

March 23, 2020

The Ellsworth City Council met in recessed session on the above date at 5:30 P.M. over Zoom Conference Call due to COVID-19.

Mayor Mark Kennedy called the meeting to order. Council members present were Darcy Hansen, Jessica Kootz, Stephen Magette, Tyler Renard and Wayne Scritchfield.

Also in attendance were Alan Rusch, Ellsworth County Independent Reporter; Joe Travnichek, W/S Superintendent; Emil Halfhill, Chief of Police; Patrick Hoffman, City Attorney; Ronnie Tenbrink, Recreation Director; Delvin Bettenbrock, Street Superintendent; Rick Sippel; Jon Halbgewachs, Kirkham Michael & Assoc.; and Rusty Varnado.

Magette motioned to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the resignation of Linda Kohls from the Tourism Committee and a Cereal Malt Beverage License for Paden's Place LLC. Renard seconded the motion. When put to vote all vote aye. Motion carried.

Mayor informed Council he will appoint someone to fill Linda Kohls position on the Tourism Committee in May.

Jon Halbgewachs reviewed the 1302 document for the Neighborhood Multi-Use Path and answered questions. More discussion then followed. Magette motioned to authorize Mayor to sign the Neighborhood Multi-Use Path 1302 Document with Deputy Clerk attesting his signature. Hansen seconded the motion. When put to vote all vote aye. Motion carried.

Patrick Hoffman informed the Council about the proposed Ordinance concerning COVID-19 issues.

Hansen motioned to approve the following Ordinance:

An Ordinance Relating to the Violation of an Order by the Local Health Officer or Board of Health.

Renard seconded the motion. When put to vote all vote aye. Motion carried. The ordinance was numbered 3101.

Mayor reported on the Local Emergency Management meeting which was Tuesday prior to council meeting stating they recommend closing all city owned buildings to the public because of COVID-19. Discussion then followed. Kootz motioned to ratify the Mayor's closing of all City owned buildings to the public as of noon on March 18, 2020. Magette seconded the motion. When put to vote all vote aye. Motioned carried.

Patrick Hoffman reported on what other communities are doing about waiving late fees on utilities. Discussion then followed. Tabled until next meeting.

Deputy City Clerk advised the Council about the water coming in behind the kitchen cabinets in the basement of City Hall. She is suggesting the upper and lower cabinets be removed in the area where the water is coming in and putting back only a cabinet where the sink currently is so we would be able to wash hands and a few dishes. Discussion then followed concerning the roof. Renard motioned to approve the quote for the basement cabinet from the Kansas Correctional Industries not to exceed \$2000. Kootz seconded the motion. When put to vote all vote aye. Motion carried.

Ronnie Tenbrink presented two bids. One bid is for the chemical for the pool and the other is for baseball equipment. Magette motioned to approve the two bids from the Recreation Department. Kootz seconded the motion. When put to vote all vote aye. Motion carried.

Golf course fairway mower will be tabled until another meeting.

Chief Halfhill reported on information from Governor Kelly concerning vehicle tags and driver's license renewals. Due to COVID-19 people can not renew them so they will be given a grace period until the Counties Offices are open again. On the properties for abatement the police department has decided to wait because the companies that will be doing the cleanup will be coming from out of town. The RAM plant is also shut down so don't know when the new Police pickup will be here but would like to get approval to purchase additional equipment for the pickup. Renard motioned to approve the quote from Phoenix Emergency Vehicles to outfit the 2020 RAM not to exceed \$2690. Kootz seconded the motion. When put to vote all vote aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Kennedy would like the water and sewer department to have more separation due to COVID-19. He is asking for suggestions on how to make it work. Joe Travnichek said his plan is to have 3 people work one week the other 3 people off that week then switch the following week. They will be paid 40 hours no matter if they work or not. Will also get 2 or 3 people from the street department to cross train. They will pack a lunch and leave at 4pm to keep them from going to Kwik Shop or Casey's.

Mayor Kennedy would like all department heads to wait on large purchases until the COVID-19 crisis passes. Everyone is to keep track of all of their department expenses related to COVID-19.

Patrick Hoffman reported Municipal Court will be rescheduled for April or possibly May. This council meeting is setup based on the Attorney General's recommendations and is compliant with the opening meeting laws. If anyone has any suggestions on how to make the meeting better let the Mayor know. Congress also passed a law requiring employers to pay employees who are under 14-day quarantine to stay home. He will try to keep the Council informed on anything new concerning the COVID-19.

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

Angela Mueller  
Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer