

MAYOR
Tim Stearns

"A Valley
of
Friendliness"



COUNCIL MEMBERS
Adam Blackburn
Dave Mull
Kevin Pieters
Cory Schurman
Jon Schurman

The Steamboat Rock City Council met in regular session November 14th, 2022, 6:30 p.m. in the City Council chambers and available via zoom. Present were Mayor Stearns and the following council members: Adam Blackburn, Dave Mull, Kevin Pieters, Cory Schurman and Jon Schurman. Absent: No One. Also present were JJ Veld, JD Holmes and Renee Oltrogge.

Mayor Stearns called the meeting to order. Pieters moved, seconded by C. Schurman to approve the posted agenda. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: No One.

Pieters moved, seconded by Mull to approve the minutes from October 10th, 2022. Motion carried unanimously, Absent: No One. C. Schurman moved, seconded by Pieters the motion to approve City bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously, Absent: No One. Hours were presented for Renee Oltrogge, City Clerk and Kelly Haskin, Water/Sewer Supervisor. Blackburn moved, C. Schurman seconded the motion to approve hours as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: No One.

Public comments: A building permit was presented for 308 6th St for demolition of both blue houses. C. Schurman moved, Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: No One. A family stopped this weekend at The Rockstop with a flat tire and was graciously helped by Ryan, Ron, and Mason. They wanted to say thank you so much for your assistance with changing the tire. She truly believes this is the Valley of Friendliness!

Melissa Johanson, Librarian was unavailable to present the library report. Emily Schuneman was added to the Library board.

Fire Department report: Fire Chief Scott Williams unavailable. Pieters advised Fire Department Santa will pass out Santa bags at the tree lighting. Mayor Stearns discussed a potential grant for refacing the Firehouse which would require a 25% match from the City. Discussion that may be the right time to include insulating the City maintenance garage portion of the same building. Blackburn asked about the can receptacle after being moved to the fire station. Pieters advised it is available and you can put your refundable recycle cans and bottles in the receptacle in a bag.

JJ Veld presented the public works report. Advising the dry beds have been cleaned out and he believes the liquid went septic and we might get red flagged due to high ammonia readings. Those high readings are already dropping back down to established acceptable readings. Veld advised by 10/2024 the EPA wants a water service line survey of each property describing and proof of the line material, the material of the fittings, and the material used in the joints to make sure there is no lead. Veld advised if there is no accurate existing record, we may be required to either dig it up for viable proof or show receipts of proof. There is no timeline of when replacement needs to be completed and there is still a lack of rules of what products needs to be used for replacement. Discussion how to attempt to tackle this practically and who is fiscally responsible for each part of the water starting at the mains, then to the curb stop, then into each property. Veld advised the gym has been left unnecessarily messy on Sunday evenings and lights left on. C. Schurman asked if adult supervision is required to have the gym open, which it is. Discussion about starting to lock the gym if the messes continue. C. Schurman thanked Abby Veld for her extra work for cleaning the building.

Mayor Stearns advised on distressed properties; No new activity except 308 6th St & 601 W Sycamore: New building permit for demolition received and approved today.

Nuisance Reporting sheets were reviewed then shredded.

Grant status per Oltrogge: FEMA Hazard Mitigation assistance Grant for the lift station backup generator is on phase 5 of questions and still need quotes. Application for a USDA Grant to be used for a sewer line on the west side of the river has been reviewed, requested additional information was sent today. The asbestos study has been completed and the receipt for payment will be submitted for reimbursement by the grant. The gym lights have arrived and estimated date for installation is 12/2-4/22. Discussed the lift rental and

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the need to protect the gym floor with plywood where the lift will be traveling. The gym will be closed those days.

Hardin County Conservation & Sewer Hook Up: Mayor Stearns advised they are moving forward with our grant application and the County is willing to help in some manner.

J. Schurman reported on street repairs activity. Everything has been measured to get quotes.

Nuisance Ordinance Update. In process but no report tonight.

Municipal Infractions Ordinance Update. In process but no report tonight.

Animal Control Code Ordinance update. In process but no report tonight.

The old City Hall building is believed to have changed hands. If a request to remove the Siren is received, we should ask for a delay due to a potential change in ownership and operations of sirens county wide.

