

City of Fulton

Continuation Meeting Minutes from November 22, 2021 And Budget Workshop Minutes from January 8, 2022

Mayor Wendy Ottens called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and directed the Clerk to call the roll. On roll call, Alderpersons Hunt, Nederhoff, Mask, VanKampen, King, Brondyke, and VanZuiden were present. Alderperson Banker was absent. Staff included Administrator Clark, Chief Neblung, and PW Director Sikkema. Visitors were present.

UPDATE

Alderman Mask asked to address the council to update them on the Drive's Building. They are finally moving forward after hiring a new engineer and demo is beginning to take place. They have organized the "Fidelity-Drives Historic Building Facebook Page", so please like and share. There will be many photos and information shared with the public through this page. At this time demolition is taking place on the inside, but the committee will come back to the city when a building permit is needed for outside work. The group is in the midst of applying for another matching grant to move forward on this historic remodel. FHS is a tax-exempt organization, so all donations made in the future may be used as a tax deduction.

BUSINESS

Approve the November, 2021, Council minutes. Alderman King motioned, seconded by Alderman Mask. No discussion to follow. Roll call vote, 7 yes, 0 no, minutes approved.

Approve the October and November 2021, Treasurer's Report. Alderman King motioned, seconded by Alderman VanZuiden. No discussion to follow. Roll call vote, 7 yes 0 no, Treasurer's report approved.

Approve the December 2021 Bill List. Alderman VanZuiden motioned, seconded by Alderman King. Alderman Mask asked about cleaning services charges made payable to Elizabeth Clark. City Administrator Clark said the Ms. Clark was filling in due to current cleaning personnel being on medical leave. No further questions were asked. Roll call vote, 7 yes, 0 no, bill list approved.

CONTINUED AND CURRENT BUSINESS – Items for Consideration (Discussion) or (Action)

1. Approve the February Bid Letting for the 8th Street Project and matching funds to be used from Fund 65. Alderman King motioned seconded by Alderman VanKampen. Short discussion to follow. Administrator Clark said that the estimate of the project is coming in at \$650,000 - \$680,000. \$323,000 of those funds will be used from the reimbursement of the Revolving Loan Fund. The remaining balance can be taken from Fund 65, MFT (although not recommended by Clark) and or the American Rescue Plan Funds could also be used. Discussion was leaning toward

Fund 65. When all costs come in funding will be divided between funds for payment. Roll call vote, 7 yes, 0 no. Motion approved.

2. Approve contract for the Marina Building Lease with Collin Mikesh. Alderman King motioned, seconded by Alderman VanKampen. Short discussion to follow. Administrator Clark stated that the building was to be rented for \$1000 per month to Mr. Mikesh for a tree trimming business. Contract has been drawn up for signatures, but Mr. Mikesh has not returned any phone calls. If we do not hear from him in the near future, we will proceed with other potential tenants. Roll call vote, 7 yes, 0 no. Motion approved.

3. Approve funding for the purchase of a new Public Works vehicle. Alderman Hunt motioned, seconded by Alderman King. Short discussion to follow. Administrator Clark stated that this vehicle purchase is very necessary and that PW Director Sikkema has located a vehicle in Dyersville, IA. (Ford -F550). It is very difficult at this time to find anything. Dealers have stated that it could be several months, and up until a year to be able to purchase. The vehicle price is for the chassis only, it will have to be than taken to another dealer to be outfitted, with accessories. The price in total will be approximately \$104, 000. Administrator Clark will contact local banks for the best possible financing choices for 2-3 year loans. With no further discussion - Roll call vote, 7 yes, 0 no. Motion approved.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

OVERVIEW

Budget Binders were handed out to all Councilmen and Staff, several were available for public viewing.

City Administrator Clark opened the budget workshop, explaining the contents of the budget binders.

Administrator Clark would like everyone to look at the information section at the back of the budget packet. It has great information on Use Tax, Personal Property Taxes, Consumer Price Index, Cost of the City's Tort Insurance and the current Tax Levy. All these have important factors concerning our budget.

He explained what was in the General Fund and how it fluctuates each month depending on what the City has for expenses. He did remind the council that per the Auditors, it is recommended that the City has enough in the General Fund to support the City expenses for a minimum of six months. Ideally that Fund should be sitting at about \$900, 000 - \$1,000,000.00. Of course, the only way to get to that amount and KEEP it there is to increase revenues and decrease expenditures.

Administrator Clark briefly went through the City's Budget to Actual and explained that the City was tracking in-line. This is very important to keep track to maintain consistency within the organization. At this time the Finance Committee keeps a close eye on this at their monthly meetings.

GOALS

Administrator Clark addressed each individual Alderman as to what were there specific wants and needs, and how to achieve these goals.

After much discussion the following lists were compiled.

The first list is everyone's specific ideas.

The second list is what all members agreed on to prioritize this year.

Ideally further discussion will be to create a 5 year plan to achieve most.

GOALS AND IDEAS

1. Sidewalks
2. Downtown Streetscape
3. 7th Avenue Traffic Flow/Establish a committee
4. Streets
5. Boat dock near windmill
6. 10th Ave trash can pads
7. Alleys
8. Kiwanis Ball Park/Drives
9. Tourism Director
10. Code Enforcement Officer
11. Liquor License/committee

PRIORITIES

1. Sidewalks
2. Downtown/Streets (tied)
3. Alleys

DISCUSSION ON PRIORITIES

Sidewalks being the number one consensus of all, how do we move forward.

This project would have to be bid out.

Public Works Director would have to engage a plan on what areas were in need. Lists and areas will have to be accessed as far as damage. (Total replacement or patches). This will be time consuming but will be addressed.

There is a "safe routes to school" program that PW Director will look into. This is a matching a grant (80/20) and would be submitted in August. ADA compliance is the driving force behind this program.

Downtown and Streets were tied. CA Clark stated that the downtown will be getting a fresh coating of “STRIPES” this year. As far as the downtown revitalization; work is continuing on getting grants to help with this program.

Mayor Wendy would like the City to reconsider the program being offered by the county for grant writers. Administrator Clark says this is too expensive for the City to invest in something like this that is not a sure thing. Other small towns reach out to their engineers for ideas. Alderman VanZuiden states if we start adding all kinds of new things, other areas must give up something. We need the biggest bang for the buck. Administrator Clark says the county wants \$8000 for 40 hours of grant writing, and does not believe we should go there, but that is council decision. Further discussion will take place.

ALLEYS will continue to operate as is. Generally, Public Works grades and gravels all alleys in spring and fall. There are very minimal calls to City Hall on problem areas, and if we do get them they will be addressed on each individual basis.

Once we get to the budgeting process of entering in revenues and expenses, the council will than at that time, determine how much to spend on the projects listed above, depending on the revenue stream.

CLOSING COMMENTS

City Administrator Clark will make a call to Moring to see if a solution can be made about the problems with trash cans on 10th Avenue. Will update at the next meeting.

Alderman VanKampen would like that the Bike path be plowed. She has had several calls.

City Administrator Clark will be gone January 15-25, 2022.

Next Council Meeting will be held on January 31, 2022.

Next Budget Workshop will be held on February 12, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.

ADJOURN

Alderman King motioned, seconded by Alderman Brondyke. All in favor. 7 yes, 0 no. Motion approved. Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tammy L Garibay
City Clerk