

FALLS CITY CITY COUNCIL		MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2024	
The Falls City City Council met in regular session on Monday, September 9, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Center located at 320 N. Main Street			
Council Members Present:			
Council President Amy Houghtaling joined via phone, Councilor Nick Backus, Councilor Martha Jirovec, Councilor Tony Meier, Councilor Dennis Sickles and Councilor Lori Jean Sickles arrived at 6:38 p.m.			
Staff Present:			
City Recorder Jeremy Teal			
AGENDA		ACTION	
Announcements, Appointments, Appreciations & Proclamations		There were none.	
Public Comment		<p>Mayor Bailey opened the public comments at 6:02 p.m.</p> <p>Boyd Lamprecht suggested paving in the speed bumps on Mitchell Street rather than the plastic ones the City purchased.</p> <p>Jim Miner noted the clean up at the mill lot won't work with 1 gate. Mayor Bailey stated there were 2 gates, on the west and south, and they were measured for dump trucks.</p> <p>Tracy Young noted the City owned 12 properties and that was enough considering things couldn't get done around town. She mentioned there was a dangerous tree in the upper park near the bathrooms that was hollow may hit bathroom or the gazebo. She suggested the City ask Polk CDC if they will buy the Sheldon property and do what they do with property. She commented that the City should just buy a brush cutter with the grant instead of renting one. Mayor Bailey asked what grant she was referring to. Ms. Young stated that John said he received an \$8,000 grant to hire a brush cutter. She mentioned that the City should hire someone to maintain the properties during May thru September. She advised that Mgr. Foscoli and Fire Chief Gilbert needed to inspect the trailer park annually under the conditional use permit. Councilor Jirovec stated that a list of dangerous trees should be given to Mr. Teal and he would make sure they got inspected. Mayor Bailey noted that the ARPA funds were a</p>	

	<p>possibility to remove trees as to not cost the City anything.</p> <p>Tina Thompson suggested moving public comments to after all the Council dealings. Mayor Bailey agreed it would be better at the end. Ms. Thompson stated that the public should give input before a decision was made. Mayor Bailey noted that was why the Council was elected by the people to make the decisions. Council D Sickles stated the problem with town hall meetings instead of a Council meeting was that nothing ever got done and they lasted until midnight.</p> <p>Ms. Thompson noted the Council President Houghtaling was talking about appropriating the funds from Polk CDC to do groundwork on Lombard. Mayor Bailey stated that was a Polk CDC proposal, not Council President Houghtaling. Ms. Thompson noted that was a conflict of interest and she would like to see the public comments after the council dealings. Councilor Jirovec suggested downloading the agenda and bring it to public comment.</p> <p>Mayor Bailey closed the public comments at 6:17 p.m.</p>
<p>Consent Agenda a) August 5, 2024 Minutes</p>	<p>It was moved by Councilor Backus to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Meier and CARRIED with a vote of 5-0 with Councilors Backus, Jirovec, Meier, D sickles, and Council President Houghtaling voting YES.</p>
<p>Reports or Comments from Mayor and Council Members a) Mayor's Report</p>	<p>Mayor Bailey stated he had been questioned about the fencing surrounding the new resource center. He noted there was no homeless shelter going in, but the goal of the fence was to bring in dental and eye vans to a secure location. He mentioned that several RVs had been dumped in lot and the fence would help prevent individuals from doing donuts in the mill lot. He mentioned the cleanup day would continue in the mill lot with a perfect in and out through. He mentioned citizens were concerned about the LCB and the City owned it and volunteers were working to</p>

<p>b) Councilor Comments</p> <p>c) Park & Rec Committee</p> <p>d) Public Works Committee</p> <p>e) Historic Landmark Committee</p> <p>f) Polk CDC Fund Discussion</p>	<p>make it look better. He noted the school district partnered with a FCSD grant for students to earn a level 1 heavy machinery certification over the summer.</p> <p>Tina Thompson asked about follow-through. Council President Houghtaling reported that 5 started the program and 4 finished.</p> <p>Councilor Jirovec advised there were grants for educational purposes coming next year. Councilor D Sickles stated the fall sports seasons had started with volleyball and football.</p> <p>Mayor Bailey noted the two committees were consistent with each other regarding the bathrooms. He stated the plan was to install new stall doors, video cameras, and secure the restrooms.</p> <p>Councilor Meier noted the cameras were a good idea and suggested the restrooms get locked when no attendant was available.</p> <p>Tina Thompson suggested wrapping the meters with plastic bottoms that were notorious for cracking.</p> <p>Council President Houghtaling stated they had completed more interviews, and it was going well.</p> <p>Mayor Bailey noted there were two Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to discuss.</p> <p>Council President Houghtaling outlined the two MOUs. She noted one would give Polk CDC the funds and forgive the City park loan. She stated the second would give Polk CDC the funds, forgive the City park loan, and fund land studies on any properties they would like to build on.</p> <p>Tina Thompson the money was for loans for citizens. Councilor Jirovec stated the citizens still have access to loans and grants. Ms. Thompson noted that if the money was given back it would be gone forever. Councilor Jirovec noted the</p>
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citizens would have access to a much larger pot of money.

Councilor D Sickles noted the City was not in the loan lending business and had no idea how to manage loans.

