

July 22, 2020

Mayor Flatness called to order the regular meeting of the Rockwell City Council at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 22, 2020. Council member present was Wentz. Council members via Zoom; Gauley and Koob with Worley via phone. Also present were Tim Nuehring, Tom Hensley, Jay Siefken and Chief Whitney.

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

Koob moved to approve the Library report as presented. Motion seconded by Wentz, carried unanimously.

Tim Nuehring was present on behalf of the Rockwell Lions Club. Nuehring stated that they have met with the Department of Health and are working closely with them to assure that the Lions Club can put on the NTPA pull as safely as possible. Nuehring stated the Department of Health feels that with this being an outdoor event and adding extra seating to help with social distancing, along with hand sanitizer, washing stations and the other steps they are taking it should be doable. Nuehring asked the Council to waive the noise ordinance for the event and also allow for the UTV and ATV use. Koob asked if there would be fireworks. Nuehring stated they will not have fireworks and the pullers will also be informed that fireworks are not allowed. Koob also asked if it will be announced during the event for spectators to social distance. Nuehring stated they are going to do everything they can to make sure it is safe and will have the announcers state social distancing as well. Mayor Flatness suggested that people still wear mask as recommended by the health department. Following discussion, Koob moved to waive the noise ordinance for the NTPA Pulls until 1:00 AM for the event on August 6th 7th and 8th. Motion seconded by Gauley, carried unanimously.

Koob moved to allow for the UTV and ATV use in town, with traffic laws being followed for the NTPA event August 6th 7th and 8th. Motion seconded by Wentz, carried unanimously.

Nuehring thanked the Council for their support as he left the meeting.

Koob moved by Resolution 2020-10 to approve the application for Tax Abatement by John Ries, 601 Hwy 65, for new home construction to be forwarded to the County Assessor Office. Motion seconded by Gauley, carried unanimously.

Mayor Flatness stated they are finished with the digging part of the storm water project and are working on the sidewalks and yards that were dug up from the work done. Siefken stated that everything will be put back together to prior condition.

Mayor Flatness noted that we have not heard from Router12, so we will table this discussion.

Siefken explained that the resident on Fourth Street has a septic system and wants to be hooked into the city sewer system. Siefken noted that due to location and fall the only way to make this work is to go to the South and this is 360 feet. The estimate to do the work is \$5,291.00 and

Siefken asked the Council if the City would pay some of this cost as there is no other feasible way to connect this property to the sewer. Koob felt that residents in other communities have to pay for this work themselves. Wentz asked to table this and look into the cost sharing more. Motion seconded by Koob, carried unanimously.

Mayor Flatness reported that he has contacted the Attorney for the nuisance property on Main Street and letters have been sent, with one being returned and the other received.

Mayor Flatness presented Fireworks Ordinance Title III Community Protection to consider adding to the City Code. Upon review Koob moved to set a public hearing for August 5, 2020 at 7:05 pm. Motion seconded by Gauley, carried unanimously.

Mayor Flatness gave the Council Code updates to review and felt that on 3-3-31 the word “except” should be removed. Koob moved to remove “except” from 3-3-31. Motion seconded by Wentz, carried unanimously. Council discussed this code and would like to research this code before setting a public hearing to approve this. Wentz moved to table setting the public hearing for adopting the code updates. Motion seconded by Worley, carried unanimously.

Siefken stated that he has been in contact with the Engineers and Contractor on the storm water project to work together for the street repair to take over the contract on replacing the streets from the project and blending it together with work to be done. Mayor Flatness also noted that we need to have the tennis courts and basketball court resurfaced as well. Koob asked if Siefken has looked at which streets to be repaired this season. Siefken stated he would like to continue as we have been and finish Maple Street and Fourth Street. Koob noted Monroe and Arthur Street needing repairs. Siefken noted with the project coming in under budget there may be some funding available to do more streets.

Koob asked if the speed bumps are here. Siefken noted they are on the truck for delivery and the signage is ordered as well.

Mayor Flatness reported on the meeting with Chief Whitney and the Sheffield Mayor and Police Chief to try and come up with a shared officer to allow for more coverage in Rockwell then is possible with only one officer. Mayor Flatness did not feel their solution was suitable for us at this time.

Mayor Flatness noted that he has looked into the Kansas State Patrol vehicle program to purchase a used patrol vehicle. Mayor Flatness noted we have reserve funds that could be used for this. Mayor Flatness asked for the Public Safety Committee to meet and pursue this information. Mayor Flatness also asked the Council about considering a second officer. Wentz felt this could be discussed with the Public Safety committee also.

Gauley asked if a dead end sign was available for Mulberry Street. Siefken stated he will get one.

Gauley also noted a semi parked in the right away that blocks the neighbor. Chief Whitney will check into this.

Koob asked if Mid American has been contacted about a street light for West View Drive North. Siefken stated he will contact them.

Koob asked about the grading behind the houses on West View Drive South. Siefken stated that Ries will be coming to work on this in a couple of weeks.

Wentz asked if the city wide garage sales will be held with the NTPA again. Weier noted that there have been a few calls, so if all are in favor it can be posted as city wide garage sales on August 8th. Mayor Flatness noted that at this time nothing is prohibiting garage sales.

Wentz noted concerns for traffic speeding on Elm Street East. Worley suggested moving the speed bumps around. Chief Whitney will watch.

Mayor Flatness asked Hensley how many signs need to be replaced for the sign program to be finished up for this go round. Hensley noted he has about ten signs to replace.

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

Michael Flatness, Mayor

Lorna Weier, City Clerk