

## CITY OF WESTWOOD

### Council Meeting Minutes

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Westwood City Council was held on Monday,  
April 19, 2021, at the home of Mayor Brant Knudsen

**Mayor Brant Knudsen** called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

**Roll Call** Scott Augsburg (present), Elijah Gnann (present), Monte Knudsen (absent), Gary Lane (present), Harlan Smith (present)

#### **Welcome /Public Comments**

**Agenda Approval** A motion was made by Councilman Lane and seconded by Councilman Augsburg to approve the agenda with the addition of a request for funds for Christmas lights and discussion regarding repair/replacement of notice boxes. The agenda was approved.

**Minutes for the Council Meeting** held March 15, 2021 were presented. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilman Gnann and was seconded by Councilman Smith. 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 Augsburg and seconded by Councilman Lane. The motion was approved. A question was raised about the memorial bench that the city had raised funds for. The Mayor will check on prices of different options and on engraving.

#### **Report of Standing Committees**

- **Budget & Finance** No meeting was held.
- **Grounds & Roads** No meeting was held.
- **Building & Ordinance** No meeting was held.

#### **Unfinished Business**

- Westwood Clean-Up May 1<sup>st</sup>** The City clean-up is scheduled for May 1, beginning between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m. On May 1, the tasks to be completed include: 1) Putting the fountain back in the pond, 2) Mulching the cul-de-sacs and playground area, 3) Cleaning up the park; 4) Remove branches from the pond and cleaning the outlets; 5) Putting copper sulfate in the pond to remove the algae. The Council decided to purchase the mulch in bags and will distribute it to the sites where needed.  
The Mayor has been in contact with SEIRPC regarding grants and has learned that Westwood cannot get grants for roads but can apply for grants for parks. We cannot get a grant just for a playground. However, the City can apply for grants for other features in the park. Such grants would require matching of 33% to 50%. The Mayor is intending to put in applications.
- Westwood Utilities** A pipe in the creek between Sycamore and Hickory has risen above the surface and it froze and cracked during the cold spell this winter. It has been patched and a more complete repair will be done later.
- Street Repairs** Several areas on the City streets need to be repaired. In the past it has cost about \$25,000 per year for the patching that has been done. The Council decided that, instead of patching, it will resurface streets throughout the City. The Mayor will be getting quotes on resurfacing and will contact the League of Cities regarding a loan. There isn't much point in continuing to patch when all those areas will be ground up during the resurfacing. Timing remains a question.

#### **New Business**

- Shed Replacement** The shed at the entrance to Westwood has serious structural problems and needs to be replaced. Councilman Augsburg will begin to look for a suitable replacement. A longer shed would allow a space to be separated off for children who use it to wait for the school bus.
- Christmas Lights** Because the Christmas lights could not be taken down until late in the season, Linda Coats estimates that there is a need for about \$200 for replacements. Councilman Augsburg made a motion to approve this expense. The motion was seconded by Councilman Smith and it was approved.
- Grass Seed and Honeysuckle Update** There is an area along the road by the park that needs to be shored up and reseeded. It was decided to wait until a time is set for road repair; then put in a load of dirt and reseed in the fall. There are no plans for further removal of the honeysuckle. DNR will be contacted about this as a controlled burn is the best way to clear the wooded areas.
- Notice Boxes** One of the notice boxes blew down in a recent windstorm. It was decided to repair that box for now but plan on replacing all three boxes in the near future. Discussion was tabled to the next meeting.

#### **Mayor / Council Member Comments**

There is a meeting on Wednesday, April 21, at City Hall, called by the Board of Supervisors for Henry County. They will discuss the American Rescue Plan Act and what it means for the County. Councilman Lane will attend this meeting to represent Westwood.

**City Utilities Comments** The summary was reviewed. The Council discussed e-mailing bills in addition to sending them through the mail as some residents have not been receiving the bills in a timely manner.

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Gnann and was seconded by Councilman Smith. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

**Next Meeting: April 19, at 6:30 p.m. Home of Mayor Brant Knudsen at 3005 Hickory Lane.**

Respectfully submitted by:



Nancy Erickson, Clerk