

**Regular Council Meeting
February 2, 2015**

The City Council of the City of Fayette, Iowa, met in the Fayette City Hall at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, February 2, 2015, Mayor Andrew Wenthe presiding.

Roll call: Present - Council members Boberg, McGrane, Nefzger, Patrick, Sorensen.

Prior to the regular meeting the council held a work session (agenda was posted) to discuss long term planning for the city infrastructure. As discussed during budget meetings, the city is planning to replace an undersized water main on E. Madison and Jones Streets going to the wastewater treatment facility in FY16 at an estimated cost of \$180,000 including street replacement. Also, around 33% of the sewer mains will be televised instead of the usual 20% starting in FY16 and continuing for the following two years to determine if there are any sewer mains that need replacing or repairing. As water and sewer mains are replaced, then the city will determine if storm sewer can be installed if it can be connected to an adjoining storm sewer. The downtown project has been planned for FY17 where the sewer & water mains and the storm sewer will be replaced in the downtown business district and in a section of W. Water Street. The city is setting back funds each year from the Local Option Sales Tax receipts to pay for street repairs and replacements. Since the city has to start paying off a 20 year loan for the wastewater facility and lagoon modification project, funds will be limited to replace sewer mains. Also, because storm sewers are so costly to install, the city is working with limited funds for those projects.

Moved Sorensen, seconded Nefzger, to approve the consent agenda consisting of the regular meeting minutes of 01/19/15, Claims List of 01/20/15 – 02/02/15 and renewal of Cabo Blue's Liquor License and renewal of a native wine permit for Touch of Elegance. On roll call, all voted aye, carried.

Moved Patrick, seconded McGrane, to approve the agenda as presented. All ayes, carried.

Mayor Wenthe reported that the Police Committee is recommending to the council that we begin the search process to hire a new Police Chief, considering the feedback we have received from the citizens. He added that if the council would like to go this way, he would like to chair a review committee and have the other police committee members on this committee. Patrick suggested having someone with a law enforcement background on the committee. The mayor asked Dennis to have the police chief's job description and the hiring advertisement on the next meeting agenda. Moved Patrick, seconded Boberg, to approve starting the search process for a police chief. All ayes, carried.

Mayor Wenthe reported that he attended the Emergency Management Agency budget meeting last week and they are looking at hiring a full-time EMA coordinator. The job has already been advertised.

Admin/Clerk Dennis reported that Darwin Vandersee, 500 block of Mechanic Street, is concerned about vehicles parking on the street across from the condominiums once the snow ordinance stops for the season on April 1st. Mayor Wenthe said he spoke to the owner of the condos and he was looking into putting down gravel to make more off-street parking available. Wenthe said the council has until April 1st to make a decision on the parking matter, whether to make it no-parking in that block or not.

Dennis said Darwin Vandersee and Roy Post, also in the 500 block of Mechanic, both complained to her about the snow from the condo driveways being pushed to their side of the street. Public Works Director Hildebrand was present and said the snow was put in the right-of-way, which isn't illegal and others do the same thing all over town. Hildebrand said the snow is on the outside of the sidewalk, not the inside.

Dennis also reported that she had attended a Home Base Iowa meeting on Jan. 27th and said the State of Iowa is doing a lot to recruit new military families to Iowa with this new program. For more information about this program, go to www.homebaseiowa.org. If Fayette County joins the program, then all cities in the county will have to approve a resolution of support.

Moved Boberg, seconded McGrane, to introduce enforcement of property nuisances and zoning issues. All ayes. Mayor Wenthe said he tried to talk to the property owner in violation, but couldn't find him at home. Boberg said we need to move forward and enforce the ordinances. McGrane agreed with Boberg, but said we need to go through the process and advise the property owner of what the city could do. Nefzger agreed with McGrane that the property owner should be told and keep moving forward.

Moved Sorensen, seconded McGrane, to approve the Finance Committee meeting minutes of January 21st and 27th, 2015. Patrick asked for a couple of corrections. These minutes will be incorporated into the City Admin/Clerk's full budget report at the next council meeting. Moved Patrick, seconded Sorensen, to approve the meeting minutes as amended. All ayes, carried.

Moved McGrane, seconded Boberg, to introduce and approve the first reading of **Ordinance #482**: Increasing sewer rates by three cents on all rate levels to keep up with inflation and for paying off the loan on the wastewater treatment facility and lagoon modifications project (amending Chapter 99.02 & Ordinance 465 from October 2009). The minimum sewer charge will increase from \$44.09 to \$59.09 per quarter. The rate increase will begin March 2015, which is billable in June 2015. On roll call, all ayes, first reading carried.

Moved Patrick, seconded Boberg, to introduce and approve the first reading of **Ordinance #483**: Increasing water rates by one and one half cents on all rate levels to keep up with inflation (amending Chapter 92.02 & Ordinance 469 from March 2011). The minimum water charge will increase from \$30.51 to

\$38.01 per quarter. The rate increase will begin March 2015, which is billable in June 2015. On roll call, all ayes, first reading carried.

Moved McGrane, seconded Patrick, to introduce the renewal of the city incentive program for new construction. There was discussion whether to keep the two incentives for First Time Buyers (telephone connection rebate is rarely used and the water deposit is already waived for property owners), but it was decided to leave them in. Moved Patrick, seconded Boberg, to approve the program pending investigation of the cost of a phone connection presently and increase that amount if it costs more now. All ayes, carried.

There being no further business, moved Nefzger, unanimous, to adjourn at 8:14 p.m.