

SPRINGVILLE CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

February 1, 2010

Mayor Rick Heeren called the regular meeting of the Springville City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. in Springville City Hall. Present on roll call: Grimley, Ballantyne, Neff, Shebetka and Gerdemann. Also present: Chuck Lange, Doug Beard, Russ, Swain, Steve Shaffer and Deputy Pavelka.

Consent Agenda: Motion by Neff, second by Shebetka to approve the consent agenda as posted. All ayes, motion carried.

Citizen's With Concerns Not on the Agenda: none.

Sheriff's Report: Deputy Pavelka gave the patrol report for January 25th thru February 1, 2010. January hours of service: 89.30. The Deputy noted the written report from January 5th through January 25, 2010 was incomplete due to computer work yet to be completed because of the move back to Cedar Rapids.

Maintenance: Both rear leaf springs on the dump truck were replaced due to one breaking. Hoddy Gates will be in this week to repair the electrical problem in the shop. Total project cost was estimated at \$2,500. The main breaker in the electrical panel for the 256 Broadway apartment failed. Hoddy Gates repaired the problem, however Chuck feels the electrical panel should be replaced in the near future. It was council consensus that Chuck get a bid from Hoddy Gates to replace the panel. Chuck ordered 25 ton of salt, which would bring the total salt usage this winter to 75 ton. Councilman Shebetka asked that the alley behind the school be cleared sooner in the day after a snow event as the alley is used by school personnel in transporting meals from one center to another.

Mayor: Mayor Heeren spoke to the council on working as a team, showing leadership and using sound judgment in order to operate as an effective council.

Clerk: Bixler noted the following reports: Library newsletter and calendar, 2009 wages and the January overtime report. Also noted: a \$3,277 dividend from Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities and correspondence from the attorney in reference to the City's door posting for delinquent utility bills.

Roger Shebetka reported on his attendance at the Linn County EMC meeting. He was given a tour of the EMA facility located at Kirkwood and noted the tour was very informative. Discussion was held at the meeting concerning instituting some kind of a charge for funding of hazmat operations.

The finance committee will on January 26th and will meet again this week.

Robin reported a summary copy of the personnel committees' recommendations for changes to the Personnel Manual were included in the council packet for council review. The recommendations will be an agenda item at the February 15th council meeting for discussion and possible action.

Old Business

Nuisance Abatement: Discussion was held on a "draft letter" composed by Atty. Hammond to the owner of dogs "running at large" informing the owner of the consequences of continuing to violate the City's animal ordinance. It was noted there have not been any problems for several months. Motion by Shebetka,

second by Grimley to hold off on forwarding a letter to the dog owner unless the problem should occur again. All ayes, motions carried.

173 Broadway Property: Council reviewed options given by the attorney in dealing with the dilapidated/unsafe house on that lot. Bixler will call the school to find out how they are proceeding with the demolition of the house on property they recently purchased and Ron Hoover of the Marion Building Department for information on declaring the house a dangerous building.

Attorney Update on Review of Documents for Building Inspection Contract Service with City of Marion: Council reviewed minor revisions to the City of Springville and City of Marion Building Department Responsibilities and Roles Policy as suggested by the attorney. Roger asked if it wouldn't be more cost efficient to hire an independent contractor with applicable knowledge. Discussion was held on the drawback of using an independent contractor and the reasoning of the P&Z Commission in recommending an agreement for services with Marion. Motion was made by Neff, second by Gerdemann authorizing the Mayor to sign the Responsibilities and Roles agreement with Marion. Shebetka nay, remaining ayes. Motion carried.

New Business:

Computer Technician: Discussion was held on a computer technician for the City. Sean Williams, former council member, previously performed all computer work for the City. Council expressed no problem with continuing with Williams as the computer technician. Bixler was directed to find out what Williams hourly rates are.

Hiring of a Police Office: Russ Swain, former Police Officer for Palo, was present to talk to the council about the City hiring Swain and creating its' own police department. Swain noted the former Palo squad car is for sale and comes totally equipped. Swain is a certified officer and has his own equipment. He felt start up cost would be minimal and many grants are available to help defray the cost of such items as capital equipment purchases. Council questions and discussion took place. Action on the proposal died for lack of a motion.

Utility Rate: Council reviewed a utility rate spreadsheet consisting of various rate increase scenarios for water, sewer and yard waste/recycling utilities. A utility rate study was completed for Springville by Iowa Rural Water and Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities. The rate spreadsheet was based on the recommendations of these reports. The finance committee recommended a conservative rate increase of \$2.50/1,000 gallons of water usage, no change to the sewer usage rate of \$4.00/1,000 gallons, an increase from the \$10 sewer minimum fee to \$12.25 and an increase to \$8.25 for yard waste/recycling. Roger inquired if this rate would be applicable for a long period of time. Bixler noted that the study took many things into consideration when calculating rates for the study. Operation and maintenance of the system, capital improvements, system debt, condition of the utility system, emergency repair episodes and reserves. The rate study recommended a water usage fee of \$3.95/1,000 gallons, but the finance committee felt this was too much of an increase. Bixler noted that the rates had not been raised for 6 years and would need to be raised over a period of time to meet the suggested rate of \$3.95/1,000 gallons of usage. Shebetka stated he would rather see a larger increase set for a longer period of time so citizens did not feel their rates were continually being raised. Motion was made by Ballantyne, second by Shebetka to increase utility rates as follows: \$3.00/1,000 gallons of usage for water with no increase in the minimum user fee of \$14.84, increase the sewer utility user fee to \$12.25 with no increase to the usage fee, raise yard waste/recycling to \$8.25 per month. All ayes (Neff left the meeting at 8:10 pm), motion carried.

FY 2010-11 Contract for Law Enforcement Services: Council reviewed the contract for law enforcement services with the Linn County Sheriff's Department. Motion was made by Shebetka, second by Gerdemann authorizing Mayor Heeren to sign the agreement for law enforcement services with the Linn County Sheriff's Department. All ayes, motion carried.

Pledge of Allegiance: Doug Beard requested to be heard in objection to Mayor Heeren's request to recite the Pledge of Allegiance at the start of council meetings. Council discussion followed. The request died for lack of a motion.

Ordinance #6-2009: AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO ADOPTION BY REFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE, 2006 EDITION AND THE INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE, 2006 EDITION AND PROVIDING PENALTIES. No action.

Motion was made by Grimley, second by Gerdemann to approve the second reading of **Ordinance #1-2010: AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE AN EAST WEST ALLEY THAT INTERSECTS LOTS 1 & 2 AND LOTS 3 & 4 OF BLOCK 13 OF THE CITY OF SPRINGVILLE, IOWA.** Roll call vote, Neff absent. All ayes, motion carried.

Motion was made by Grimley, second by Shebetka to approve the second reading of **Ordinance #2-2010: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SPRINGVILLE, IOWA BY ADDING A NEW SECTION LIMITING PARKING TO THE EAST SIDE OF 8th STREET.** Roll call vote, Neff absent. All ayes, motion carried.

Correspondence: The council reviewed correspondence from Representative Nate Willems and DOT District Engineer James Schnoebelen in reference to the J-Turn Intersection.

The next meeting of the Springville City Council is set for **February 15, 2010.**

Motion by Shebetka, second by Ballantyne to adjourn at 9:14 p.m. All ayes, motion carried.

Mayor

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

***minutes not official until approved by City Council*