

May 9, 2022

**CITY OF ERIE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
May 9, 2022 at 6:00 P.M.
Erie City Hall**

Present: Darrell Bauer	Cindy Schoenhofer, Treasurer
Cindy Friedrich	Tyler Seibel, Police Chief
Tereasa DeMeritt	Melissa Stephens, City Clerk
Trenton Moore	Jake Tromsness, Superintendent
Steve Maher	Seth Jones, City Attorney
Kyle Buntin (6:04pm)	Cindy Garland, Store Manager ^(absent)

Guests: Eddie Hibbs, Rhonda Janssen, Steve Richey, Kaitlyn Curtis, Jeff Bohrer

Mayor Darrell Bauer called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

DeMeritt moved and Friedrich seconded to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Upon motion by DeMeritt and a second by Friedrich, the agenda was unanimously closed.

Rhonda Janssen had a concern with the crosswalk at State and Wood Street. Even though there are signs, no one stops at the crosswalk when children are there trying to cross the road. Rhonda has witnessed it several times trying to get her grandchildren across the road and several vehicles run right through without stopping for the children to cross. She would like to see more police patrol the area and maybe another sign. Councilman Steve Maher asked the police to patrol the area during peak times, and to put a sign-up stating stop for pedestrians at crosswalks.

On behalf of the American Legion, Steve Richey asked for a \$1,500.00 donation to help with Reunion Week. The American Legion sponsors several events during Reunion Week. DeMeritt moved and Maher seconded to donate \$1,500.00 to the American Legion to help sponsor Reunion Week events. Motion carried unanimously.

Kaitlyn Curtis, City Clerk from Overbrook, KS was present to listen in on tonight's council meeting. Kaitlyn's city is deciding whether to purchase a grocery store in their city and came to Erie to visit with Cindy Garland, Erie store manager to get some ideas.

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Fire Chief Jeff Bohrer was asked to attend the meeting as the council wanted to know what procedures were when it comes to structure fires. Jeff said normally we would call St. Paul's fire department for back up however he had a meeting recently with the St. Paul Fire Department and they only had one firefighter at this time. So, when the City of Erie had the recent structure fire Bohrer called on Parsons Fire Department first.

Store Manager, Cindy Garland was not present for the meeting, on her behalf Treasurer Cindy Schoenhofer presented the April Profit and Loss Report. As of December 2021, the store showed a loss of \$18,172.01 and as of April 2022 the store is showing a loss of \$15,289.49. Schoenhofer explained with costs going up, and spending is slowing down the council may need to come up with ideas to help bring in revenue for the store. Schoenhofer asked for a special council meeting for May 16th at 5:00 P.M. to discuss options for the grocery store. DeMeritt moved and Maher seconded to hold a special meeting in regard to the grocery store. Motion carried unanimously.

Police Chief Tyler Seibel presented his calls for the week. The one complaint that had many calls were horses getting out of the fence. The police department is sending out mow orders for grass taller than 12in.

Councilman Maher reported the man out by the sheriff's department appears to be living in the camper again. Seibel said they need to send the man in the camper to the courts to start the process.

Seibel asked about the city crew being able to tear down abandoned, condemned houses as there are so many in town. It was mentioned during the discussion an Amish crew working in the city had asked if they could tear down abandoned places for free and keep the materials, they were mainly interested in the old, abandoned nursing home on Main Street. City Attorney Seth Jones said you can't beat free. Jones said the Amish crew must show proof of liability insurance or sign a waiver. The council will want anyone to know if you tear down a structure you must remove all the structure. Attorney Jones said if someone could get him the information to speak with someone who owns the abandoned nursing home, he would call and speak with them regarding the offer from the Amish crew.

Chief Seibel discussed how there had been a structure fire recently in the City of Erie. There had been barricades placed at each end of the street to keep traffic coming through while the fire was being attended to. An individual drove around the barricades and drove down the street in which they ran over a fire hose and destroyed it. The hose costs around \$900.00-\$1,000.00 to replace. The individual has admitted to and will pay to have the hose replaced. They have agreed to make payments. The Fire Department needs the hose replaced now, so Chief Seibel asked if they could go ahead and order the hose using the Special Fire and Police Fund, and when the individual makes payments receipt it back into the

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Special Fire and Police Fund. Buntin moved and DeMeritt seconded to purchase a fire hose out of the Special Fire and Police Fund and allow the individual to make payments to reimburse the fund the cost of the hose. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Seibel said he still looking for part-time officers to help with weekend and night shifts. He had some applications come in and they are working on background checks.