Council President Houghtaling advised there had been 66 households have received Loan funds for rehab for a total of \$1,358,585.39 over the years, 49 households have received grant funds for rehab for a total of \$326,927.40. She noted that of this amount 35 households received grants to hook up to the first community sewer system between 1990 and 1993. She advised that a total of 115 owner-occupied homes in Falls City have received low interest loans or grants for rehab and connection fees to the community sewer system. She stated that after Polk CDC attains the CDFI accreditation they would be back within 6-12 months for the money again. She stated there was already another fund that could be loaned and granted to citizens already.

Councilor D Sickles noted that giving the money back to Polk CDC didn't preclude the citizens from getting loans but opened a larger pool of money for citizens to get loans faster.

Councilor LJ Sickles stated the more towns are involved, the more money available for loans and grants. She noted that stalling would only delay the inevitable.



Mayor Bailey stated that all the legal stuff coming before Council was the best options for citizens for the most money in the future.

Councilor Backus suggested giving the money back to Polk CDC since other cities had already pooled their money with them.

Councilor Jirovec advised that if five people applied for \$40,000 each then the \$200,000 fund would zero out. She noted that giving the money to Polk CDC would be a revolving replenishing fund with more money for loans and grants.

	<p>Mayor Bailey advised MOU #1 would give Polk CDC the money and forgive our park loan and MOU #2 would give Polk CDC the money and forgive our park loan and pay for land assessment studies on Polk CDC approved property.</p> <p>Council President Houghtaling declared a potential conflict of interest as she is the president of the Polk CDC board.</p> <p>It was moved by Councilor Jirovec to approve MOU #1. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor LJ Sickles and CARRIED with a vote of 6-0 with Councilors Backus, Jirovec, Meier, D sickles, LJ Sickles and Council President Houghtaling voting YES.</p>
<p>Reports from City Manager & Staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Fire Report b) Public Works Report c) City Manager's Report d) Park Restroom Upgrades 	<p>There were no comments.</p> <p>There were no comments.</p> <p>Mayor Bailey gave Mr. Foscoli's report regarding the wastewater treatment plant, Community Resource Center project, the RARE student, code enforcement, and the upper park restroom vandalism.</p> <p>Mayor Bailey noted the vandalism at park restrooms was concerning. He advised that staff recommends purchase of metal dispensers, video cameras, secured doors and plumbing upgrades.</p> <p>Councilor Backus stated the public works committee partially agreed to the work but wanted tour first. He noted he wasn't sure what was needed or why he should agree to it.</p> <p>Councilor Jirovec suggested checking on dead trees in the park and the self-made trails before moving forward.</p> <p>Councilor LJ Sickles asked for cost estimates. LJ get estimates on cost.</p>

	<p>Mayor Bailey explained that more information was needed before a decision could be made.</p>
<p>Resolutions</p> <p>a) Resolution 11-2024</p> <p>b) Resolution 12-2024</p> <p>c) Resolution 13-2024</p> <p>d) Resolution 14-2024</p>	<p>Mayor Bailey reported with the passing of Rick Zunck the City would like to dedicate the foot bridge in his name. He noted there would be a plaque and ceremony to dedicate the bridge.</p> <p>It was moved by Councilor D Sickles to approve the Resolution 11-2024. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Meier and CARRIED with a ROLL CALL vote of 6-0 with Councilors Backus, Jirovec, Meier, D sickles, LJ Sickles and Council President Houghtaling voting YES.</p> <p>Mayor Bailey reported the budget amendment was a FEMA reimbursement and OSFM Grant. Councilor Jirovec stated she would like to table the Resolution to speak with Mr. Foscoli.</p> <p>Mayor Bailey reviewed the law enforcement Resolution for a deputy in Falls City. He noted the deputy would cost the City \$30,000. Councilor Backus asked how easy it would be to back out of the agreement. Mayor Bailey noted the City would not be able to backout.</p> <p>It was moved by Councilor D Sickles to approve the Resolution 13-2024. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Meier and CARRIED with a vote of 6-0 with Councilors Backus, Jirovec, Meier, D sickles, LJ Sickles and Council President Houghtaling voting YES.</p> <p>Mayor Bailey stated the Polk County Hazardous Mitigation Plan was a requirement for future funding from FEMA.</p> <p>It was moved by Councilor LJ Sickles to approve the Resolution 14-2024. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Jirovec and CARRIED with a vote of 6-0 with Councilors Backus, Jirovec, Meier, D sickles, LJ Sickles and Council President Houghtaling voting YES.</p>

<p>Good of the Order</p>	<p>Councilor LJ thanked everyone for summer celebration and thanked Mayor Bailey for cooking.</p> <p>Amy thanked Keith and John for the landscaping plan at the resource center. She noted they had received a lot of donations, and she appreciated all their hard work.</p> <p>Mayor Bailey stated the citizen participation was valuable to the City. He noted he needed to research the past town hall meetings because the voice of the community needs to be heard. He suggested maybe a Saturday meeting. He mentioned that it was important to sit and speak about issues without disrupting the Council meetings.</p> <p>Tina Thompson suggested a Sunday evening meeting.</p> <p>Councilor Jirovec noted there would be a seed saving class on Saturday, September 21 at the community center.</p> <p>Boyd Lamprecht mentioned the old bridge from Mitchell Street would fit across the creek at the end of Dayton Street then the City would have two bridges to get out of town. Council Meier noted that Mr. McConnell had spoken to the County regarding the bridge.</p>
<p>Adjourn</p>	<p>There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.</p>
<p>Read and approved this <u>7</u> day of <u>October</u> 2024.</p> <p>Mayor: <u></u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>City Recorder: <u></u></p>	