

Regular Meeting of the  
Board of Mayor and Council  
June 11, 2013

The Board of Mayor and Council met in regular session on June 11, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building.

Present and presiding: Mayor Rick Johnson.

Council members present: Steve Allen, Alwilda Binkley, Lisa Walker, Jimmy Gill, Chris LaCrosse, and Roger Jackson.

Others present: Michael Armstrong, Rebecca Cohen, Mary Glasgow, Billy Harris, Anita Justice, Tim Adkins, Melissa Womack, Lee Davidson-Lose & Associates, Chuck Walker, Dewayne Noe, Angelia Williams, Lynn Bennett, Joan Case, Pete Case, Wade Reed, Bill Bennett, Stephanie Bennett, Paul R. Gupton, Rebecca Miller, Angela Bennett, Stacy Greer, Ethan Greer, Hannah Stanley, Greg Edrington, C. J. Edrington, Tony Young, April Hunter, and Cheryl Teasley.

Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. stating we have a quorum. He stated there is a public hearing on Ordinance #405, 406, and 407. Mayor Johnson said Ordinance #405 is for salary increases for Elected Officials, Mayor, Judge, and all Board Members as discussed in workshop. Ordinance #405 was read and Mayor Johnson said the ordinance is on file in the front office and he then asked if there were any questions. There being none Mayor Johnson said next we have Ordinance#406 which is for the 13/14 budget and it is also available if anyone would like a copy. After the ordinance was read Mayor Johnson asked are there any questions. Mayor Johnson said next is Ordinance#407 on water rates and asked to have that ordinance read. He asked if there were any questions on this ordinance and stated that it is on file in the front office if anyone would like a copy. With there being no questions Mayor Johnson closed the public hearing and commenced with the Council meeting. All those present for the public hearing were in attendance for the regular meeting.

A motion was made by LaCrosse, seconded by Gill to approve the May minutes as typed. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Public Forum:

Mayor Johnson asked if anyone would like to approach Council. Ms. Angelia Williams came forward and said she had a concern over the water rates being increased. She stated she has the highest bill of anyone she knows and feels the rates are totally unreasonable. Ms. Williams said people can't afford these water bills. Mayor Johnson said he would not disagree that the rates are higher than some others, but chemicals continue to go up, you have to consider the wear and tear on the water system, and that the State requires the water department to stay in the black. Mr. LaCrosse stated the high water rates were one of his biggest gripes when he came on Council, but after studying the City's audits and coming to understand that by law that water is 100% separate from the general funds he understood the reason for the rates being where they are. He went on to explain that water bill payments are used to pay the debt incurred by the water & sewer rehab, pay salaries, and run the department. Mr. LaCrosse said our rates are not far behind Pleasant View Utility and River Road. He went on to say the debt should be paid off in 5 to 6 years. Mr. Noe said in six years after this budget we should see a huge drop in our debt. Mr. LaCrosse said if we could do anything we would. Ms. Williams asked if they had investigated what

the State would do. Mayor said they would get us back in the black in one year by raising the rates. Mr. LaCrosse said the rates are only going up 2%. Ms. Williams asked will the employees receive salary increases. Mayor Johnson answered yes, but nothing out of line. Mr. LaCrosse said the raises are less than 1% of the overall water budget. Mr. Gill asked how much is your bill. Ms. Williams answered \$45.00 to \$50.00 just for me. Mr. LaCrosse said this is not very far out of line with other areas the same size as we are. Mayor said we share your concern.

Ms. April Hunter residing at 215 Hedges Lane #201 came forward and stated she had been on vacation and came home to a leaking toilet which she had repaired. She said her water bill is \$280.10 and asked if they would adjust the bill. Mayor Johnson told Council we have her paper work showing the repair. A motion was made by Gill, seconded by Allen to adjust her bill to an average of \$101.94 motion passed with a roll call vote of: Gill-yes, Allen-yes, Jackson-yes, LaCrosse-yes, Walker-yes, Binkley-yes, and Mayor-yes.

#### Old Business:

Mayor Johnson said we have Ordinance #405 for second reading with amendments. A short discussion ensued over the salary the elected officials and board members are receiving per meeting and that it had not been raised for nine years. A motion was made by Jackson, seconded by Gill to approve Ordinance #405 on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading with the amendments. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: Jackson-yes, Gill-yes, Walker-yes, Binkley-yes, Allen-yes, LaCrosse-abstain, and Mayor-yes.

