

**Regular City Council Meeting  
Mountain Lake City Hall  
Tuesday, February 18, 2020  
6:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Mike Nelson, Dana Kass, Darla Kruser, Andrew Ysker

Members Absent: David Savage

City Staff Present: Michael Schulte, City Administrator/Clerk; Maryellen Suhrhoff, City Attorney; William Pohlmann, Police Officer

Others Present: Deanna Anderson, Observer/Advocate; Doug Regehr, John Graupman, Bolton & Menk

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Nelson at 6:30 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda & Consent Agenda**

Motion by Kass, seconded by Ysker, to approve the agenda and consent agenda as presented.

Motion carried 4 – 0.

Bills: Checks #23366 – 23402, 656E – 660E

Payroll: Checks #65166 – 65197

Approve January 13 Lake Commission Minutes

Approve January 15 Library Board Minutes, January Expenditures, & January Report

Approve January 23 Utilities Commission Minutes

Approve February 3 City Council Minutes

**Public**

No one spoke during this portion of the meeting.

**Wastewater Ponds Project**

John Graupman, Bolton & Menk, provided the council an update on the wastewater ponds project. The bid opening occurred on January 10<sup>th</sup>. There was one contractor who bid on the new pond construction contract and there were three bids on the dredging contract. One contractor had a bid 1 million dollars less than the estimated price which brought concerns on the bid's accuracy. The contractor was contacted to review the numbers and later a letter was sent to the administrator and the engineer of withdrawing their bid. The next bidder was nearly 3 million

dollars higher. With the two contracts together, the project would be over the estimated 11.5 million dollars. The total project cost would likely result in raising sewer rates for rate payers and Milk Specialties who will be a significant user and paying a portion of the project. Upon thorough discussions between the administrator and engineer, the option of postponing the dredging to a later date to keep rates stable was the most feasible option. The Utilities Commission agreed and provided direction to postpone the dredging. Dredging is not mandatory at this time as the biosolids are under the 2 foot MPCA limit by 4-6 inches. With two new ponds to be built, the accumulation of biosolids should decrease its buildup in the current ponds. In 2032, nearly \$500,000 of debt service will expire in which the department could be more flexible to execute another project and be able to keep revenue and expenses in line. The biosolids would be monitored each year to ensure it does not reach above the 2 foot limit. A pro forma was presented to the council that uses 2% increases for all rate payers continuously and uses projected revenues and expenses for the next 20 years. If numbers meet projections, there will be no issues of paying the debt service of the PFA loan over 20 years. Motion by Kass, seconded by Ysker, to award Mathiowetz Construction Co. of a total project base bid price of \$8,346,000 to construct two new wastewater ponds and improvements contingent upon final loan application and project approval by the Public Facilities Authority. Motion carried 4 – 0. Motion by Kruser, seconded by Kass, to reject all bids submitted for the biosolids dredging project. Motion carried 4 – 0.

### **City Attorney**

An agreement was signed between a property owner along 10<sup>th</sup> Street and the attorney on behalf of the city which states that only 4 registered vehicles on a gravel or paved driveway can reside on the property, that all garbage and construction materials must be cleaned up by March 7<sup>th</sup>, and that no cars can sit on the front yard. If any violation of the agreement occurs within the next year the city has the right to enter the property and remove the vehicles or materials. The agreement will be brought to the judge tomorrow for approval. If the agreement is not approved, the city attorney has a compliance agreement prepared between the city and the property owner to offer to the property owner to sign. Option agreement letters will be sent to the property owners tomorrow to purchase the land for the wastewater ponds. Councilmember Kruser asked about a public nuisance along 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. The administrator and attorney will discuss further with Chief Bristol.

### **SCBAs – Fire Equipment**

The council approved to purchase self-contained breathing apparatus equipment with a down payment of \$80,000 in August of 2019. The remaining balance will be paid off over the next 5 years. As paperwork went through, shipping charges of \$200 were not added to the original amount. To accurately track the expense, a new motion is being requested. Motion by Kruser, seconded by Kass, to purchase the SCBA fire equipment with a down payment of \$80,200

instead of \$80,000. Voting aye: Nelson, Kruser, Kass. Voting nay: None. Abstain: Ysker. Motion carried 3 – 0.

**Presidential Primary Election**

The administrator briefly explained the presidential primary on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Polls will be open at the community center from 7:00am to 8:00pm like a normal election. Voters must choose a Democrat or Republic ballot and vote for one presidential candidate.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

**Approved March 2, 2020**

ATTEST:

---

Michael Schulte, Administrator/Clerk