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City Council Meeting

May 21, 2024

Corrected Version

Mayor Haddix called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, May 21, 2024, in Council Chambers at the Municipal Building, 2340 Kingmont Road, Pleasant Valley, WV.

In Attendance: Emily Haddix, Chuck Ledsome, Erin Henderson, Chip Phillips, Matt Heston, Kim Korcsmaros, John Miller

Absent: Gary Timms, Mike Walls, John Funkhouser

Public in attendance: Doug Brenneman, George Ebbert, Marcella Yaremchuk

Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Haddix lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of pervious minutes: Chip Phillips moved that the minutes from the previous meeting be accepted as presented. Matt Heston seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of financial reports: The financial report was reviewed by the City Council. There were no corrections or revisions. Matt Heston moved to accept the financial report; Erin Henderson seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Emily Haddix stated that, after talking with the accountant, there needed to be a revision to the budget allowing a line item for the Valley Volunteer Fire Department. It will need to be discussed at the next meeting.

Report from Valley Volunteer Fire Department: no report

Code Enforcement Officer report: John Miller reported that the BZA Commission will meet on May 30 at 6:00 pm to consider a conditional use plan.

John Miller requested that the City hire a new judge on retainer in the amount of $200 per month and $125 per case. This is in line with other municipalities. He suggested hiring Brian Stewart because he has a background in zoning and code enforcement and that is what most of the city’s case involve. He also has a law enforcement background. Chip Phillips said he has the name of an attorney, but Emily Haddix said she prefers an attorney with code enforcement experience. Chuck Ledsome asked that John write up a detailed contract and share it via email with city council. Chuck moved that the City hire a new city judge according to the new contract guidelines; Matt Heston seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

John Miller asked if the city could pay Keiffer to cut the grass on abandoned or other properties where the grass height violated the city ordinances. The city would bill owners as they could. It was agreed that this could be done with payment on an hourly basis.

Funding requests:

Butch Mundell asked for money to purchase three Veterans flags for the Memorial near the East Marion Park. His last funding request was in 2011. He needs three flags per year for a cost of $795.00. This has been a budget item in the past Matt Heston moved that the City Council pay for three flags; Erin Henderson seconded the motion. After a call for discussion, vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

Mushin Do Karate requested $500 in support of their karate tournament held at East Fairmont High School. The City of Pleasant Valley has a budget item for this and has supported them in the past stated Mayor Haddix. Erin Henderson moved that City Council provide $500 to Mushin Do to be used for their tournament. Chip Phillips seconded the motion. After a call for discussion, a vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Marcella Yaremchuk requested funding for Maple Grove Cemetery. During her presentation, she stated that the cemetery had 342 veterans’ graves from eight wars and that flags are kept on these graves twenty-four hours a day/seven days a week. It costs approximately $15,000 per year for maintenance. She has contacted the available family members, Marion County Convention and Visitors Center for financial assistance. She has asked to be included in the Civil War Trails, has contacted Joey Garcia for funding. She has received $8000.00 toward the total cost of $15,000.00. She is requesting $10.00 per veteran or $3420.00

This is the first reading for this funding request. It is tabled until the next city council meeting.

Business Review:

City Park Update

John Miller reports another sink hole in the lower field. It is the third such hole and there do not appear to be any utilities or drains in the area. Richard Earle filled in a previous sink hole and there have been no further issues. John suggested that the corrugated black plastic drainage pipe in that area became overwhelmed by the recent heavy rains and couldn’t handle the volume of water. Chip Phillips suggested that Richard Earle be asked to look at the drainage pipe using his camera and report his findings to John and Kim. John stated that the dog waste stations have been installed but need the collections bags and keys. Chip Phillips has been in contact with Corey DeVault who has the keys and waste bags and will bring them to the Municipal Building.

American Fence inadvertently installed yellow trim that was intended for Mary Lou Retton Park to the lower field fence. They will remove the trim or provide to the city at cost. The general agreement was that they should stay in place and that the city would pay for them at cost.

During the installation of the fence, American Fence drove across the field putting ruts in it. Chuck Ledsome said they agreed to pay the cost of repairs. WV Green will repair the ruts for $1200.00.

Chip Phillips asked about the cost of the netting at the back of the outfield. John Miller believes it to be around $3000.00. He will confirm this and share the cost at the next council meeting.

Emily Haddix said she has received comments from citizens about the drop off at the swings and on the playground suggesting the need for more mulch. John Miller will investigate getting another delivery of mulch.

Chip Phillips will bring the information for the new Municipal Building, Kingmont, and Pleasant Valley signs to next meeting. JD Signs did not get back to him.

Cia Custard Insurance Adjusters offered a settlement for the damage to the front parking lot caused by the hydraulic leak and subsequent clean-up attempt by Republic Services of

$13, 171.08. John Miller received an estimate from CK Services for repair, sealing, and striping of the damaged area for $2050.00. Matt Heston moved that the settlement offer from Cia Custard be accepted; Erin Henderson seconded the motion; Emily Haddix called for discussion; motion passed unanimously.

Security Proposal

Council members reviewed proposals for new/updated security system for the Municipal Building from QSI, Eagle Eye Security, LLC, and SSA. SSA was removed from consideration as being too expensive. Chuck Ledsome stated that he has used EES both in his home and work and was satisfied with their work. It was suggested that the company who could start soonest get the contract as the current keypad is sticking and beginning to fail. After a discussion about the merits of each proposal, it was decided that EES would be able to start more quickly than QSI. Chuck Ledsome moved that the proposal from EES, LLC be accepted but not to exceed $15,000.00. Matt Heston seconded the motion. Emily Haddix called for discussion; there was none. The motion passed unanimously. The City Clerk will contact EES, LLC asking them for a contract and a start date.

Engineering

Lucas Gardner, PE from Civil & Environmental Consultants (CEC), Inc. spoke about hiring an engineering firm on retainer. CEC wrote the drainage study report for the city. Hiring an engineering firm on retainer is a legal process. It must be advertised. CEC will act as a resource assisting in writing the RFQ and advertisement. A potential project must be chosen; suggestions include drainage project from I-79 to Pleasant Valley Road and a pavilion for the City Park. Once the RFQ is ready, City of Pleasant Valley will run two ads in two newspapers back to back weeks. The City of Pleasant Valley will provide the RFQ, summary qualifications to applicants. City of Pleasant Valley will short list three firms. CEC will provide a score sheet. This is a quality not cost based interview. Emily Haddix asked the timeline. CEC said we are probably two months away from selecting a firm. Emily suggested using stimulus money. CEC will get back to the city with the RFQ and advertisement.

Roundtable Council Member Updates

Chip Phillips—No report

Erin Henderson – No report

Chuck Ledsome – Thanked John Miller for all he did. Will get mulch for Pleasant Valley school and City Park playground. Stated that the street lights on Serene Drive are now working and that he contacted the power company regarding the street light out at the corner of Maria Julian Lane and Kingmont Road.

Citizen concerns:

George Ebbert said his concern was addressed with hiring the new judge.

Adjournment

Chuck Ledsome moved that the meeting be adjourned; Matt Heston seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 PM.

Corrected 07.02.2024 KK