

MINUTES OF THE PROCTOR CITY COUNCIL MEETING NOVEMBER 20th, 2023

Meeting was streamed live on the Trac 7 YouTube channel.

Mayor Ward called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

PRESENT: Mayor Chad Ward, Councilor Troy DeWall, Councilor Rory Johnson, Councilor Jake Benson, Councilor Jim Rohweder

OTHERS PRESENT: Administrator Rich, Attorney John Bray, Administrative Assistant Megan Jordan, Police Chief Kent Gaidis, Phil Larson, Todd Norton, Gary Nowak, Derek Pederson

M/S/P: Rohweder/Johnson to approve the minutes from Monday, November 6th, 2023.

M/S/P: Ward/DeWall to approve the agenda for Monday, November 20th, 2023, adding item 6D: Public Safety.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT:

Phil Larson, 702 1st Ave

Addresses the council regarding unfinished business on the agenda regarding a blight policy.

Larson has questions about the proposed process and compliant form. Mayor Ward states there has been no action taken at this time, but there is conversation among the blight committee for a recommendation to implement a new blight policy and process. Larson provides an inventory of accumulated items of building materials, vehicles, and other accumulated blight items at a neighboring property. Larson suggests towing and impounding vehicles for resident retrieval as a viable solution.

Todd Norton, 42 6th St

Expressing concerns over the same previously mentioned blighted property, expresses frustration over lack of action, and suggests city code enforcements to begin with law enforcement officers.

Attorney Bray recommends the city begins a suit to serve a permanent injunction against the property in discussion.

M/S/P: Ward/Rohweder to approve the consent agenda for Monday, November 20th, 2023

4. Clerk Advises Council

A. 2nd St Update

2nd Street has opened this week with final items to be completed in the spring. Administrator Rich states the project will be closed out in the spring of 2024 when these items are completed. As the contractor had informed the city at the beginning of the project, light poles are on back order due to manufacturing and production. These will also be installed in the spring of 2024.

B. Playground for EveryBody Grant Extension

A request has been submitted for an extension to complete the additional work in the amount of \$20,000 in the spring or summer of 2024. Additional items have included fencing, blacktop, handicap accessible portable bathrooms, and sod placement.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. City of Proctor Blight Policy

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2024 TZD Agreement

M/S/P: Rohweder/Johnson to approve the 2024 TZD grant agreement as submitted.

B. Annual Advertisement Approval

Mayor Ward states numerous requests are received throughout the year for advertisement solicitations. Included in the packet is a recommendation to approve the following annual advertisements: Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Hoghead, Veterans Day, and Happy Holidays for December and New Year celebrations.

Motion by Ward and fails due to lack of a second.

C. Sand/Salt Garage Shell

Administrator Rich states the original contract has been terminated with a new scope of work generated with solicited bids for labor only. This scope of work will utilize previously purchased building materials to construct the shell of the building to complete winterization and protect previously purchased materials and property. Solicited bids went out with a deadline of Monday, November 20th at 2:00 pm with the total amount remaining under \$175,000. Attorney Bray states one bid has been received, while Administrator Rich states the deadline was extended to accommodate additional bids and additional bids were pulled at the contractor's request.

M/S/P: Johnson/Rohweder to accept bid for capping the garage and putting up a winter shell as submitted. The completion of the project will go out for public bid.

D. Public Safety

Councilor Benson presents two resolutions for council approval one resolution to submit to St. Louis County requesting SRO reimbursement and another pertaining to the request of legislative language addressing officer "poaching" from one agency to another. Benson states the concerns, costs, and logistics of training new officers and the costs involved when a trained officer leaves the Proctor Police Department for another law enforcement agency. Benson suggests expressing support to the legislature to recover these accrued training costs. include reimbursement for officer training expenses. Discussion follows with the approval of the SRO reimbursement, however staff would like additional time to research and plan for any creation of legislative language and presentations.

M/S/P: Benson/Johnson to accept resolution 41-23: SRO Reimbursement.

M/S/P: Benson/Ward to accept resolution refunding or supplemental and reimbursement of law enforcement officers "poached" by other law enforcement agencies.

M/S: Benson/Ward Rescind to research, plan, and submit additional information prior to the next legislative session. Councilor DeWall suggests this be placed under unfinished business.

Administrator Rich recommends council and Police Civil Service Commission to schedule a working session to discuss staffing, training, and officer recruitment.

MEMBER CONCERNS

Benson: Attended a rebranding and grand opening at the AmericInn. Happy Thanksgiving to everyone.

DeWall: Request to schedule Blight Committee Meeting before the next council meeting.

Johnson: 2nd St looks great, Happy Thanksgiving to everyone. Requests to commence suit for an action item on the next agenda. Request to enforce current code violations on blighted property.

Rohweder: None

Mayor Ward: Truth and Taxation Monday, December 4th, rally for Proctor teachers on November 27th, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

Attorney Bray: None

Administrator Rich: None

Chief Gaidis: None

BILLS FOR APPROVAL:

General: \$114,203.12

Liquor: \$47,918.79

TOTAL BILLS FOR APPROVAL: \$162,121.91

M/S/P: Rohweder/Johnson to approve the bills as submitted.

M/S/P: DeWall/Ward to adjourn the regular council meeting at 7:05 pm.