



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2020

Mayor Greg Kubarski called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. on Tuesday, August 11, 2020. Committee members present at the time the meeting was called to order were: Liz Parish, Garth Hitselberger, Pat Moen, Darrow Novy, Rick Hanke, Randy Seeley, and Tom Hotek (7:47 p.m.). Mark Lankey was absent.

Others present included: City Administrator Adam Sonntag, Police Chief Pat Clark, Rob Uphoff of MSA, and Nicolette Nauman of the HSE.

Mayor Kubarski asked if this meeting received proper public notice to which Administrator Sonntag confirmed that the meeting did receive proper notice.

A motion was made by Hitselberger, second by Hanke, to approve the July 14, 2020 Committee of a Whole meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Registered Public Comment - None.

Safety and Welfare

Chief Clark provided the Police Chief's report, which included 154 incidents for the month. Hitselberger asked about drag strip event incident tracking. Chief Clark discussed two separate incidents, including a disorderly conduct and a lapse of insurance coverage.

Chief Clark requested a stop sign be placed on Salsbery Circle. Novy and Hitselberger recommended the new sign with the increased traffic and road completion. The Committee recommended adding a stop sign.

Sonntag provided an update on COVID-19 response and CARES Act funding. Sonntag stated the Common Council will need to move the November election to the Community Center. The Committee recommended reviewing the emergency declaration at the council meeting. Hitselberger recommended keeping the 75-person limit.

The Committee reviewed an offer to purchase the property at 1014 Mitscher Ave. Sonntag stated the city would take ownership and raze the house. Novy stated there are trees that also need to be removed and the house was in terrible shape. The Committee recommended approval of the offer to purchase and the plan to use the lot for infill residential development.

With no other items, the Committee moved to the Improvement and Services report.

Improvement and Services

Sonntag provided an update on the Elm Ave. reconstruction project, including the state allowing project funding under the LRIP program. Bids will be available for action on the Elm Ave. and FVM Park project at the council meeting. Novy discussed added costs of state highway crossings, including lights. The Committee reviewed the plan to connect the Tinkers Bluff trail to Salsbery Circle.

Uphoff provided a schedule and update for the dam project.

Uphoff discussed delays with the WWTP project due to multiple collapses of the lift station hole. Uphoff discussed steps to remedy the issues with the contractor and sub-contractor. Novy and Kubarski discussed the plan and issues with soils and groundwater.

Uphoff provided an update on the CTH FF Bridge Expansion project, including anticipated schedules. Novy questioned utility bypasses. Sonntag noted Land O'Lakes will be issued a floodwall permit within the next week or two.

The Committee reviewed the 2021 DNR Forestry Grant and recommended applying.

With no other items, the Committee moved on to Finance and Personnel.

Finance and Personnel

After reviewing the monthly bills, the Committee recommended moving the bills on to the Council agenda.

Sonntag provided an Administrator's report, which included an updated Tinker's Bluff sign.

Sonntag reported a resolution for the hospital land sale will be on the council agenda.

Sonntag presented figures for the 2021 budget, including preliminary state figures and anticipated state aids. Sonntag discussed potential cuts in state aid due to Covid-19. The Committee discussed potential budget deficits impacts.

The Committee reviewed the Mt. Vernon Cemetery Association annual financial report.

New Business – None.

With no other items, a motion was made by Hitselberger, second by Hotek to adjourn at 8:41 p.m. Motion carried.