

February 24, 2020

The Ellsworth City Council met in recessed session on the above date at 5:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Mayor Mark Kennedy called the meeting to order. Council members present were Darcy Hansen, Jessica Kootz, Stephen Magette, Tyler Renard and Wayne Scritchfield. Mayor asked all to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Also in attendance were MaryAnn Heard; Alan Rusch, Ellsworth County Independent Reporter; Joe Travnichek, W/S Superintendent; Emil Halfhill, Chief of Police; Stacie Schmidt, Ellsworth County Economic Development Director; Melissa Miller, Sherman, Hoffman & Hoffman; Patrick Hoffman, City Attorney; Robert Kepka, Fire Chief; Ronnie Tenbrink, Recreation Director; Sara & Clint Freeman; Delvin Bettenbrock, Street Superintendent; David and Cindy Miller and Rick Sippel.

The Deputy City Clerk / Treasurer presented 2 requests for extensions for Water/Sewer Terminations. MaryAnn Heard asked if Council would make a permanent change to the due date so she wouldn't have to continue paying a penalty. The Council informed her there is nothing that can be done at this time. Renard motioned to approve the water/sewer utility extension requests. Kootz seconded the motion. When put to vote all vote aye. Motion carried.

There was no Consent Agenda.

David Miller would like the Council Members to use microphones. Mayor will look into what it would cost the City and to see if it's necessary.

There was no Unfinished Business.

Stacie Schmidt presented a Cost Benefit Analysis for the Freeman Car Wash. The Freeman's are requesting TIF Funding for the project. The report reflected the City would still have a gain over the next ten years even after the expense from the sewer line extension. The City only received one bid for the sewer extension. Discussion then followed. Scritchfield made a motion to approve the bid from City Plumbing & Htg. for the Evans Street sewer extension project in the amount of \$48,083.25 contingent upon them completing the contract with dates and use the money from the TIF Funding for this project. Magette seconded the motion. When put to vote all vote aye. Motion carried.

Delvin Bettenbrock informed the Council about the concrete proposal for the Street which is actually public parking between Casey's General Store and Ellsworth Steakhouse. Delvin would like to see something done because of the semis will be using this as a street once Casey's installs diesel pumps where the old car wash is currently located. Council would like Casey's to come and visit with them. Tabled until more information.

Delvin Bettenbrock reported that the pedestrian bridge located at the High School low field off of West 10<sup>th</sup> St. is washing out under the concrete foundation and it is a wooden bridge.

He would like to replace it with a 30 ft. galvanized foot bridge, which should last for another 40 years. Discussion then followed. Renard made a motion to approve the 30 ft. pedestrian bridge and concrete not to exceed \$4,000. Hansen seconded the motion. When put to vote all vote aye. Motion carried.

Delvin Bettenbrock presented 3 bids for the 2020 chip seal street project. Renard made a motion to accept the 2020 chip seal bid from Circle C Paving in the amount of \$46,327.75. Scritchfield seconded the motion. When put to vote all vote aye. Motion carried.

Delvin Bettenbrock responded to the Council's previous request to get a bid on overlaying the cemetery roads. The bid from Venture Corp. was \$76,000. Discussion then followed. The Council decided to go with Delvin's recommendation to just tear up what currently is there and put down gravel.

Ronnie Tenbrink presented a bid from Shep's Painting to repaint the ballfield concession stand. The bid is for labor only and the City will provide the paint and materials. Discussion then followed. Scritchfield motioned to approve the bid from Shep's Painting not to exceed \$2500. Magette seconded the motion. When put to vote all vote aye. Motion carried.

Joe Travnichek presented 2 bids to repair the Alco Lift Station. Discussion then followed. Magette motioned to approve the bid from Yost Electric to replace obsolete electrical panel and gauging equipment in the Alco Lift Station in the amount not to exceed \$15,650.00. Scritchfield seconded the motion. When put to vote all vote aye. Motion carried.

Patrick Hoffman left at 6:35pm.

Joe Travnichek informed the Council he was only able to get 1 bid for the new city shop wiring project. Joe stated it was hard to get bids for this project because we have asked for them before but never followed through with the project because the bids have been always been too high. Much discussion then followed. Will table this for now but would like to create a committee to decide what is actually needed.

Chief Halfhill presented 2 bids for a desktop computer for Police Department Secretary/Court Clerk. Discussion then followed. Hansen motioned to approve a desktop computer and installation for the Police Department Secretary/ Court Clerk not to exceed \$1400. Kootz seconded the motion. When put to vote all vote aye. Motion carried.

Bob Kepka presented a copy of the 50/50 Cost Share Grant he would like to apply for. If he is awarded the Grant, he would like to purchase 50 Wildland Jackets which cost \$5800. Discussion then followed. Magette motioned to approve Bob Kepka to apply for the 50/50 Cost Share Grant for Wildland Jackets, utilizing municipal equipment for initial cost. Scritchfield seconded the motion. When put to vote all vote aye. Motion carried.

Delvin Bettenbrock requested Council's approval to finish the pads which hold brick planters/trash containers along the Safe Routes to School sidewalk. Delvin believes we have 3 to

finish but each one is approximately \$500. Discussion then followed. Council advised him to finish the project since it was started.

Joe Travnichek asked permission from the Council to sell the old Jet Vac Truck and trailer. Scritchfield motion to authorize Joe Travnichek to sell old Vac Equipment and surplus property on Purple Wave. Renard seconded the motion. When put to vote all vote aye. Motion carried.

Joe Travnichek informed the Council he was approached by another City to do work with our Jet Vac Truck and Mayor authorized him to go. Joe checked with insurance company to make sure we are covered and we are. He is also needing to know what we should charge, his suggested \$300 per hr. for labor and equipment. Discussion then followed. Scritchfield would like the City Attorney to draw up an agreement to cover the City for when doing work for others.

Joe Travnichek let the Council know well #10 is moving along and we should be able to drill a well next month. He also reported on the City's water loss and how he has corrected this. Discussion then followed.

Bob Kepka left at 7:05pm.

Ronnie Tenbrink updated the Council on the future Sports Complex agreement and Mid America Pool will be here in March to start working on the pool.

Kootz wanted to know why we are not using the current facilities for the Complex. Ronnie said we don't have enough space behind the baseball fields because of homes and on the low fields there are trees and a concrete pad, this could be used for fields but need to remove the trees.

Scritchfield checked out the damaged floor and water issue in the new city shop. His suggestion is to remove the concrete section which is damaged, recompact it, relay it, fix the water coming in under the door, change direction of down spouts and put more screws in the roof to stop the water from coming in. He also presented boundary maps which had come from U.S. Census Bureau that need to be updated. Mayor stated he would work with City Hall on this.

There being no further business on proper motion the meeting was adjourned.

Angela Mueller  
Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer