REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL, YORK, NEBRASKA
DECEMBER 20, 2018
7:00 o'clock P.M.

A meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of York, Nebraska, was convened in open and public session at 7:00 o'clock p.m. in the Council Chambers.

The Mayor announced that the Open Meetings Act is posted on the east wall of the Council Chambers.

SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS

The City Clerk administered the Oath of Office to Councilmembers Sheila Hubbard, Barry Redfern, Jeff Pieper and Scott VanEsch and the newly elected officials signed their Oaths and Bonds and were seated

ROLL CALL

Present were: Mayor Stahr ; Councilmembers: Wagner, Hubbard, Saathoff, Mogul , Redfern, Pieper and VanEsch. Absent: Hoffman. Also present were the City Clerk, City Administrator, Director of Public Works and City Attorney.

Notice of this meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the York News Times on December 15, 2018, the City's designated method for giving notice, a coy of the proof of publication being attached to these Minutes. Notice of this meeting was given to the Mayor and all members of the City Council and a copy of their acknowledgment and receipt of notice and the agenda is attached to these Minutes. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to the Mayor and City Council of this meeting. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

The Mayor announced that the election of President and Vice President of the Council will be on the January 3, 2019 Council agenda.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

1) The Mayor appointed Barry, Redfern, Scott VanEsch, Clarence Hoffman and Mat Wagner to the Finance Committee.

Councilmember Mogul moved and Councilmember Pieper seconded to approve said appointments.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Wagner, Hubbard, Saathoff, Mogul, Redfern, Pieper and VanEsch. Absent & Not Voting: Hoffman. Motion Carried.

2) The Mayor appointed Clarence Hoffman, Sheila Hubbard, Mat Wagner and Jeff Pieper to the Ordinance & Judiciary Committee.

Councilmember Redfern moved and Councilmember Saathoff seconded to approve said appointments.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Wagner, Hubbard, Saathoff, Mogul, Redfern, Pieper and VanEsch. Absent & Not Voting: Hoffman. Motion Carried.

3) The Mayor appointed Ron Mogul, Jr., Ron Saathoff, Jeff Pieper and Sheila Hubbard to the Asset Management Committee.

Councilmember Redfern moved and Councilmember Mogul seconded to approve said appointments.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Wagner, Hubbard, Saathoff, Mogul, Redfern, Pieper and VanEsch. Absent & Not Voting: Hoffman. Motion Carried.

4) The Mayor appointed Barry Redfern, Ron Saathoff, Scott VanEsch and Ron Mogul, Jr. to the Insurance & Benefits Committee.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Wagner, Hubbard, Saathoff, Mogul, Redfern, Pieper and VanEsch. Absent & Not Voting: Hoffman. Motion Carried.

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REPORTS

Councilmember Mogul moved and Councilmember Hubbard seconded that the Departmental Activities Report, and Water and Sewer Operational Statements be approved.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Wagner, Hubbard, Saathoff, Mogul, Redfern, Pieper and VanEsch. Absent & Not Voting: Hoffman. Motion Carried.

MINUTES

Councilmember Hubbard moved and Councilmember Saathoff seconded that the Minutes of the December 6, 2018 meeting be approved.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Wagner, Hubbard, Saathoff, Mogul, Redfern, Pieper and VanEsch. Absent & Not Voting: Hoffman. Motion Carried.

CLAIMS OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

Councilmember Redfern moved and Councilmember Mogul seconded that the claim of Jeff Pieper for Pieper's, Inc. in the amount of $369.68 be approved and paid.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Wagner, Hubbard, Saathoff, Mogul, Redfern and VanEsch. . Nays: None. Absent & Not Voting: Hoffman. Councilmember Pieper declared a conflict of interest due to the fact that he is the Vice President of Pieper's , Inc. and abstained from voting. Motion Carried.

CLAIMS

Councilmember Redfern moved and Councilmember Wagner seconded that the claims for the period December 7, 2018 through December 20, 2018 be approved and paid.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Wagner, Hubbard, Saathoff, Mogul, Redfern, Pieper and VanEsch. Absent & Not Voting: Hoffman. Motion Carried.

OPEN FORUM

The Mayor announced that this was a public forum for citizens to address the Council on any matter not on the agenda, but the Council could take no action on any issue, but can ask questions for clarification.

No one addressed the Council.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

The City Administrator reported that he had nothing to report.

CONTRACT WITH FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE #31

The City Administrator reported that he was supposed to receive the proposed contract from the Police Union Representatives but did not receive the same. This item will be placed on a future agenda.

APPROVE AMENDED CITY OF YORK ACQUISTION/REHABILITATION/RESALE PROGRAM GUIDELIES

Betsy Samuelson from the Southeast Nebraska Development District reported on the amendments to the guidelines, specifically with the required down payment amount and the length of time a house must be vacant before becoming eligible for this program.

Councilmember Pieper moved and Councilmember Saathoff seconded to approve the amended guidelines.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Wagner, Hubbard, Saathoff, Mogul, Redfern, Pieper and VanEsch. Absent & Not Voting: Hoffman. Motion Carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor read the following:

In a recent York News Times an article was published which I feel as Mayor I must address. The article I am referring to is the article with the headline "City Finances" which dealt with the year-end cash balances. In this article, Mrs. Wilkinson reported that the City Administrator and the City Treasurer could not answer her questions regarding the year end cash balances, implying that neither the Administrator or the City Treasurer understood the information in the year end cash balance report. This implication is completely false. The City Treasurer was the author of the report and she, unlike Mrs. Wilkinson, understood and tried to communicate to Mrs. Wilkinson that the cash balance statement is not a statement about any budget, but rather a simple statement of year-end cash balances in each of the accounts funded through the overall general fund revenues as well as the utility and landfill funds.

It was the City Treasurer, who only a month after being installed as City Treasurer, identified a problem with dwindling reserves. She prepared a projection of year end reserves based upon budgeted spending and found that the reserve funds could drop to dangerously low levels (approximately $58,000) by year end. She notified the City Administrator who immediately issued a moratorium on non-critical spending to all City Departments which, in turn, resulted in less spending and a higher reserve at the end of the fiscal year. In other words, the City Treasurer and the City Administrator both did their jobs exceedingly well in identifying and addressing a financial problem.

The ad hominem attack on two very knowledgeable City employees by Mrs. Wilkinson demonstrates extreme bias and is unprofessional at best and potentially slanderous at worst . Mrs. Wilkinson demonstrated a further lack of professionalism and honesty by telling the Treasurer and City Administrator at the conclusion of the interview with her that she would write the article and forward it to them prior to publication to verify the accuracy of the information in the article. Rather than do so, Mrs. Wilkinson published an article which attempts to smear the reputations of two loyal and very capable City employees. So much for honesty and truth in reporting.

I call on Mrs. Wilkinson to retract her implication and report the news and present information to the public accurately, without bias and with true journalistic professionalism in the future.

I also ask the Clerk to include this entire statement in the Council minutes, so it will be a public record.

Mayor Orval Stahr

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the Mayor adjourned the meeting, the time being 7:15 o'clock p.m.

C. Jean Thiele, City Clerk

Orval J. Stahr, Mayor