

February 15, 2023

Mayor Wentz called to order the regular meeting of the Rockwell City Council at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 15, 2023. All Council members were present. Also present were Zach Laudner, Jay Siefken, Caroline McManigal and Chief Brunstein.

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

Mayor Wentz presented a letter of recommendation from Fire Chief Dannen to all fireworks for specific days and times during the July 4th holiday.

At 7:05 p.m. Koob opened the public hearing for the 2023-2024 Max Levy. Motion seconded by Emhoff, carried unanimously. With no oral or written comments, Koob moved to close the public hearing. Motion seconded by Meyer, carried unanimously.

Koob moved by Resolution 2023-2 to adopt the Max Levy. Motion seconded by Worley. Roll call vote: Yea; Koob, Worley, Meyer, Morrison, Emhoff. Carried unanimously.

Council continued with the discussion on fireworks. Koob stated that we need to take a stance on enforcement with our code. Following discussion, Council was in agreement to revisit the code allowing for fireworks on July 3rd and 4th from 5:00-11:00 p.m. When the code is revised a public hearing will need to be held.

Caroline McManigal, Library Director, updated the Council on the repair work being done. McManigal also noted the flooring cost difference for the bathrooms, Council felt that we should have Mason City Tile do the bathroom floors as well. Koob also felt that both toilets should be replaced.

McManigal also noted that they still have a lot of people in for materials and books and the kids Valentines party had 45 kids attend! Mayor Wentz thanked McManigal for her dedication and getting things done.

Mayor Wentz stated that they have had an interview with Laudner for the Superintendent position that went well. Mayor Wentz noted that the committee wanted to come to the Council for discussion on compensation for the position. Meyer stated they have discussed salary versus hourly wage. All are in agreement this is better fit to be an hourly position. Meyer moved to offer Laudner an hourly rate of \$26.50 when he starts the position of City Superintendent. Motion seconded by Koob, carried unanimously.

Council discussed the position for the Utility Maintenance person. Morrison moved to set the base salary at \$17.00 an hour. Motion seconded by Worley, carried unanimously. Council will accept applications until noon, March 3, 2023, with the base salary at \$17.00 an hour.

Koob moved to set the public hearing for the 2023-2024 budget at 7:05 p.m. on Wednesday, March 15, 2023. Motion seconded by Morrison, carried unanimously.

Mayor Wentz noted he has talked with the County in reference to the reimbursement of the cost for fencing around the water tower and will be meeting with them again.

Mayor Wentz also noted he has talked with the Treasures Office about the nuisance abatement program that we used prior and with look into this more. Koob stated he has talked with the owner of one of the buildings. Koob noted he has also talked to Shannon Latham about abandoned buildings and she is wanting to help small communities with these issues. Koob felt that if we can assist the property owners with nuisance buildings without a cost to the City it would be beneficial to all.

Koob asked if the guys have the tri-pod lights. Siefken noted he has been looking for a better deal for equipment and cost. Koob also asked about stop signs. Siefken noted they will be working on this.

Worley stated the pool board is looking for a manager, and are getting things ready for the upcoming season.

Koob stated with a new Emergency Manager we should have them attend a meeting and continue with the plans we have talked about prior.

Siefken stated he has a budget estimate from Heartland Asphalt, for First Street North, to widen to twenty-four feet from Elm Street to the north city limits is \$173,000.00. Council discussed options with this and cost and how much it would be to go to Main Street.

Siefken also talked about the dump truck, they have been testing out the 1993 truck, which works fine for what they need, at a cost of \$10,000.00. Siefken noted that maybe the newer truck for \$12,000.00 would be a better option and hen have a snowblade for it for backup use. Siefken noted he and Laudner are going to look at the trucks.

Siefken noted the control panel for the water tower, they are waiting for this to be done.

Siefken also stated they have talked with a sales rep on re-metering and having radio reads. Council felt this would be a good investment.

Siefken stated Hanig Construction will be working on the maintenance shed ceiling in a few weeks.

Weier noted the information on the North Iowa Corridor open hours for March 7th.

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

Larry Wentz, Mayor

Lorna Weier, City Clerk