

REGULAR MEETING

The Fairbank City Council met in a budget workshop at 5:30 PM and then regular session following at 6:00 PM on Monday February 26, 2024. Members present: R. Woods, Williams, and Erickson. Absent: T. Woods. Also, present at City Hall: Heather Prendergast, City Attorney; Dakota Drish, Police Chief; Nick Kuker, Public Works; Michelle Laube, Deputy Clerk; and Brittany Fuller, City Clerk.

During the budget workshop, the council continued to review the proposed budget numbers for FY2025 and information regarding setting the property tax rate.

Mayor Kayser called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Erickson, second by Williams to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

There were no public hearings.

Motion by Erickson, second by Williams to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: February 12, 2024 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes, Setting the date for the next budget meeting for March 11th at 5:30 PM, and Approval of **Resolution 2024-03 – Resolution Setting Time and Place for a Public Hearing Concerning a Tax Statement Showing the Proposed Tax Levies for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget**. Motion carried. The public hearing for the proposed tax levies for FY25 was set for Monday April 8, 2024, at 6:00 PM at City Hall in Fairbank. Roll call vote- Ayes: Erickson, Williams, and R. Woods. Nays: None.

There were no public comments.

Samples of the changes discussed at the previous meeting to the Code of Ordinances will be presented at the next meeting.

The possible new Parks and Rec position was discussed and was felt to not be feasible right now. Motion by Erickson, second by R. Woods to table until the first meeting in September. Motion carried.

The city received one mowing bid for the mowing of the city parks. It was from Randy's Lawn Care, and it was submitted as a multiple year bid including the next three years. The bid listed \$625.00 per mowing but also included a total for each season for the next three years of \$17,500.00 each. The council wanted to verify that season total to make sure it wasn't a set total amount that needed to be paid for the season because sometimes due to droughts and other situations that arise there might be weeks where mowing is not needed. Randy will be contacted, and it will be on the next agenda for review. Motion by R. Woods, second by Erickson to table until the next meeting after getting some clarification on the bid sheet submitted. Motion carried.

Lisa Kremer was present from the Buchanan County Economic Development Commission to discuss the annual report for 2023. She talked about the newest projects they have been working on for Buchanan County and the report can be viewed at www.growbuchanan.com.

Updates were made to the Buchanan County Housing Needs Assessment for 2023. Lisa Kremer stayed and reviewed the assessment with the council. Motion by R. Woods, second by Williams to approve **Resolution 2024-04 – A Resolution of the City Council of Fairbank, IA Adopting the Updated Buchanan County Housing Needs Assessment**. Roll call vote- Ayes: R. Woods, Williams, and Erickson. Nays: None.

The rates charged to the city for grave openings increased for 2024 so the council needed to pass a resolution to approve the new rates in order for the city to maintain receiving their processing fees. Motion by Erickson, second by Williams to approve **Resolution 2024-05 – Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Charges for Grave Openings**. Roll call vote- Ayes: Erickson, Williams, and R. Woods. Nays: None.

The garbage/recycling contract through Black Hawk Waste is up on June 30th of this year. It was decided to start the process of renewing or replacing the contractor by sending out RFP's. Motion by R. Woods, second by Erickson to send out RFP's requesting quotes on weekly garbage/recycling pick-up, two junk day pick-ups a year, city garbage containers included, and three-year contracts would be welcomed. They will be due by April 1st so that the council can review the information received and a decision could be made well before June 30, 2024. Roll call vote- Ayes: R. Woods, Erickson, and Williams. Nays: None.

There is a vacancy on the TIF Committee for the City of Fairbank due to Jason Kayser being elected Mayor. The council should consider choices for a replacement. Motion by Erickson, second by

Williams to table until the next meeting and in the meantime look for possible replacements. Motion carried.

At the last meeting the council decided to try and fill the vacant council seat by appointment rather than having a special election due to the costs that an election would incur. Ron Miller and Michael Gruetzmacher both submitted letters of interest and they were both present at the meeting. Since T. Woods was absent from the meeting, it was thought that a decision shouldn't be made until the full council was in attendance. Attorney Prendergast stated that if the decision were to be tabled, there would be a possibility that the city could receive more letters of interest. Motion by R. Woods, second by Williams to table the decision until the next meeting on March 11th. Roll call vote- Ayes: R. Woods, Williams, and Erickson. Nays: None.

During the council/mayor comments or concerns, Mayor Kayser told the council that he had met with an Aflac representative, and they were inquiring about whether the council would be interested in offering their employees the ability to have extra coverages in some areas. The council agreed to talk with the employees and see if there would even be three interested then they could go from there. He also stated that Kane Kleaning Services were able to clean the carpets at City Hall on Tuesday February 20th. Public Works is also going to start cleaning out the basement at City Hall.

During the department reports, Nick stated that public works had to repair a water service line earlier that day and they were going to get moving on the basement clean out. He also mentioned that he obtained his CDL and that the snake at the pool would need some repair work since it had been damaged due to removing it out of the pool for swim practices incorrectly. Police Chief Drish gave an update on recent police activity. During the recreation department report, Mayor Kayser stated that the IC Youth Group was not interested in doing the concession stand at the ball diamond this year. Micheal Gruetzmacher said that he might have a group in mind for that and he also stated that he had been submitting grants to hopefully get some help putting in a new surface on both ball diamonds.

Motion by R. Woods, second by Erickson to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 PM. Motion carried.

Jason Kayser, Mayor

Brittany Fuller, City Clerk