

Wall Lake, Iowa

November 23, 2020

Wall Lake City Council met in regular session in council chambers at 7:00 p.m. presided by Mayor Steven Druivenga.

Councilmen present: Schwanz, Rohlf, Lahr, Riedell and Steinkamp.

Visitors: Peggy Yohnke, Samantha Lathan, John Smith, Abbie Smith and her mother, Erin McCullough, and Todd Steinkamp.

Steinkamp made the motion to approve the agenda. Rohlf seconded. Ayes: All. Motion carried.

Lahr made the motion to approve the minutes from the November 9th meeting as written. Schwanz seconded. Ayes: All. Motion carried.

Lahr made the motion to approve the bills as presented. Steinkamp seconded. Ayes: All. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCES 2020-05 AND 2020-06 FENCES AND DANGEROUS ANIMALS. Mayor Druivenga opened the public hearing at 7:02 p.m. Abbie Smith handed out a preservation letter requesting that all emails, conversations, notes, etc. relating to herself and her spouse, Heather Luchtel and the matter concerning the fence dispute and the vicious animal dispute be preserved. McCullough asked the council why the ordinance was being changed. Lahr, Schwanz and Rodman informed McCullough that the last update to the ordinances was in 2008 and needed updating. Rodman informed McCullough that the City of Wall Lake has always allowed the fence to go directly on the adjoining properties lot line with the exception of a fence by the alley. John Smith asked who's fence is it if it's on the property line, Steinkamp informed Smith that the person who installed the fence is the owner and is listed as so on the tax receipts. John Smith asked if the house sold how will the new owner know who's fence it is. John Smith asked if the height limit of 6 feet is from the ground up or from the fence footing up. Mayor Druivenga tabled the issue until the specific questions could be answered. The Clerk will contact Warren Bush for further clarification on the amended ordinance. Rohlf made the motion to close the public hearing on 2020-05 at 7:25 p.m. Lahr seconded. Roll Call Vote: Rohlf;yes, Steinkamp;yes, Schwanz;yes, Riedell;yes, and Lahr;yes. Motion carried. At 7:26 Mayor Druivenga opened the public hearing for 2020-06 regarding vicious animal ordinance. McCullough asked the council why the city is changing the ordinance. Mayor Druivenga told McCullough it is being changed so that a vicious dog can mean any breed not just single out Pit Bulls. Abbie Smith's mother informed the council that being vicious and fighting is what Pit Bulls are bred for, just like a Labrador is bred for hunting. That it is part of their DNA. Samantha Lathan addressed the council and said she would like something done about dogs not being on leashes. That she has been chased by loose dogs while walking her dog. Peggy Yohnke

said she is afraid to go out of her house because of her neighbors dogs which are Pit Bulls. The Clerk told Lathan and Yohnke that they need to call the police when they have issues with dogs that the city is not the police. Abbie Smith said she has been reporting her neighbor's dog and nothing has been done. The city clerk told Smith that the city would need to follow up with the police to ensure the ordinance is being enforced. Mayor Druivenga informed Abbie Smith that the ordinance is being amended to include any breed of dog deemed vicious not just a particular breed (Pit Bulls). John Smith asked who enforces the ordinances, the city or the police? Steinkamp made the motion to close the public hearing for 2020-06 at 7:44 p.m. Schwanz seconded. Roll Call Vote: Rohlf;yes, Steinkamp;yes, Schwanz;yes, Riedell;yes, and Lahr;yes. Motion carried.

Discuss/Approve Ordinance 2020-06 Vicious Animal Ordinance amendment: Lahr made the motion to approve the first reading of ordinance 2020-06 as written. Schwanz seconded. Roll Call Vote: Rohlf;yes, Steinkamp;yes, Schwanz;yes, Riedell;yes, and Lahr;yes. Motion carried.

