

**CITY OF WESTWOOD  
Council Meeting Minutes**

**The regularly scheduled meeting of the Westwood City Council was held on Monday,  
December 16, 2024, at the home of Mayor Brant Knudsen**

**Mayor Brant Knudsen** called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

**Roll Call** LuAnn Johnson (present), Monte Knudsen (present), Gary Lane (present), Zach Moehle (present), Eric Peterson (present)

**Agenda Approval** A motion was made by Councilman Knudsen and seconded by Councilman Moehle to approve the agenda. The agenda was approved.

**Welcome** The Mayor welcomed Sheriff Rich McNamee and Lieutenant Jesse Bell to the meeting. They indicated that they like to make connections with every village, township and city in Henry County. They try to get to each one at least once a week for a drive through. They were asked if they can enforce traffic laws in the city. They said they could stop drivers for speeding and for not using seatbelts. At some point they want to sign an agreement with each constituency to define their relationships. When asked about how many calls they get, they said that call volume has doubled with the advent of cell phones. (From 10,000 to 25,000.) It makes it very easy for citizens to make referrals. They were asked if they provided training for shooter incidents. They said they do provide training for all types of violent behavior.

**Minutes of Previous Council Meeting** The minutes of the meeting on November 18, 2024, were presented. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilman Knudsen and was seconded by Councilman Peterson. The minutes were approved.

**Authorization of Claims and Financial Report** A motion to authorize the claims and accept the financial report was made by Councilman Lane and seconded by Councilwoman Johnson. The motion passed.

**Unfinished Business**

- a. **FY26 Budget Planning** The clerk provided the Council with a copy of the budget calendar provided by the Iowa League of Cities. This includes all state requirements. She also provided a budget calendar geared to regular Council meetings. At this time the property valuations on which taxes are based are not available. She gave the Council a draft worksheet that incorporates the Actual Expenditures and Revenues for FY24, The Budget for FY25, the Actual Expenditures and Revenues for FY25 to date, the Re-estimated Budget for FY 25, and the Budget for FY26. These documents will be reviewed in January and the Council should be able to make a decision on the proposed tax rate for FY26.
- b. **Westwood Holiday Stroll** The Mayor said that he learned that some residents had not received the e-mail about the Stroll, which naturally affected participation. He wished there had been more children to visit Santa Claus. Corrections will be made regarding announcements in the next year. A motion was made by Councilman Lane to reimburse those who provided refreshments for the Holiday Stroll. Councilman Peterson seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- c. **Clerk Bonus** in consideration of the amount of work required of the City Clerk, Councilman Peterson move to give her a Christmas Bonus of \$300. The motion was seconded by Councilman Moehle and the motion passed.

**New Business**

- a. **City Decorations** The Council will set a date in January to remove Christmas decorations.
- b. **Stump Removal in the Park** Woodsmall Tree Trimming provided an estimate for stump removal and tree trimming in the park. The Council wanted the stump removal to take priority. It was noted that tree trimming would cut down some on the cost of TopNotch as they would not have to pick up as many branches. Councilman Lane made a motion to allot \$4,000 for stump removal and tree trimming. The motion was seconded by Councilman Knudsen. It was understood that the Mayor will walk through the park with a representative from Woodsmall and select the trees to be trimmed in order to keep within the budget. The motion passed.
- c. **New Business** The Mayor said that he had been contacted by our insurance company and they indicated that they cover any incidents when officers are using their cars for city business. They have requested copies of the driver's licenses of all relevant individuals. The Mayor asked that copies of licenses be sent to him so that he can send them on to our insurers.
- d. **Mt. Pleasant Child Care Center** The Mayor noted a request for donations from the Mt. Pleasant Child Care Center. After much discussion it was decided not to respond to this request.

**Mayor / Council Member Comments**

The Mayor noted that some realtors are not providing adequate information to new residents. He has therefore compiled an notebook with all the information new residents should need. Ordinances are included. He will give these notebooks to local realtors.

**City Utilities Comments** The summary was reviewed. The Mayor will follow up

**Adjournment** A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Knudsen and was seconded by Councilman Lane. The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** Next regular Council Meeting is on January 20, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.. Home of Mayor Brant Knudsen at 3005 Hickory Lane

**Respectfully submitted,**

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**Brant Knudsen, Mayor**

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**Nancy Erickson, Clerk**