Making the 4-way stop intersection at the end of the River's Edge Trail and adjacent to the Rockstop safe for pedestrian and bike traffic was discussed. Anticipation of many bikers patronizing the Rockstop lead this discussion. Much of the vehicle traffic doesn't come to a full stop at this intersection. Mayor Stearns discussed with County Engineer, Taylor Roll different ideas of signs, flashing yellow lights, or rumble strips- all of which have limited success per Roll. Mayor Stearns asked everyone to think about other ideas. Blackburn suggested a pedestrian walk and Pieters advised just to put up signs. C. Schurman asked to check on city liability if we do put in a crosswalk.

Zoning Commission example was given and discussed and Oltrogge requested ideas of what the council is looking for, to be able to hone in on examples from other cities with similar population for the next meeting.

Mayor Stearns presented a potential new city code Ordinance dealing with all kinds of off-road vehicles. Document written to encompass new State & County codes and customized towards issues Steamboat Rock residents are most interested in.

Mayor Stearns advised the very large Ash tree near the shelter house needs to be removed. About 1/3 of the tree died during 2022 and a quote of \$1,800 has been received to remove all of the tree except appropriate size for firewood. Includes stump removal. The wood remaining will be offered (method not yet determined) to Steamboat Rock residents who use wood for heat in their homes. C. Schurman moved to accept the bid, Blackburn seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: No One.

Oltrogge has received a bid to digitize all the old city maps in City Hall of \$230.00. Pieters moved to approve the bid, J. Schurman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: No One.

Mayor Stearns discussed the asbestos survey results for the old school building, and bids for removal will be coming shortly. Mayor Stearns stated there are 16 of 67 places tested that have asbestos; the two biggest spots are roofs.

Oltrogge advised The Friendly Valley Times has a new volunteer Creative Editor in Chief of Heidi Young. Please thank her if you see her. City Hall will still be handling the printing and mailing of the newsletter. Volunteers needed. Blackburn suggested the Library staff might have some time available for a task or two related to the newsletter. Funding for the newsletter was discussed. Blackburn suggested recipients make a free will donation in honor of Carol Williams. Beginning in December the information for the newsletters should be emailed to hry@heartofiowa.net by the 15th of each month, then mailed out by the 25th of the month.

Mayor Stearns discussed the DNR proposed parking and river access on City property north of the City solar panel array. Purpose of this proposed facility is to provide additional river activity parking and access once the dam is removed to encourage tourism and the use of the river. Pieters and Blackburn asked if this would restrict the city from future expansion in that location. Mayor Stearns advised this parking and access area is in the 100 year flood plain. Mayor Stearns explained the grants, funding, and proposed City portion of

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expenses. This is a progress report to get a feel for if the City would be willing or able to make any financial contribution to the project.

Mayor Stearns presented a summary of The Hardin County Economic Engineering meetings. The purpose of these meetings is for our communities/county to put a plan in place focused on making the economy grow faster than the population. Mayor Stearns explained Steamboat Rock needs to figure out how to capture income from an already expanding tourism base and how to best be a bedroom community to other industrial based cities. The county needs about 120 new homes in the next 10 years to provide housing for jobs that are here and any new jobs created. Discussion at the meetings about hiring additional staff to help our existing economic development folks. If that happens, all the communities and businesses in the county would need to assist with funding. Based on population, Steamboat Rock would need to contribute about 1% of the additional cost per year. This additional staff would help track available resources each community has, provide statistical analysis of meeting any goals determined by the entire county, and assist with marketing the county outside of Iowa.

Mayor Stearns discussed the worksheets for the Budget 2023-2024FY.

Oltrogge explained due to family illness that she will be resigning and her job description was discussed. Oltrogge advised she will stay as long as possible to assist with finding the next clerk, training, and transition them into the role. Oltrogge is highly respected for her work as our City Clerk and there was lengthy discussion about her ability to work remotely and have limited in office hours to assist until a suitable person is trained and in place.

Mayor's comments: The Visionary Group continues to accept donations for the new Christmas lights with the official tree lighting 11/23/22. Mayor Stearns said he is thankful for each of the members of the City Council with their insight and expertise in a variety of areas to help keep the City functioning, and the exceptional work that Veld and Oltrogge accomplish.

C. Schurman moved to adjourn the meeting, Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Absent: No One. Meeting adjourned at 9: 43 pm.

Timothy A. Stearns, Mayor

Renee Oltrogge, City Clerk