

CITY OF EAGLE LAKE
AUGUST 27, 2019
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING AND WORK SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

- Mayor Auringer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

ROLL CALL

- Council Members present: John Ries, Dennis Terrell, Ryan Short, Garrett Steinberg, and Mayor Tim Auringer.
- Staff present: City Administrator Jennifer Bromeland, Police Chief John Kopp, Public Works Director Brian Goettl, Fire Chief Dan Ruschmeyer, and Deputy Clerk Kerry Rausch.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None

BUSINESS

1. Possible Revises Joint Resolution to be Considered with LeRay Township
 - Paul Baer and Kurt Anderson with LeRay Township were present to discuss possible revision to the Joint Resolution with LeRay Township. Items the Township presented to Council for consideration were the 20-year time frame for repayment of lost property taxes on parcels to be annexed into city limits and road responsibility for the road which serves the cemetery.
 - No action on either item will be taken but will be brought forward to the September 9, 2019 City Council Meeting allowing for the attorney to draft possible language.
 - Discussion for the lost property tax repayment included the desire to make annual payments for three years with the final payment for years 4-20 to be made in the fourth year. If no development takes place and the detachment process is utilized, then lost tax payments that have been made will be non-refundable. Discussion also included the consensus that the use of an escrow account by LeRay Township would not be needed based on the non-refundable language for these payments.
 - Discussion about the road which services the cemetery included that the city would be responsible for snowplowing and other routine maintenance. The city will hold inspect and document the condition of the road at the time of annexation and in the event that the detachment process is utilized, the city will ensure that the road is returned to LeRay Township in the same condition as it was at the time of annexation.
2. Planning Commission Applications
 - City Council directed Administrator Bromeland to bring the applications for filling the vacant seat on the Planning Commission to the Planning Commission for review and interview and direct the Planning Commission to bring a recommendation to the City Council at their October meeting.
3. Rules of Conduct for City Council Meetings
 - Upon recommendation from the League of MN Cities, Administrator Bromeland asked if the Council would be interested in considering a code of conduct policy for city meetings. The intent of the policy is to keep public meetings running smoothly.
 - Council indicated they are open to considering a code of conduct policy.
4. Budget Work Session
 - A. Police Department
 - Police Chief Kopp explained the proposed increases to his budget and stated he would like to add a line item to the budget for Community Outreach. Grants would still be applied for, but these funds would fill in a gap if grants are not available. Council would support a line item for Community Outreach but asked that the proposed budget be reviewed to determine if other line items could be reduced to allow for these funds.

- Council directed Chief Kopp to establish a capital improvement tracking to track and establish when equipment purchases are needed to plan for future spending. The goal is to identify funding levels for the capital outlay line item.
- The addition of a full-time police officer was discussed due to the difficulty in finding and keeping part-time officers. Council asked that this be reviewed more closely to determine how adding an additional full-time officer would affect other areas of the budget.

B. Public Works

- Director Goettl explained the proposed increases to his budgets and equipment he would like to purchase for his departments in the future.
- The hiring of an additional full-time public works worker in the next year or two was presented.
- Council directed Director Goettl to establish a capital improvement tracking to track and establish when equipment purchases are needed to plan for future spending. The goal is to identify funding levels for the capital outlay line item and to prioritize needs.

C. Fire Department

- Chief Ruschmeyer presented proposed budget increases and asked for Council to consider increases the pension contribution from \$1,900 per year of service to \$2,000, stating the last pension increase was in 2017.
- Also discussed was that Joe Anderson is using the fire hall as an office and is therefore able to respond to day calls. The department is also looking to rewrite their policy on response area and response time for members.
- Chief Ruschmeyer stated that an elected official and the City Administrator are to be attending the relief associations meetings.

A special meeting will be scheduled to approve the 2020 preliminary tax levy and budget.

ADJOURNMENT

- Council Member Terrell moved, seconded by Council Member Ries, to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m. Motion carried with Council Members Terrell, Short, Steinberg, and Mayor Auringer voting in favor.

Tim Auringer, Mayor

Kerry Rausch, Deputy Clerk