Chief Seibel reported the white police truck's air conditioning unit had stopped working. He said if the repairs are under \$500.00, he would get the truck serviced. If the repairs are over \$500.00, he would like to get approval to get those repairs made. The council said to have the police truck repairs added to the special meeting that way if Chief Seibel needed to get approval, then he could come to the special meeting.

City Administrator Jake Tromsness reported Engine #7 is close to being repaired. The parts that were sent to us were not the correct parts and had to be sent back.

Tromsness reported we have two quotes for the analyzers. One from Hawkins for \$5,200 and one from Hach for \$6,248.00. Maher moved and Moore seconded to purchase the analyzer from Hawkins in the amount of \$5,200.00 Motion carried unanimously.

Tromsness reported the new electronic electric meters installation is almost complete. Part of the installation included some testing of our polyphase meters. There were some problems found but most of the sites were in good shape. The software companies have been installing the software and training Jessica, utility billing clerk how to create bills. City Clerk Stephens added software was close to being finished. The software installers tested the software, found issues, and are working on getting those fixed now. Should have Jessica ready to start working on billing by next week.

Tromsness reported Every call and had the city run the EEC overnight on both May 2nd and 3rd.

City Clerk Stephens discussed with the council that City Hall needed to replace the carpet in the building. This carpet has been in the building over 20 years. Recently it had ripped from the floor in the main office, and we used duct tape to repair it. There are some other seams coming loose as well as bubbling. Councilman Buntin had looked at the carpet and agreed it needed to be replaced as well, as maybe needing to repaint the walls. The building has not been updated since it was built. The council asked to table the carpet and painting until this fall and maybe the city crew would have time to paint.

Treasurer Cindy Schoenhofer presented her reports for the sewer rates. She stated sewer rates were last raised in 2015 and she felt it was time to raise them

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again as the sewer fund is suffering. The council also thought the base charge might need to be raised as it has not been raised in quite some time. The council agreed to bring the sewer rate/base rate to a vote at the next council meeting. Attorney Jones said if we do raise rates, it will require an ordinance.

Councilmember Cindy Friedrich reported at the last meeting she was asked to get costs for planting flowers in the city's flowerpots on Main Street. Friedrich said she was able to use some bulbs from last years flowers, so that will save some cost. The cost is \$680.40. Buntin moved and Maher seconded for Cindy to order the flowers at \$680.40 to plant in the flowerpots on Main Street.

Maher moved and DeMeritt seconded to approve the following mayoral appointments. Motion carried unanimously.

POSITION	APPOINTEE	TERM EXPIRES
City Supt.	Jake Tromsness	May 09, 2023
City Clerk	Melissa Stephens	May 09, 2023
City Treas.	Cindy Schoenhofer	May 09, 2023
Municipal Judge	Thomas Mikulka	May 09, 2023
Police Chief	Tyler Seibel	May 09, 2023
Grocery Store Manager	Cindy Garland	May 09, 2023
Fire Chief	Jeff Bohrer	May 09, 2023
City Attorney	Seth Jones	May 09, 2023
Zoning Adm.	Chris Harris	May 09, 2023
City Newspaper	Erie Record (primary) Chanute Tribune (contingent)	May 09, 2023
City Depositories:	Bank of Commerce-Erie Branch	May 09, 2023
	Commercial Bank	May 09, 2023
	Ks.Municipal.Inv.Pool	May 09, 2023
Planning Commission (3 yr. term)	Eddie Hibbs	May 2025
Library Board (4 yr. Terms – 2 term limit)		
	Karen Barger	May 2024
	Nancy Schoenhofer	May 2026

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Anna Shaw

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Recreation Commission (3 yr. terms): (required to have 5 members)

Jack Kennedy
Christi Dillinger
Broc Mattox

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Zoning Appeal Board (3 yr. terms)

Kyle Buntin
Mike McGuire
Eddie Hibbs

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Park Board/Tree Committee (3 yr. Terms)

Kathy Brennon
Edwina Brennon

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Economic Development Committee (1 yr. terms):

Mike Page
Brad Harris
Bob Hosack, funding consultant/advisor
Steve Maher
Jason Gard
Trenton Moore
Jason Thompson

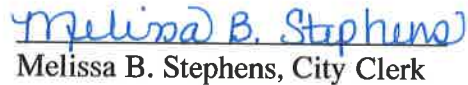
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Upon motion from Maher and a second by Friedrich the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

APPROVED May 23, 2022:

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:


Pamela Bauer
Governing Body Member


Melissa B. Stephens, City Clerk