

March 17, 2021

Mayor Flatness called to order the regular meeting of the Rockwell City Council at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 17, 2021. Council members present were Koob, Meyer, Wentz and Worley. Also present were Wendy and Mike Perrott, Pat Hurley and via Zoom Dick Fridley, Caroline McManigal and Jay Siefken.

Worley noted that at the previous meeting when streets were discussed he asked about fixing Third Street South with a culvert or what it might take to alleviate the problem there before considering closing the street. Koob moved to approve the minutes as amended noting Worley's change. Motion seconded by Worley, carried unanimously.

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

At 7:05 p.m. Koob opened the public hearing to discuss the 2021-2022 budget. Motion seconded by Wentz, carried unanimously. Wentz noted kudos to the finance committee for keeping the budget on track with no exorbitant increases.

With no oral or written concerns, Worley moved to close the public hearing. Motion seconded by Meyer, carried unanimously.

Wentz moved by Resolution 2021-5 to adopt the 2021-2022 City of Rockwell Budget. Motion seconded by Koob. Roll call vote: Aye; Koob, Meyer, Wentz, Worley. Motion carries unanimously.

Caroline McManigal, Library Director, gave an update to the Council noting the Library will go back to normal hours on April 5th! McManigal stated they will still ask for patrons to wear mask. McManigal reported on the book clubs, new décor, and the STEM room, summer reading program, training and grants. McManigal noted the \$500 grant from MidAmerican that will be used for a computer. McManigal is excited to have patrons back in the Library. Koob asked about the summer reading program, to help with scheduling for swimming lessons. McManigal noted the program starts in June, and they can work together on planning around lessons. McManigal thanked the Council and Mayor for their support.

Mike and Wendy Perrott were present to request to purchase the City right of way at the North end of Fourth Street North. Mayor Flatness cited the City Ordinance that allows vacating property. Mayor Flatness noted that there are utilities under this so an easement would have to be set. Mayor Flatness stated that this will need to go through a process with the Planning and Zoning Commission. Perrott's will follow up with a letter of request to the Planning and Zoning Commission, and left the meeting.

Mayor Flatness reviewed the Rockwell City Code in reference to the comments made by Council member Koob at the previous meeting regarding Police protection and duties. Mayor Flatness also reviewed the Code with the responsibilities of the Mayor stating that the Mayor is the direct supervisor of all department heads, including the Police Chief. Mayor Flatness stated that as the Code provides for Police, the process to eliminate the department would have to go through the Council by Ordinance as well. Mayor Flatness stated that the Council needs to think about this carefully and choose their words wisely. Wentz stated that he feels we need to keep our police department, and training is always good. Koob stated that we also have a responsibility to the tax payers to do the job as defined; this is why he was questioning the calls for service report, in looking at justifying the need for a second officer. Mayor Flatness stated that Chief Whitney has logged 552 calls since October. Worley noted that with the Public Safety meeting they discussed paperwork. Mayor Flatness stated that in the conversation with Sheriff Pals he noted that the calls for service is a standard everyone uses but not required of Rockwell.

Mayor Flatness asked about the training. Koob asked about the training records, and felt they should be kept on file here for the agency. Wentz asked if there could be a commitment of Chief staying prior to expending for membership and training. Worley noted that there is not an itinerary out yet for the conference. Following discussion, Wentz moved to table the discussion about training. Motion seconded by Worley, carried unanimously.

Wentz asked about the purchase of stop sticks and if they are reusable. Koob noted that they have been used in the area more recently and after using you send them in to have them replaced. Koob stated these are a useful tool. Meyer moved to purchase the stop sticks, not to exceed \$500 for the police department. Motion seconded by Koob, carried unanimously.

Mayor Flatness reviewed the bids for the police vehicle as presented at the prior meeting and noted that the camera system in the current vehicle is not functional and the cost is \$5,900 with additional cost to up fit in the vehicle. Council discussed the cost of a new vehicle. Weier noted that we have put \$30,000 in the upcoming budget to prepare for purchasing a police vehicle. Koob felt better with waiting a year on a new vehicle, when we have some of the cost covered in the budget, and there is a lot of street work to be done now. Mayor Flatness noted that we will be able to use the funding from the bond issue towards street work as well. Following discussion, Wentz moved to table the equipment and let the public safety committee review things with the car and purchasing a new vehicle. The motion died for lack of a second.

Meyer noted that sometime waiting on a new purchase can come back to bite you too, but maybe this can be looked at more for now. Worley noted the difference in prices is about \$3,000, and felt that is not a great deal and if we purchase the camera now and pay for install and then go back to purchase a new vehicle we will be paying for the install again. Koob felt we could hold out until July to better fit with the budget. Following discussion, Worley moved to table he squad car until next meeting. Motion seconded by Koob, carried unanimously.

Koob moved to set the large item pickup with Absolute Waste Removal for May 22, 2021. Motion seconded by Wentz, carried unanimously.

Wentz moved to approve the five day Class B Beer/Wine Cooler license for the Rockwell Community Fire Department for their June street dance. Motion seconded by Worley, carried unanimously.

Koob moved to approve the contract with Mosquito Control of Iowa for the upcoming season at the same cost as the previous year, \$5,850. Worley felt they went thru too fast and need to slow down to get the fog into yards to work. Motion seconded by Wentz, carried unanimously.

Mayor Flatness noted the demo permit has been filed, and work will follow when the weather breaks.

Koob reported on the pool; applications are out and available on the city website, the concrete work will be finished and then other projects will follow.

Wentz noted a trailer that was moved and has been parked on Westview Drive North. Mayor Flatness will have Chief Whitney follow up on this.

Wentz wanted to let Siefken know that they are thinking about them. Council and Mayor also noted condolences to the family.

Mayor Flatness stated that with the Government relief stimulus funds will be allocated to the City, there is not much information as to the amounts and time line, but there will be parameters on how it is to be used.

Koob also noted a couple of nuisance properties; these will be followed up with also.

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

Michael Flatness, Mayor

Lorna Weier, City Clerk