



Minutes

City Council Work Session Meeting

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

April 14, 2025 - 6:30 PM

Roll Call

Present: Payne Weber, Lenz, Cantrell, Ricchio, Seeders

Also Present: Mayor DeVore, City Administrator Mulfinger, City Clerk/Treasurer Rigdon

Absent: NA

Pledge of Allegiance

Discussions

1. Discussion on the Utility Assistance Programing.

Mulfinger presented three ideas to the city council which would assist utility customers on repairs. Mulfinger stressed the repairs would help the overall utility system and help customers.

Seeders questioned how someone on rental assistance would qualify if the programs were designed for homeowners.

Weber raised concerns about providing assistance to customers when the city council voted for increases to address infrastructure. Weber was also concerned about wage verification on customers and how this would be handled by the city.

The city council asked for clarification on wage verification and how much staff time would be used for the programs. The city council was willing to discuss the topic again after staff provided more information.

Mulfinger assured the city council the programs would not be a burden. Limits on the amount of money used each year would be set and guidelines would be followed. Mulfinger stressed the point of the program is to ensure homeowners continue to make improvements whether that is fixing leaks, repairing or replacing their service line, or adding a back flow preventer to their sanity sewer.

2. Discussion on 1 South Frederick Avenue.

Mulfinger talked about the future of this building now that Matt Construction backed away from the catalyst grant and acquiring the building.

The city council voiced frustration the current property owner was not remediating the situation. One council member asked why the city was involved at all in the building.

Mulfinger stated the community expects the city to maintain certain parts of the community which affect all of the residents. Mulfinger went on to talk about preservation of the downtown and prioritizing housing and improvements in the downtown. Mulfinger said the city could back away, but the result will most likely be another grass area in the downtown.

Mulfinger provided a plan Council could consider. One last effort on the building would be to partner with the owner and send out a request for proposals. The city would ask the owner to put forth funding and the city would match the funding. Then the new owner would have fund to remediate the wall and work toward other improvements in the building.

The city council provided direction the city should not wait if the request for proposals is not successful. The building owner will need to remediate the problem this construction season.

3. Review of City Code Chapter 9, Cable TV.

The city council directed the City Administrator to place this code on the next agenda for removal.

Adjournment