

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
June 30, 2020**

The Wayne City Council met in special session at the Wayne Fire Hall on Tuesday, June 30, 2020, at 5:07 o'clock P.M.

Mayor Cale Giese called the meeting to order, with the following in attendance: Councilmembers Dwaine Spieker (arrived at 5:17 p.m.), Terri Buck, Jon Haase, Jennifer Sievers, Chris Woehler, Jason Karsky, Matt Eischeid and Jill Brodersen; City Attorney Amy Miller; City Administrator Wes Blecke; and City Clerk Betty McGuire

Notice of the convening meeting was given in advance by posting in three places on June 26, 2020, and a copy of the meeting notice and agenda were simultaneously given to the Mayor and all members of the City Council. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the Council convened in open session.

Mayor Giese advised the public that a copy of the Open Meetings Act was located on the southwest wall of the Fire Hall as well as on the City of Wayne website at cityofwayne.org/8/Government, and was available for public inspection. In addition, he advised the public that the Council may go into closed session to discuss certain agenda items to protect the public interest or to prevent the needless injury to the reputation of an individual and if such individual has not requested a public hearing.

Roger Protzman, representing JEO Consulting Group, Inc., presented Change Order No. 3, which is a decrease of -\$1,410.50 to Rutjens Construction, Inc., for the "2019 Water Transmission Main Project." This represents some additions (e.g. additional drain line for air release manhole, hydrant) as well as some lower quantities for the part of the project relating to Todd Luedeke, for a net decrease of \$1,410.50.

Councilmember Brodersen made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Buck, approving Change Order No. 3, which is a decrease of -\$1,410.50 to Rutjens

Construction, Inc., for the “2019 Water Transmission Main Project.” Mayor Giese stated the motion, and the result of roll call being all Yeas, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Because the issue with M&B Quality Concrete, contractors on the “Restoration of Walking Trail Project,” has been taken care of, the engineer on the project has requested that the \$100,000 previously withheld from Application and Certificate of Payment No. 2 at the last meeting be paid.

Councilmember Brodersen made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Eischeid, approving Application and Certificate of Payment No. 2b for \$100,000.00 to M&B Quality Concrete for the “Restoration of Walking Trail Project.” Mayor Giese stated the motion, and the result of roll call being all Yeas, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

The Council discussed the following retreat items:

- Funding Assistance for Wayne Community Housing Development Corporation (WCHDC)

Trish Peters, Chairperson of the Board, has found a grant that was from 2018 that they have 24 months to act on. She has asked if the City would be willing to put any funds into a matching portion of a \$40,000 grant for the WCHDC. Administrator Blecke recommended a matching portion of up to \$20,000. They began to solicit the local stakeholders in community housing – banks, real estate companies, title insurance agents, and they have been able to secure \$20,000 in grants from non-profit organizations. The portion for the City would come from the economic development portion (1.85% that customers pay on their electric bills for economic development). It would come from the portion that is given to the Community Redevelopment Corporation. This grant would be used for payroll, facility rent, utilities and other items that keep their office running on a daily basis. The deadline for submitting the same is July 31st, but she would like to have it submitted by July 10th. After discussion, consensus was to place this matter on the July 7th agenda for Council action.

Ms. Hansen, introduced Mytzy Rodriguez-Kufner, the new Director of the WCDHC.

- Update on Playground Equipment – Proposals for Best Project for \$85,000

Administrator Blecke stated that Requests for Proposals have been sent out to companies to solicit playground equipment and installation for Sunnyview Park. We want the best piece of equipment that suppliers can offer for \$85,000. The proposals will be evaluated on amount, quality, and contemporary nature of the equipment, as well as a completion date for installation. We have \$95,000 in the budget, but the City would need to provide and install the surfacing (border and wood chips).

- Haystack Wind Development, City's Potential as an Off-Taker, and Future Power Needs

Big Rivers is willing to allow the City to take more wind (3-6 megawatts). There is talk of another wind development over by Carroll. It is a 300-megawatt farm – 150 turbines.

Future substation – Tim Sutton, Electric Distribution Superintendent, was given the directive to have an engineer look at areas or locations which would be best for the substation (western area of Wayne (Pick/Meyer property) and potentially the industrial park/property).
- Wayne State College Update

Dr. Marysz Rames, President of Wayne State College, updated Council on things that are happening at the College, as well as what they are doing to accommodate the students during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Parking at Hank Overin Field

Discussion took place on the brick wall that stands in the front of what was known as the “old girl scout cabin” and using that area for parking and then for snow removal. If Council would want to sell this piece of property, the area would need to be replatted.

The hole/ditch south of the baseball field was discussed. Staff was directed to have the City Engineer look at the hole/ditch and come up with a proposal to fill it in, etc.
- Review Policy to Replace Brick Streets with Bricks

Current policy has been that when bricks are removed, the bricks are put back in.

Consensus was to discuss this when and if a half or full block of brick street would need to be repaired, whether the bricks would be put back in or would they be replaced with concrete. Patchwork should be replaced back with brick if brick was taken out.
- Utility Repairs (timeliness) and City Involvement with Service Lines

Water leak concerns and the timeliness of getting them repaired were shared by City staff. Staff explained the steps that are taken when a water leak takes place. Staff was directed to prepare an escalating policy on how to handle water leaks for future Council consideration.
- Discuss COVID Business Funds — Luke Virgil, Director of WAED

Mr. Virgil thinks there is a need for funds for businesses affected by the COVID pandemic. Administrator Blecke suggested loaning the Chamber \$350,000 to administer the program, but Mr. Virgil thought that was a serious liability for the Chamber. LB840 was not a good option because of the restrictions within that program. He thought politically it was the right thing to do even though it may create bad debt. He said that was the question that arose – is it the City's responsibility to create bad debt to perpetuate businesses that were struggling in the first place? Or, if this was the reason that undermined the business, is it the City's responsibility to bail them out? He suggested looking into a CDBG program just released by the State for COVID, where the City would be the applicant.

Four out of the six businesses he referred to need emergency funds. He feels it is going to take at least six months to see the real ramifications of what the COVID pandemic has done to the downtown businesses or businesses all across the community.

Attorney Miller stated if this is something the Council would consider doing, the only way she would recommend the same is if the loan is made to the Chamber and the Chamber had to pay the City back and was responsible for collecting on this loan. She would not be a very good lawyer and an even worse financier if she advised the Council to invest more money on bad money the City is already not getting paid back on.

- Joel Hansen updated the Council on the trail project.
- Councilmember Buck asked that the old pool building be put on the next retreat agenda.
- An update was given on the opening of the aquatic center and the leaking situation.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Mayor Giese declared the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.