

July 25, 2022

**CITY OF ERIE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
July 25, 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	Cindy Garland, Store Manager
	Jessica Altman, Deputy City Clerk

Guests: Eddie Hibbs, Aaron Long, Phil Jared, Nick Elder, Kyle Spielbush

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 Maher and a second by Friedrich, the agenda was unanimously closed.

Nick Elder with Blue Cross Blue Shield presented 2023 renewals. Elder said prices had gone up 11.3% making the total monthly payment \$9042.00 if the council chose to stay with option 2. Treasurer Cindy Schoenhofer asked Mr. Elder if he would discuss Chamber Blue. Schoenhofer had recently learned about it during a visit from her Blue Cross representative at her job. Nick explained Chamber Blue is where a city's Chamber of Commerce signs up through the Kansas State Chamber Blue and becomes a member, businesses could sign up for Chamber Blue through the Chamber by filling out a survey. The deadline for Chambers to sign up is July 31, 2022. Then businesses would have until August 18, 2022 to sign up for the plan under their Chamber. The chamber would receive \$10.00 per month for any company who sign up for Blue Cross Blue Shield under the Chamber. This could also help businesses to lower their total premium by 25% of the lowest plan option. Nick Elder said before the city could apply we would need to approve our current plan, then when the chamber signs up, log in to the chamber website and become a member through them. Buntin moved and DeMeritt seconded to approve the 2023 Blue Cross Blue Shield premiums for Option 2 with the intentions to sign up for Chamber Blue and enroll under the Chamber. Motion carried unanimously.

Kyle Spielbusch with Gilmore, Jarred and Phillips presented the 2021 audit for the City of Erie. Kyle said there were two small violations that were being

corrected but nothing concerning. DeMeritt moved and Buntin seconded to approve the 2021 audit. Motion carried unanimously.

Phil Jarred with Gilmore, Jarred and Phillips presented the 2023 Proposed Budget. Jarred said since the city was going to exceed the revenue neutral rate by 10 mills a hearing is required. The hearing for the exceeding of the revenue neutral rate and the hearing for the approval of the 2023 budget is set for August 22, 2022. Jarred was concerned with the grocery store that the amount set for the 2022 budget would not be enough to cover what the store was spending. Jarred recommended to move \$100,000.00 from the sewer fund and to stop transferring to the sewer fund for the remainder of 2022 and transfer it to the grocery store. Jarred said this still might not be enough, and the city might have to transfer another \$100,000.00 from the electric fund if needed. Another idea was if the store still needed help in 2023 the city could transfer from the equipment reserve fund to help the store. DeMeritt moved and Buntin seconded to approve the transfers from the sewer and electric fund to the grocery store. Motion carried unanimously.

Kyle Buntin handed out prices from other local stores he and Trenton Moore had researched. Buntin said, even after lowering the price tier down 4% the grocery store prices are still high compared to other stores. Buntin would like to set the grocery stores tier lowering it 6% making a total of 10% to be competitive with other local stores. Jarred with Gilmore, Jarred and Phillips said, "It's worth a try. You've got nothing to lose as the store is not generating enough revenue to cover its expenses." Councilmember Tereasa DeMeritt said she was not disagreeing with Buntin, however she would like to see June and July profit and loss statement to see how well the store did when they dropped the prices by 4% before they voted to drop the prices any further.

Police Chief Tyler Seibel presented his weekly call list. Seibel said not much was going on. Actively working on code enforcements and bean week was good, no issues.

City Superintendent Jake Tromsness reported reunion week was a success. Everything went as planned. Tromsness reported the Erie Energy Center has been running. Every had the EEC running most afternoons and evenings since it has been in the high 90s and 100s. We expect this to continue.

The new pump for the vac truck has been ordered and is being built Tromsness reported. The water department has been removing the old pump from the truck so it will be ready to trade for the new one. There is a one-year warranty on the new pump.

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The street department has been cleaning the street in the dry weather so it can drain the town better. Over the years it has silted around the park and under the bridges and it is time to remove some dirt Tromsness said.

City Clerk Melissa Stephens reported the August fuel adjustment was .0683 Friedrich moved and DeMeritt seconded to approve the August fuel adjustment. Motion carried unanimously.

Clerk Stephens had a CMB license from Galesburg Relief Fund that needed approved. The special event will be held at the new building at the fair grounds on August 13th from 9:00 AM til August 14th 2:00 AM. Maher moved and Buntin seconded to approve the CMB license for the special event. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Cindy Schoenhofer presented her reports stating all funds are down. Sewer rate increases would be applied on August bills.


City Attorney Seth Jones presented a real estate sale agreement for two lots at the Burress Addition for Steve and Lisa Maher. They are purchasing Lot 1 and 2 in Block 5. Buntin moved and DeMeritt seconded to approve the purchase of the lots to Steve and Lisa Maher. Friedrich, DeMeritt, Moore and Buntin voted aye with Steve Maher abstaining. Motion carried by majority vote.

Upon motion from Buntin and a second by Maher, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:06 P.M.

APPROVED August 08, 2022:

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:


Governing Body Member



Melissa Stephens, City Clerk