Minutes of the City of Crofton

City Council Meeting

And Public Hearing

February, 12, 2024

At 6 P.M. Twenty-five friends and residents were in attendance when Mayor Bob Evans recognized and thanked Wanda Peterson for her quick and brave action to put out a small flaming fire in an extension cord on the 24th of January in the kitchen of the City Auditorium. She was given a gold key to the City that the Mayors’ Class had fabricated. The Mayor said he is proud and grateful to have people like Wanda and Gail living and caring about our City. Wanda said this a great City to live in and she just happened to be in the right place at the right time. She said she’s the quiet one Gail is the talker. After the presentation everyone was treated with a beautiful cake decorated with a thank you and a gold key from Peoples grocery and coffee.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. he pointed out the Open Meetings Poster on the wall. He called the Roll. Present was Chairperson Larry Peitz, Jason Wavrunek, and Jamie Miller. Absent James Murphy. Also, present was City Clerk Donna Cook, Head Maintenance Dustin Anderson, Code Enforcer David Benac, and more than 20 visitors.

The Mayor lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor asked for a motion to begin the Public Hearing for the sale of the three properties the City had decided to sell 30 days ago and advertised for three weeks. Motion by Peitz 2nd by Wavrunek to begin the Public Hearing. Vote-aye-all Motion carried. 6:35 P.M.

Micheal Schieffer asked if the council would consider selling parcels out of the 25 acres. The council said they would take bids on smaller sections of the 25 acres. Mr. Stallbaum asked why the city wanted to sell them. Council chair Peitz said, the city had planned to develop the land and bring development to the city. We haven’t been able to do that so selling to a developer would get all the city needs without the costs to build any of it. No reason to hang on to them when the city could use the money.

Joe Wiebelhous asked what if a farmer buys it. Bids have to be fair can’t deny anyone to bid. And the farmer could resale for development too.

Don Meink asked if the new lagoon sewer line will go through that property. Mr. Peitz said no and outlined the sewer route. No more comments.

Motion by Peitz 2nd by Miller to close the Public Hearing and resume the regular meeting. Vote-Aye-All. Motion carried. Regular meeting resumed at 6:45 P.M.

Motion to Approve the Minutes of the January 16th Meeting with correction by Peitz 2nd by Wavrunek. Vote-Aye-All. Motion carried.

Motion by Miller 2nd by Peitz to approve the claims as presented for February 2024. Vote-Aye-All. Motion carried.

Claims: Art’s Garbage-$5640.75-Black Hills Eng.-$1540.93-Cedar Knox Water-$15249.39-Cedar Knox Power-$2719.14-CHS-$86.60-Cody LaCroix(power to doors)$300.80-Colonial Life-$74.78-Crofton Journal-$691.93-Crofton Lumber-$63.33-EMC-$5229.90-FNBO (visa office salt spreader)-$4894.00-(visa Maintenance) $62.35-Great Plains-$290.11-Kayton-$103.52-Knox County (Peitz recall)-$3682.01-Knox County Sheriff-$3112.50-Leaf-$107.37-Midwest Lab.-$206.12-Milbrath-Sayler-$355.00-Modern Woodman-$427.76-NE Dept Revenue(sales tax)-$996.76-NE. Public Health Lab.-$15.00-Norfolk Daily News (Ads)-$199.80-One Call Concepts-$1.43-Peoples-$13.46-Quill (office supplies) $77.05-Steffen’s Station-$2110.74-Sun Life-$21.70-US Cellular-$95.86-NE. Dept of Revenue (Jan. Withholding)-$530.32-Yankton Fire & Safety-$36.75.

No comments during Public Comments.

Walker Zulkoski presented investment options for the City. He explained using funds that the city has in the bank to invest in mutual funds at a 5.35%. They handle the paperwork and make the investments. Mr. Peitz asked if the money was insured and no it isn’t. But they make safe as they can investments. The council will look into it and Ms. Miller will talk with the city bank Farmers and Merchants to see what they offer. Action was tabled.

