. Item tabled until next meeting to discuss and present cost and possible offer to sell.

PROPOSED TAX RATE LEVY-SET PUBLIC HEARING: Ganzer presented a proposed tax levy for consideration. Levies include the General Fund Levy, Support of Local Emergency Mgmt., General fund costs for Liability/Property Insurance, General fund costs for FICA & IPERS, General fund costs for Other Employee Benefits and Debt Service Levy for portion of outstanding GO Debt. Total tax rate proposed is at 12.22%. Ganzer explained in comparison with current year levy of 10.99%, the percentage is greater, but the homeowner would pay less because of the 8% decrease in the Roll Back from 54.13% to 46.34% of assessed property valuation that the tax is applied on. Ganzer also explained the timeline with the new mailing requirements. The earliest we can set the date for the Public Hearing would be March 25th. A motion to set the public hearing date of March 25th for the proposed tax levy was made by A. Reuter, seconded by JT Thomson. Motion carried.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN: An update for obligating the remainder of the ARP funds (\$47,777.52) was presented after taking into consideration the list presented by the Fire Department. The reporting portal opens in April. A resolution will be presented at a March meeting for final decision.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Boom Truck- Ray Ernst discovered that a city was selling their Boom Truck for \$50,000 wanted council's thoughts on possibility of looking into purchasing it. Council asked about prioritizing what equipment is needed and if the boom truck would take priority over a new pickup before making final decision.

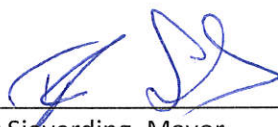
Sanitation Job – Deadline for applications is March 1st, date for interviews will be performed by the Personnel Committee tentatively on March 4th at 5:30pm.

Fire Alarm Panel- Ganzer updated council that we were waiting on quotes for Fire Alarm Monitoring at City Hall and have reached out to two companies. Quotes include upgrading of the current fire alarm panel and installation of a dialer for monitoring. Quotes will be received and discussed at the next meeting.

Budget Workshop – Council will discuss the FY25 Budget following adjournment of the regular meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: With no other business to be discussed, Sieverding asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn was made by A. Reuter, seconded by M. Petersen. Motion carried. Regular meeting adjourned at 7:12pm.

BUDGET WORKSHOP: Ganzer and Tietjens re-visited with Council the Road Use budget based on Amos Street reconstruction award bid and lowered the amount from 610,000 to 575,000 and lowered funding for seal coating, crack sealing and street patching until the following year. Streets and Parks were also revisited, and no additional costs were added. Workshop adjourned at 7:50pm.



Tyler Sieverding, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sheryl Ganzer, City Administrator/Clerk