

City of Belleville
City Council Meeting
Monday, July 11, 2022
Belleville City Council Room

The meeting of the City of Belleville Council was held on Monday, July 11th, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Belleville City Council room.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Adam Robertson, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Rick Snodgrass offered the opening prayer and comments. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ATTENDENCE:

Council members present: Pam McGregor, Mike Nondorf, Doane Sells, James Doyle, Mike Palmquist and Nick Cox.

City Staff present: City Manager Adam Anderson and City Clerk Russ Piroutek.

Others present: Fred Arnold, Chris Springer, Waylon Sheetz, Rick Snodgrass, Harlee Schuster, Annette Bredthauer, Trinity Hartsock, Courtney Anderson, Kaylee Svoboda, Andrea Dusek, Karen Hansen and Arlene Clayton.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES AND DISBURSEMENTS:

Mike Palmquist made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 27th, 2022 regular Council Meeting. James Doyle seconded the motion, which carried unanimously on a voice vote.

James Doyle made a motion to approve the appropriations and disbursements. Mike Nondorf seconded the motion, which carried unanimously on a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Annette Bredthauer mentioned there will be an informational meeting regarding Wind Generators at the Commercial Building on Friday, July 15th at 7:00 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Harlee Schuster gave a brief update on Economic Development activities.

City Manager Anderson gave an update on issues at the Pool. A few of the lifeguards went on “strike” prior to the 4th of July weekend. City Manager Anderson, Mayor Robertson and Councilmember Palmquist worked with the lifeguards to keep the pool open throughout the weekend in exchange for an increase in wages and informed them to come to the next Council meeting to talk with the Council about wages for the rest of the summer. However, prior to the meeting, a few of the guards decided to go on “strike” again, due to wages and negative comments on social media. Many other issues and concerns have been raised from the public

and employees at the pool this season. Trinity Hartsock who is employed as a lifeguard at the pool shared some of her concerns about the pool and management this year. After some questions from the Council, Mike Palmquist made a motion to go into executive session for consultation with an attorney on matters that would be deemed privileged in an attorney-client relationship, for 15 minutes, with the Mayor, City Manager, City Clerk and the City Attorney on the phone. James Doyle seconded the motion, which carried unanimously on a voice vote. The Council left for executive session at 7:18 p.m. The Council returned from executive session at 7:33 p.m. No action was taken. Mike Palmquist made a motion to go back into executive session for consultation with an attorney on matters that would be deemed privileged in an attorney-client relationship, for 45 minutes, with the Mayor, City Manager, City Clerk and the City Attorney on the phone. James Doyle seconded the motion, which carried unanimously on a voice vote. The Council left for executive session at 7:35 p.m. The Council returned from executive session at 7:20 p.m. No action was taken. The City Manager will continue to address issues at the pool as they arise.

Bids were presented for the demolition of the structure at 1334 19th Street. The City advertised for bids again after only one bid was received for \$33,000. The City now received two bids, with the low bid at \$15,500.00 from Precision Excavating. City crews would help with hauling the debris to the landfill, plus the landfill costs and backfill dirt. Also included in the bid was costs to demo the structure at 2010 M Street for \$6,950.00, which caught fire last year. This cost would include demo, hauling, landfill fees, foundation removal and backfill dirt. Mike Palmquist made a motion to accept both bids from Precision Excavating for the demo of structures at 1334 19th Street and 2010 M Street for a total of \$22,450.00. Mike Nondorf seconded the motion, which carried unanimously on a voice vote.

The City received estimates on replacing the alley behind Tuxies Ten Pin. One estimate was for approximately \$150,000 for a concrete bed if the contractor does all the work. A different estimate was for approximately \$75,000 if the City help with the work. The Council briefly discussed the costs, but ultimately tabled the matter to discuss at a future meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Council discussed a potential increase in water rates. It was proposed to raise water rates to then transfer extra funds from the Water Fund to the General fund to help offset property taxes. There was concern that water rates will need to be raised to help with the costs of the new water treatment plant and with the bids still a few weeks out, the City does not know what that cost will be yet. It was the consensus of the Council to wait until the first meeting in August to decide on water rates, as the City should have received bids for the water treatment plant, and it will not effect the publication of the 2023 budget.

City Manager Anderson presented a proposed budget for 2023. Increases were noted for employee compensation, swimming pool employee costs, road material and health care. The proposed budget would show a decrease in the mil levy from 73.39 mils to 69.93, but would still exceed the revenue neutral rate. After more discussion, Doane Sells made a motion to approve and schedule the publication of the budget as presented. Pam McGregor seconded the motion, which carried unanimously on a voice vote.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

Kansas Municipal Utilities approached the City about becoming members again. The City is also looking into a Cyber Security Insurance Policy.

COUNCIL MEMBER/MAYOR COMMENTS:

Nick Cox thanked those who showed up to the meeting.

Mike Palmquist also thanked those who came to the meeting to discuss the pool. He also commented that Rocky Pond looks good.

James Doyle thanked the City crews for continuing to do the same amount of work with less employees. He also commented on the issues at the swimming pool.

Doane Sells reminded everyone to stay positive.

Mike Nondorf echoed everyone else's comments.

Pam McGregor stated that the pool meant a lot to her and the Council recognizes the issues and understands it is frustrating for the public and employees.

Mayor Robertson agreed with everything the rest of the governing body commented on.

ADJOURNMENT:

James Doyle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike Palmquist seconded the motion, which carried unanimously on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Russell Piroutek
City Clerk

Horsing