November 4, 2024

The Newell City Council met in regular session Monday, November 4, 2024, at 7PM at Newell City Hall with Mayor Wayne Westergaard presiding. Council members present Bill Henrich, Dennis Zeigler, Steve Smith, Larry Nielsen, and Ana Johnson. Henrich moved to approve the agenda, 2nd by Johnson, all ayes. Johnson moved to approve the consent agenda, 2nd by Smith, all ayes.

Mayor-There is a budget workshop in Spencer on Nov. 12, this is open to staff and council members. Police squad car is with city, credit cards have been cancelled. McCoy did not meet Nov. 1 compliance with ILEA standards. Cain Junkman, reserve, requested increase in pay, other towns are offering larger wages with IPERS. Trees at golf course will be worked on soon, new trees are doing good.

Public Works-Damaged park equipment plans from 1988 were found, no receipted. Clerk will contact insurance company to discuss options. Two manholes have been fixed. Blackhawk construction gave estimate of $8,200 & proof of insurance for golf course sewer, possibly to be fixed before Christmas. Trees & stumps will be worked on within the next week. Well levels are doing good.

Park Board-Nielsen spoke with Keisha, board president, to have a meeting within the next couple weeks. Golf course info & memberships will be discussed.

Clerk-Nielsen moved to approve treasurer’s report, 2nd by Johnson, all ayes. Audit has been finished, they are waiting on AFR. City code update questions have been received and clerk will send these back soon to receive first draft.

Police-McCoy has not given resignation, Westergaard has terminated. County coverage is still in place. Council will advertise for police chief with same information as before.

Fire-Month has been busy, but should slow down with rain. Discussion was had on inside & outside lights at station.

Library-Final budget has been submitted to the city for review, sources of income were shared for reference.

Westergaard opened public forum at 7:42, no comment made, closed at 7:42.

Hometown pride resolution was discussed, council decided to wait until next year due to no interest in committee.

Westergaard suggested appointments for committees & board and city clerk, Henrich moved to accept appointments, 2nd by Johnson, all ayes. Discussion on code enforcement was had in case of no police, Doug & Pat will take on duties.

Utility rates were discussed for 2025, Nielsen moved to increase utilities by 3%, 2nd by Johnson, all ayes.

Smith moved to accept Res:19-24 to transfer first ½ of library allocation, 2nd by Henrich. RCV: Johnson, Nielsen, Smith, Ziegler, Henrich, all ayes. 0 nays.

BVCCF grant is available. Bodholdt suggested musical park equipment. Henrich moved to request $15,000 pending park board approval, 2nd by Nielsen, all ayes.

Nielsen moved to table 2025 golf course contracts to next meeting for more information, 2nd by Henrich, all ayes.

Johnson moved to adjourn at 8:21, 2nd by Smith, all ayes.

Heather Copp, City Clerk Wayne Westergaard, Mayor