



Minutes

City Council Work Session Meeting

Oelwein City Hall, 20 Second Avenue SW, Oelwein, Iowa

February 13, 2023 - 6:30 PM

Present: Lenz, Garrigus, Payne, Stewart, Seeders, Weber

Also Present: DeVore, Mulfinger

Pledge of Allegiance

Discussions

1. Discussion on Capital Improvement Program.

Mulfinger opened the meeting and asked council if they had any concerns or questions on the Capital Improvement Program.

Payne questioned if the Police needed a car this year.

Mulfinger assured Payne and Council that a police car is needed. The city is on a program where each officer has a car. This requires a replacement of a vehicle each year. Mulfinger advised his former employer had the police share four vehicles, which still resulted in a replacement schedule of one a year. Mulfinger asked Payne what she would like to accomplish by holding off a car purchase. Payne explained to Mulfinger she wanted to save money since the city was walking into a year with less valuation. Mulfinger said being cognizant of the budget is important each year, but police cars are purchased using franchise fees, and these revenues are healthy.

Seeders question the need for a new police website and the painting of the police station.

Mulfinger explained he did not approve of the new website and did not make the recommendation. Mulfinger also said the painting request was based on bids received before the item was requested. Council members provided comment of the recent cost of just paint and not labor.

Payne questioned the new software for Community Development and why it was not being tied into the city's Civic budget software.

Mulfinger explained both had been looked at and GovBuilt was preferred by staff. GovBuilt will work with Payment Service Network, but will not work hand-in-hand with Civic.

Payne requested both be presented and looked at by council before approval.

Weber requested no money be allocated for the library's new sign. Weber believes the library does a great job and that a new sign is needed, but the library should look at grants or their bequest fund. Other Council members provided comments in support.

Stewart questioned the amount going to chip seal roads. Stewart was concerned that this was not a large enough amount and that the chip seal roads were not being maintained. Seeders stated more funds should be allocated for roads. Mulfinger stated chip sealing was not the best improvement for roads. Stewart informed Mulfinger the city was not in a position to pave or asphalt every road. Stewart recommended the city not chip seal roads in the parks and cemetery and take that funding for roads. Mulfinger acknowledged the \$15,000 in Franchise fees would be reallocated to the street department.

Stewart questioned the need for a new snow pusher. Mulfinger explained the current one had reached its useful life. Stewart said a properly maintained snow pusher should not need replaced. Mulfinger stated if Council wanted to inspect the snow pusher, he would be happy to bring it to the next council meeting and have them make a recommendation. Mulfinger explained he is bringing items to Council the departments heads have determined are of the most need for them to operate. Department heads spend hours on the CIP to ensure that council is provided with the best recommendations of improvements or purchases. Garrigus stated the current snow pusher was starting to buckle and it needed replaced. No consensus was reached on this item.

Payne stated she was not in favor of any new equipment for the Wellness Center until the 28E agreement was updated. Weber questioned how holding off on equipment purchases would help the Wellness Center and the service it provides to the community. Payne said if it did not break even, it should not buy equipment. Mulfinger acknowledged he can hold off on one treadmill until the 28E is worked through council. Mulfinger said the update to the 24-hour system cannot wait as the current software is becoming obsolete.

2. Discussion on Budget.

No discussion took place.

Adjournment