

Council Proceedings
January 27, 2014

The Marshalltown City Council met in regular session on January 27, 2014, at 5:30 pm, in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Lowrance called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Present: Gowdy, Greer, Hoop, Lamer, Martin, Schubert, Wirin. Detective Randy Kessler was recognized for twenty-five years of service. Schubert moved to approve the agenda, amending to remove item #7 off the consent agenda for separate discussion, second by Wirin. Motion approved 7-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Lamer moved to approve the amended Consent Agenda: Approve Council meeting Minutes of January 13, 2014; Approve Bill List in the amount of \$2,504,548.94; Approve change in Aquatic Center hours, opening at 12:30 pm.; Approve City Council Goals for 2014; Resolution 2014-008 Declaring AWOL the Police Canine and Certain of His Accessories as Surplus Property and Authorizing the Sale thereof upon certain conditions.; Resolution 2014-009 Declaring Certain Property in the Police Department as Surplus and Authorizing Sale and Disposal Thereof, relating to portable radio sales to Care Ambulance, Iowa City, Iowa.; Liquor License Renewals: (pending fire inspection) ; Class E Liquor License: 7 Rayos Liquor Store, 120 E Main Street; Class C Liquor License: The Oasis, 209 E Main Street; Vaughns' Pub, 22 N 1st Avenue; LaCarreta Mexican Grill, 308 E Iowa Avenue; Elmwood Country Club, 1734 Country Club Lane; Special Beer and Wine License: Ocean City Chinese Restaurant, 5 W Main Street; Class C Beer Carry Out: Abarrotes La Salud, Inc., 17 N 1st Street, Dollar General Store #2019, 408 S 9th Street; Dollar General Store #4206, 2413 S Center Street; Jiffy Convenience Stores; second by Greer. Consent agenda adopted 7-0.

Wirin moved to adopt Resolution 2014-010 to Ratify HVAC Contract with Woodman Controls Company, in the amount of \$80,200, relating to the City Hall and Carnegie Building Improvement Project 49913015, to be paid from the Capital Improvement Plan, Carnegie Fund, second by Martin. City Attorney Ward informed the council the money for this project was budgeted, and there was lack of clarity in the existing purchasing policy which is in the process of being revised. The current purchasing policy is tied to the state threshold for formal bids, which increased from \$25,000 to \$130,000 in 2003 for projects of this nature. The council has been in the practice of approving expenditures above \$25,000, and the council will provide policy guidance as the policy is revised. Resolution adopted 6-1 with Schubert dissenting.

REPORTS

Budget. Marshalltown taxable valuations decreased by \$78 million for two reasons, one being Senate File 295, which reduced all commercial, industrial and railroad properties by 5%, and the recent economic downturn in the overall economy is now being reflected locally. Due to these decreases in taxable valuation a levy to increase taxes is necessary. Including the state backfill, the proposed budget has the general fund short of \$160,872 and capital improvement levy short by \$14,838. In 2015, Road Use Tax revenues are anticipated to increase by 1.5%, with the Local Option Sales Tax revenue projections slightly lower than 2014. It is staff recommendation to use the 5% designated to any legal purpose to be used to further the property tax relief as it was used in 2014. Wages and associated taxes are anticipated to increase approximately 2.35%. The city's self insurance plan continues to experience great success in containing increases in the premium costs compared to other counterparts. Implications of the Affordable Care Act are being monitored, and at this time no catastrophic costs will be incurred. A member of the public asked the city be lean and efficient and doesn't agree that 5% be used for property tax reduction.

MOTIONS

Wirin moved to accept the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, second by Gowdy. Motion carried 7-0.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSION:

Parks and Recreation Director Terry Gray recommended the council approve the Chainsaw Art proposal, sponsored by JBS Swift, being a castle diagram. The council thanked JBS for the donation and their participation in the Kids in Park Day, scheduled for May 17.

Dave Daters recommended changing decorative lights on Main and Center Street, retrofitting them to LED lights. Annual savings are estimated at \$19,000, without Alliant rebates, making the payback a little over thirteen months. The LED lights are a brighter white, and one fixture was tested at the intersection of Center and Main Streets. Fixtures at 13th Street are LED.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

A member of the public asked the council to consider department committee structure.

CLOSED SESSION

At 6:21 PM Greer moved to enter into closed session pursuant to Section 21.5 subsection (1) paragraph (j) OF THE CODE OF IOWA to discuss the purchase or sale of particular real estate only where premature disclosure could be reasonably expected to increase the price the governmental body would have to pay for that property or reduce the price the governmental body would receive for that property, second by Wirin. Motion carried 7-0. Lamer moved to leave closed session, second by Greer. Motion carried 7-0. Roll Call – all present.

Council Proceedings
January 27, 2014

Martin moved that the recommendations of the Public Safety Building Advisory Committee be accepted as identified during our discussion as to parcels A, B, C, and D, and that the owners of those parcels be approached by the City, or an agent acting on its behalf, concerning confidential negotiations toward granting the City an option to purchase some or all of those properties at specified prices and terms to be exercised within 90 days, with any purchases being further expressly conditioned upon all necessary legal notices and hearings, and public approval by public referendum to the extent required by law, second by Wirin.

ADJOURNMENT

Lamer moved to adjourn at 7:08 pm, second by Greer. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Shari L. Coughenour, CMC, City Clerk

CITY OF MARSHALLTOWN

ATTEST:

James L. Lowrance, Mayor

Shari L. Coughenour, CMC, City Clerk