Discuss/Approve Employee Wages: Mayor Druivenga informed the council that proposed wage increase amount is in their packets. The clerk informed the council that Wall Lake's wages are lower than what surrounding communities pay their guys. Their experience and knowledge validate a pay increase. The city needs to offer a higher starting wage for job applicants to be competitive with other communities. The clerk made the comment that all the city employees do a great job. Mayor Druivenga encouraged council to review the increases and contact the clerk if they have any questions or comments.

Discuss/Approve Todd Steinkamp electric service request: Todd would like to get electric service to a truck wash that is going to be built. The clerk wasn't sure the city could get the job done in the timeframe Todd wanted due to the time needed to order supplies and the man power we have to do the job. Myron is semi-retired, contractors would need to be hired. The city of Wall Lake and Mid-American meet in the center of the driveway. Todd is asking for the city to sign off so that Mid-American can do the electric if Wall Lake is unable to do it. Brody would like to see Wall Lake support this business. After some discussion, Riedell believes the council would like to work with Todd on getting the electric service he is requesting. The council would like the clerk to look into cost for the project for materials, transformers, etc. for the project.

Discuss/Approve Electric material bid letting: Material bids were opened November 17 at 1:30 p.m. Five companies bid on 4 materials: wire, switches, single phase transformers, and 3 phase transformers. The Clerk gave information on DGR's bid recommendations. After some discussion, the council agreed on Proposal #1-Resco, Proposal #2-Wesco, Proposal #3-Irby's Option #1, Proposal #4-Wesco Option #1. Rohlf seconded. Roll Call Vote: Rohlf;yes, Steinkamp;yes, Schwanz;yes, Riedell;yes, and Lahr;yes. Motion carried.

Discuss/Approve Resolution 2020-23; a resolution taking specific action to enter into a line of credit of \$1,500,000 with Westside State Bank in Wall Lake: Motion was made by Schwanz at 8:27 p.m. to have the public hearing for Resolution 2020-23. Rohlf seconded. Ayes: All. Motion carried. No comments have been made by the public. Schwanz made the motion to close the public hearing. Steinkamp seconded. Schwanz made the motion to approve Resolution 2020-23. Steinkamp

seconded. Roll Call Vote: Rohlf;yes, Steinkamp;yes, Schwanz;yes, Riedell;yes, and Lahr;yes. Motion carried.

Discuss/Approve October Clerks Report; employee vacation, utility rec., fund finances: Bank account balances, checks, receipts, proprietary accounts, and taxes were discussed. During the presentation council asked questions. The Clerk thought the budget would need to be amended for the Public Works account. Riedell made the motion to accept the October's Clerk Report. Schwanz seconded. Ayes: All. Motion carried.

Discuss/Approve Incentive to return gas survey-average gas bill in January and February is \$100: Schwanz made the motion to approve 10 people in January and 10 people in February to win \$100 credit towards their gas bill if their name is drawn when the gas survey is returned to the city office. City employees and people affiliated with the city are not eligible. Rohlf seconded. Roll Call Vote: Rohlf;yes, Steinkamp;yes, Schwanz;yes, Riedell;yes, and Lahr;yes. Motion carried.

Discuss Christmas Lighting Ceremony and decorations: Steinkamp and the clerk have been discussing different ideas to boost the community's spirits, it has been a tough year this year and would like to do something in the community. Ideas include decorations on the lot next to the Fire Station. Refreshments at the Fire Station, a contest for best Christmas lights at people's homes.

Discussion about Orientation and Goal Setting and Planning workshop: The Clerk would like some ideas for events that will bring people to Wall Lake. He would like to see city employees and council have a meeting to discuss ideas. Riedell suggested meeting some evening after work after the holidays possibly in January.

Discuss/Approve 2021 Budget; begin thinking about projects, equipment, maintenance-my recommendation would be to wait a couple years before starting any big projects: Council agreed they should discuss this the same night as the Goal Setting and Planning workshop.

Public Forum

Nothing in the Public Forum

Adjourn

Riedell made the motion to adjourn. Schwanz seconded. Ayes: All. Motion carried.

Attest

Lynn Grosely

Deputy Clerk