A motion was made by LaCrosse, seconded by Binkley to approve Ordinance#406 on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading as amended with all changes made as discussed in workshop. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: LaCrosse-yes, Binkley-yes, Walker-yes, Allen-yes, Gill-yes, Jackson-yes, and Mayor-yes. Mr. LaCrosse asked that the budget be updated and have it at the next Budget meeting.

A motion was made by LaCrosse, seconded by Allen to approve Ordinance #407 on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: LaCrosse-yes, Allen-yes, Binkley-yes, Walker-yes, Gill-yes, Jackson-yes, and Mayor-yes.

#### New Business:

Mayor Johnson said the family of Chief Bennett is here with us tonight for us to honor him by naming the police training room after him. He asked the family to come forward and have their picture made with Council, Chief Coulon, and the plaque that would be hung in Chief Bennett's honor in the training room. Mr. Gill said Curtis would be proud of you all.

A motion was made by Gill, seconded by Jackson to approve writing off \$20,442.66 in uncollected water billing. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: Gill-yes, Jackson-yes, LaCrosse-yes, Allen-yes, Binkley-yes, Walker-yes, and Mayor-yes.

Mayor Johnson said next on the agenda is the GNRC-Planning contract. He said it has been reviewed by Jennifer. A motion was made by LaCrosse, seconded by Allen to approve the contract. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: LaCrosse-yes, Allen-yes, Binkley-yes, Walker-yes, Gill-yes, Jackson-yes, and Mayor-yes.

Mayor Johnson said the next item on the agenda is Billy's request to bid the wastewater plant project. He then asked Council for their approval to bid this out. Mr. Harris and Mr. Edrington approached Council and discussed the new design for the lab building. Mayor Johnson asked that there not be a lot

of discussion on this tonight. He said he would meet with Mr. Edrington and Billy to go over the new design. Mayor Johnson asked for a motion to bid out the lab and blower building. A motion was made by Gill, seconded by Walker to put out to bid the lab and blower buildings. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: Gill-yes, Walker-yes, Jackson-yes, LaCrosse-yes, Binkley-yes, Allen-yes, and Mayor-yes.

Mr. Harris asked for approval to put out to bid the order control system. A motion was made by Allen, seconded by Jackson to approve putting out to bid the order control system. Mr. LaCrosse said he had asked to have this put on the agenda for the budget meeting next week. He led a discussion on the cost for this system, the use of submersibles, and if there is revenue to cover this expenditure. After this discussion, Mayor asked if Mr. LaCrosse would rather defer this to budget. Mr. LaCrosse said I'm comfortable with this and I feel confident revenues will increase. Mr. Harris offered to email the information he had on the system to Mr. LaCrosse. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: Allen-yes, Jackson-yes, Binkley-yes, LaCrosse-yes, Walker-yes, Gill-yes, and Mayor-yes.

Mayor Johnson said next we have the GNRC contract for the Senior Center. A motion was made by Binkley, seconded by LaCrosse to approve the contract. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: Binkley-yes, LaCrosse-yes, Jackson-yes, Gill-yes, Walker-yes, Allen-yes, and Mayor-yes.

Mayor Johnson said the contract for Andrea Lane is next and asked for a motion to approve the contract. A motion was made by Gill, seconded by Walker to approve the contract. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: Gill-yes, Walker-yes, Jackson-yes, LaCrosse-yes, Binkley-yes, Allen-yes, and Mayor-yes.

Mayor Johnson said next is the contract for Katie Childs. A motion was made by Jackson, seconded by Allen to approve the contract. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: Jackson-yes, Allen-yes, Walker-yes, Binkley-yes, Gill-yes, LaCrosse-yes, and Mayor-yes.

Mayor Johnson said the next item of business is the contract for Lindy Murff. A motion was made by Gill, seconded by Allen to approve the contract. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: Gill-yes, Allen-yes, Binkley-yes, Walker-yes, Jackson-yes, LaCrosse-yes, and Mayor-yes.

Mayor Johnson said next is the contract for Michelle Neil. A motion was made by Gill, seconded by Allen to approve the contract. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: Gill-yes, Allen-yes, Binkley-yes, Walker-yes, Jackson-yes, LaCrosse-yes, and Mayor-yes.

Other:

Mayor Johnson asked is there anything else to be discussed tonight. A motion was made by Gill, seconded by Jackson to pay the bills. Motion passed with a roll call vote of: Gill-yes, Jackson-yes, LaCrosse-yes, Binkley-yes, Allen-yes, Walker-yes, and Mayor-yes.

A motion was made by Gill, seconded by Walker to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

---

Rick Johnson, Mayor

Phyllis Schaeffer, City Recorder