



Minutes
City Council Work Session
Oelwein City Hall, 20 Second Avenue SW, Oelwein, Iowa
February 10, 2020 - 6:30 PM

Present Mayor DeVore, Fisk, Stewart, Gerdts, Weber, Cantrell, Ericson
Also Present Mulfinger, Rigdon, Dillon

Discussions

1. Discussion on Code Enforcement – Snow

Fisk expressed that the city must be fair in code enforcement. Mulfinger explained that enforcement is a lottery because the city cannot get everyone who is breaking the law. Fisk wants to see the sidewalks cleaned better and that the city must do a better job. Fisk does not believe we have enough manpower for code enforcement and wants to see that change. Weber expressed concerns that the city could never staff enough to meet the expectations of being fair across the board. DeVore said that the city could focus on main routes for snow removal and not be concerned about side streets. Mulfinger wants to see council set their expectation. Fisk stated that another person should be added for code enforcement. Direction was provided to Mulfinger to find a funding mechanism for additional code enforcement.

2. Discussion on Tax Levy

Mulfinger presented a 17.71858 tax levy. Council did not see any issues with the levy as it was consistent with the prior year. Mulfinger stated that the levy was high for a community our size, but it was because of the low valuations. Mulfinger wants to see more in debt service, but the city will have to wait for higher valuations. While the value of Oelwein finally increased, it still did not allow for large increase in revenue. Mulfinger said that this levy will be presented to council in March.

3. Discussion on 2020/2021 Salaries

Mulfinger presented the salaries for council and answered any questions. Stewart asked if the Estherville survey was still being used. Mulfinger said the Estherville survey was being used along with adjacent communities and national trends. Mulfinger showed council the increases in health insurance and stated that it should stay low to continue the great benefit it offers employees.

4. Discussion on 2020 Goals

Mulfinger provided the following sheet asking council for feedback on each item.

- Airport Future
 - What is council's end goal?
- Wellness Center Funding
 - What is Council's end goal?
- County Recycle Bins
 - What is Council's end goal?
 - Sending a letter to the county landfill commission in February requesting that the bins be removed, and the fee no longer charge to Oelwein.

- County Recycle Fees
 - What is Council's end goal?
- Water Sewer Rates
 - How aggressive does council want to approach replacing infrastructure?
 - Working on a quote from Speer and Fox Engineering
 - Working on a schedule that includes higher loads from industry
- Audit Findings
 - Update of progress from staff.
- Abatement and Enforcement Personnel
 - What is the expectation for abatement and is it possible to meet?
- Police Manpower
 - What is the expectation for the Police Department and is it possible to meet?
- Volunteer Firefighter Numbers
 - How can council help?
- Speed Cameras
 - What is the end goal?
 - Once the county start moving toward the program Oelwein will start
- City Owned Properties
 - What is the next step with city owned properties?
 - February 22 meeting will be from 8AM to 2:00 PM. Tour in the morning and discussion during and after lunch.

5. Discussion on Economic Development

Council took this item first because Ryan Fitzpatrick has brought additional people with him to discuss the item along with OCAD Director Deb Howard. Fisk expressed concern that the incentives were going to retail and that it was not a good investment for the city. Howard stated that all jobs in the city help the community and don't always have to be high paying. Weber felt that TIF was needed to attract business to the community. Mulfinger expressed that both opinions were correct, and that council must make tough decisions when it comes to tax payer dollars. Mulfinger said that he would reach out to Fitzpatrick and they would negotiate a deal for council to consider.

Adjournment

Dylan Mulfinger, City Administrator