The NE. Department of Transportation is updating the speed limits on N-12 and N-121 through Crofton and need a new Ordinance the old one was from 1981. Ms. Miller made the motion to wave the three readings of Ordinance 2-12-24, 2nd by Wavrunek. Vote-Aye-All. Motion carried. The City Clerk read the Ordinance out loud. Motion by Miller 2nd by Wavrunek to approve Ordinance 2-12-24 to approve the State recommendations of speed limits on N-12 and N-121 through Crofton. Vote-Aye-All. Motion carried.

The Mayor said the money for the new pool has not come through yet and isn’t expected till fall so the pool will be open for swimming again this summer. The council discussed JEO the firm that was asked to design the pool house. Their contract is up and they said a new pool house would cost six hundred thousand dollars to build. Motion by Peitz to keep JEO but ask for a projection of one hundred thousand dollars for a pool house, 2nd by Wavrunek. Vote-Aye-All motion carried. The council gave the clerk the go ahead to get the yearly swimming pool permit from the state at $40.00.

The community survey is out and some residents have received them. They are anonymous, so the community is encouraged to fill them out and return as soon as possible. The information will be used for applying for grants to help the government decide which communities have the greater need for the funds.

Treasurer Shawntel Tramp gave presentation to the council on setting up auto payments from the residents for the water payments. Farmers and Merchants are already set up for direct deposit of the payroll and can do the set up for auto pay for $240.00 a year. Many younger residents don’t use checks anymore and request this change. If we try it and it isn’t working out it can be stopped. Motion by Wavrunek 2nd by Miller to approve set up of direct payment of water bills. Vote-Aye-All. Motion carried.

In light of the possible kitchen fire because there is no heat in the kitchen and the pipes freeze nightly in the frigid temperatures. The Mayor found a heater for $150.00 that can me mounted on the wall and directed toward the sink. He will seek bids for installing it. Motion by Peitz 2nd by Wavrunek to get bids and buy the heater. Vote-Aye-All. Motion carried.

Dr. Carlson has given the City permission to divert the water from Omaha street through his property and into sewer on Harold Street. The City can do it themselves. Motion by Peitz 2nd by Wavrunek to divert the water to Dr Carlsons property. Vote-Aye-All. Motion carried.

Miller said she heard that some places pay for recycled cardboard and maybe the city could have just a cardboard box. She will look into who does and the costs. Recycle box tabled.

Mike Chase spoke for Planning and Zoning committee. He said they had a good public hearing.

Economic development will meet on Monday.

City Clerk reported the new half percent sales tax starts April 1st. There is one sealed bid so far for the property for sale. Bids are accepted till March 11. Cedar Knox Power has taken light pole rent off the poles.

Dustin Anderson reported a sewer problem on E 2nd street. An ongoing problem of plugging up. The line is only 4 inches and needs to be at least 6. He is looking at new lines and connection options.

David Benac new City Code Enforcer reported a busy week. He photographed some run-down properties and talked to two home owners. One is talking to an attorney to get the property straightened out and will sell when done. He gave them till spring to get back to him. Another doesn’t have the means to do much. He will look into options to help. He had a trash blowing around call and the home owners were gracious and cleaned everything up in two days. He called and thanked them. He’s looking at some junk in yards. He had a loose dog report and sent a letter to the owner. He said he doesn’t want to make anyone mad and wants to work with the residents, he surely doesn’t want to write any citations or tickets. He will be looking through the policies to see what needs updating. He just wants the best for the City.

Mayor Evans said he came across a pot hole trailer that would be great for the city. It can be rented and in one or two months with the purchase of fine gravel at $35.00 a ton and the oil the city already has the streets of Crofton could be repaired. It is $6000.00 a month. He will look at it in Lincoln during the Conference. The council is in favor and it will be on the agenda in March. He again thanked Wanda Peterson for her help and stated he is very proud to be the Mayor of this great City.

No Closed Session.

Motion to adjourn by Peitz 2nd by Miller. Vote-Aye-All. Motion carried.

Next regular scheduled City Council Meeting is March 11, 2024 at 6:30 P.M.

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Donna Cook City Clerk Mayor Bob Evans