JANUARY 20, 2025

 The Newell City Council met in Special session Monday, January 20, 2025, at 6PM at Newell City Hall with Mayor Wayne Westergaard presiding. Council members present Dennis Zeigler, Jeff Shed, Larry Nielsen, and Ana Johnson. Johnson moved to approve the agenda, 2nd by Nielsen, all ayes. Nielsen moved to approve the consent agenda and minutes, 2nd by Zeigler, all ayes.

 Johnson moved to approve golf course donation gift card for couples escape for the St. Mary’s Ball and Charity Auction, 2nd by Shed, 2nd, Nielsen, Shed, Johnson, ayes, Zeigler nay.

 Zeigler moved to approve waive of penalty of $7.70 for utility billing for 429 S. Franklin, 2nd by Nielsen, all ayes.

 Public hearing was opened for FY26 Capital Projects. City Clerk Copp spoke on behalf of all city departments.

Street Department – next 2 years, re-pave truck routes. East Chaney 2400ft will need level coat and seal coat. Next 5 years, E 3rd Street should be re-paved with concrete and multiple manholes rehabbed. Newer road grader was also brought up and City Superintendent who was absent, will be looking into costs. Street signs that are showing wear was also a topic and grant research will be looked into.

Pubic Safety and Security – outdoor security cameras, IT network update and management of IT services and new equipment were addressed. Zeigler, would like this to be a regular agenda item to be discussed at councils regular session.

Community Beautification – mainstreet hanging flower baskets and new Christmas decorations for the downtown poles. Possibility of running electrical through the tree park for Christmas lighting and various gatherings.

Parks – new fence for ball field, cage or plexiglass for scoreboard protection, building better dugouts, new water fountains and sunshades.

Golf Course – New building for the pump house was addressed by GC Superintendent, Chad Wilson as well as a new roughs mower and improvements for sprinkler system. Copp, spoke on behalf of absent GC Manager Lyman regarding new siding door cooler and new tables.

Trees were discussed and research will commence for any grants that the city has not utilized or applied for.

Current tax rates were briefly discussed with talks of raising rates. This will be discussed at council’s next budget meeting.

Public forum was opened at 7:27pm and closed at 7:28pm.

Dates were set for FY26 budget meetings. Special meeting workshop February 20th 6:30pm, public hearing for proposed tax rate April 7th 6:30pm before regular session at 7:00pm and public hearing adopting FY26 budget April 21st 6:30pm.

Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:34pm, 2nd by Nielsen, all ayes.

Heather Copp, City Clerk Wayne Westergaard, Mayor