

January 29, 2020

Mayor Flatness called to order the regular meeting of the Rockwell City Council at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 29, 2020 in the Council Chambers. All Council members were present. Also present were Dick Fridley, Debbie Bills, Angie Twedt, Bailey Sheriff, Tom Hensley, Jay Siefken and Chief Whitney

Wentz moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion seconded by Gauley, carried unanimously.

Wentz asked if the Library had purchased the new printer or if they were leasing it. Debbie Bills stated they are leasing the new printer. Meyer moved to approve the Library Report as presented. Worley seconded said motion, carried unanimously.

Debbie Bills, Angie Twedt and Bailey Sheriff were present on behalf of the Rockwell Library Board. Bills presented their proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Bills stated their total budget is approximately \$75,000.00 and the City has contributed \$46,000.00 in the past and with the other appropriations they feel this City contribution will be sufficient for this year. Bills reported on the work that has been done in the library with painting, cleaning and re-organizing they have weeded out about 3,000 books and donated them to various organizations. With a grant from the Cerro Gordo County Community Foundation they have been working on a STEAM room for the pre-teens. Twedt explained that the STEAM room will be an area with more hands on relating to science, technology, engineering, art and math. They will submit for this grant again this year to complete more of their goals. Bills stated they are going to hire a Director of Library Services and asked if the Council would consider health insurance benefits for a full time director. With discussion Gauley moved to allow for health insurance benefits for a single person with the option to buy into a family policy. Motion seconded by Koob, carried unanimously. The board thanked the Council for their support as they left the meeting.

Weier noted that the Fire Department had submitted a letter requesting funding for their equipment for the annual fireworks display, and have since talked with the supplier for fireworks and they would do the display for the department for a fee of \$500. At this time the department is considering this option rather than purchasing equipment.

Mayor Flatness stated the Council has some decisions to make with the bonding issue for the storm water project, Mayor Flatness called Maggie Burger with Speer Financial, on speaker phone to answer questions from the Council. Maggie gave some options on bonding and with interest rates being much lower now than prior, as well as the pool bonds could be refunded and issue the stormwater and pool bonds together with a cost savings. Following discussion, Koob moved to refund the pool bonds to allow for combining this debt with the storm water debt. Motion seconded by Wentz, carried unanimously.

Worley moved to set a public hearing for February 19, 2020 at 7:05 p.m. for the refunding of bonds process. Motion seconded by Koob, carried unanimously.

Siefken stated that FEMA has updated flood plain maps and the Council will need to adopt these new maps, he will have more information at a future meeting.

Mayor Flatness presented a change in the personnel policy, currently employees earn up to four weeks of vacation time after fifteen years of service, and he would like to allow five weeks of vacation after twenty years of service. Mayor Flatness felt this would be an incentive for longevity with the employees. Meyer noted they top out at four weeks at his employment. Koob also stated they top out at four weeks and do not have the option for comp time to allow for more time off. Koob felt he would like to see what other cities our size offer, for more justification and moved to table this until the next meeting. Motion seconded by Gauley, carried unanimously.

Mayor Flatness stated the finance committee met prior to the Council meeting to start the budget process. Mayor Flatness noted the county taxes is generating a little less with property valuations lower. Mayor Flatness noted that items discussed were a new pickup, water tower/pump work and pool repairs. Koob also noted the interior of the maintenance building. Wentz also noted trees being an expense on the budget. Mayor Flatness noted changes in the budget process making for two public hearings with one showing the max levy amount on the general budget and following that will be the budget hearing to adopt the complete budget.

Wentz asked if the stop sign at the school has been left out, making more continuity. Worley stated he had talked with them and it should be.

Wentz also asked about the welcome sign. Worley noted he is working on that.

Koob asked about the grant for the sign replacement. Chief Whitney state he has a list started for replacement.

Gauley stated that for the 150th celebration they will set the parade at 9:30 on Saturday, June 20th. Anyone interested can contact Worley or Gauley. Gauley noted the Church ladies will be serving a breakfast and lunch and may set up for bingo. The Legion will have karaoke Friday night, bags tournament and host a fun run on Saturday. The Fire Department is having a street dance on Saturday night. Tom noted they will have a car/tractor show with the location to be determined. Mayor Flatness thanked Gauley and Worley for their work on this and noted if anyone is wanting to help and get the word out to contact them.

Mayor Flatness reported that there was a fundraiser at Taco Johns with the proceeds to go towards the playground fund, he felt this went well.

Koob asked that notes are made on time cards when overtime is worked for clarification with approval.

Wentz asked if there is any report on the REDC building. Mayor Flatness has not heard anything. Gauley also asked about the Rockwell Area Market. Mayor Flatness noted that is in litigation at this time.

Chief Whitney asked for everyone to be aware of phone scammers. Chief Whitney noted that you should never give out personal information over the phone and contact law enforcement to check on these things.

With no further business, Koob moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Wentz, carried unanimously.

Michael Flatness, Mayor

Lorna Weier, City Clerk