

May 20, 2020

Mayor Flatness called to order the regular meeting of the Rockwell City Council at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 19, 2020. Council members present were Gauley, Worley, and Wentz with Koob via Zoom. Also present were Brian Hermann, Tom Hensley, Jay Siefken and Chief Whitney with Travis Fischer via Zoom.

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

Gauley questioned the library report, since they were closed, and there was payroll. Weier noted they have been working during this time cleaning, sorting and putting out books as well as a curb side service for check outs. Gauley moved to approve the library report as presented. Motion seconded by Worley, carried unanimously. Mayor Flatness noted the new Library Director is working now with the library open.

Worley stated the trees on Elm Street that were asked to be removed look healthy and felt they should not be taken down. Wentz also felt they are healthy, but could have the branches over the Street trimmed.

Mayor Flatness also noted trees on Walnut and Third Street that are a concern. Worley stated they are Ash trees and do need to come down. Wentz will also look at these. Siefken stated he will get a quote to have these removed and try to have this done prior to the fiscal year end as there are still funds in the budget.

Wentz moved to approve the liquor license renewal for the Rockwell American Legion Club. Motion seconded by Gauley, carried unanimously.

Koob reported on the Linn Grove Rec noting the cement has been cut so the broken pipe can be repaired. Koob stated they will fill the pool and circulate the water to make sure that everything is working correctly. Koob also stated that as of current Governors guidelines they do not feel they will be opening the pool soon, there are a lot of unknowns and requirements at this time and will wait to see what the Governor allows in the coming weeks. Hermann also noted they have to finish the repairs as needed and feels they need to run the pumps to make sure they are working correctly and should not leave them set for such a long period of time without running. Koob also noted they may have the scuba group using the pool for training, as in the past, and they will not need to heat the water.

Siefken reported that the storm water project is progressing nicely; they have tied the old storm water line into what is done for the new line. Oak Street has been closed in the area, they have rock and supplies there and may continue to leave this closed; First Street was closed this week and should be opened when the work is done past that area, in a week or so. Siefken also noted they will be splicing the fiber optics and midnight! Worley noted the traffic on First Street, stating it would be nice to have a counter to show how much traffic we have coming through town. Worley also stated there is a lot kids around with all of this traffic. Wentz asked about the

time line being done. Siefken felt they are on schedule with the work. Mayor Flatness noted that COVID slowed them up with the gas hookups.

Mayor Flatness reported that Router12 is working on the items recommended by the City Attorney for a contract to place antennas' on the water tower. Siefken stated that when they came to clean the tower he talked with them about this and they feel the cat walk on the North tower is not wide enough for antennas and allowing room for tower maintenance. Siefken noted they could give us a list of reasons to not put the antennas on water towers like this. Gauley asked to have this list.

Mayor Flatness stated we will need to amend the current city budget; at this point there are a couple of programs that will go over and with the storm water project and the pool bond re-issue that will cause overages. Worley moved to set a public hearing for the 2019-2020 budget amendment at 7:05 p.m. on Wednesday, June 17, 2020. Motion seconded by Wentz, carried unanimously.

Mayor Flatness stated he had employee evaluations this past week, and with all that is going on feels that all the employees are putting in extra work and would recommend a three percent raise, as was used in preparing the budget. Koob noted we had used the three percent for budgeting purposes but with all of the uncertainty currently in state revenues makes for concerns for funding. Following discussions, Worley moved to allow a three percent increase for the employees. Motion seconded by Gauley, carried unanimously.

Brian Hermann asked if there would be any adjustment made on the sewer portion of usage for filling private pools. Siefken noted the external meter, at a cost of \$80.00, and that a resident would need to use about 40,000 gallons for this to be feasible. Hermann noted this would be for someone starting a new lawn and using water for the summer, whereas he is asking the Council to consider a onetime credit on the sewer part of filling a pool. Mayor Flatness noted this would be something the Council could consider.

Siefken noted there are some trees in the cemetery that need to be trimmed; he will have Nuehring give a bid to do this.

Wentz asked Chief Whitney about kids driving golf carts. Chief Whitney noted he had talked to several and feels the situation is better controlled.

Wentz asked Siefken if he has started the list for street work. Siefken noted he has not started an official list, but with the work being done there may need to be some extra work on the streets that are affected by the storm water project. Worley asked about finding a state representative to see about the state helping with repairs that will be needed on First Street due to the detour. Mayor Flatness will make some contacts. Koob asked about the approach to the bridge on Madison Street. Siefken said an asphalt overlay could help this. Siefken noted that if the storm water project comes in under budget streets is one of the items the bond funds could be used towards, so maybe some additional work could be done.

Koob asked about the speed limit signs on First Street North and the stop signs, if we have flags to make them more noticeable. Hensley noted there are two signs noting the 25 mph. Mayor

Flatness stated the new signs and flags had just arrived and the guys will be getting them up as soon as time allows.

Hensley asked about putting up the nets at the tennis court. Koob felt it was ok to put them up. Mayor Flatness asked about resurfacing the tennis court and basketball court as they are getting a lot of use. Siefken will have this added to the cost estimates.

All employees thanked the Council for the raise!

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

Michael Flatness, Mayor

Lorna Weier, City Clerk