

CITY OF WESTWOOD

Council Meeting Minutes

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Westwood City Council was held on Monday,
February 21, 2022, at the home of Mayor Brant Knudsen

Mayor Brant Knudsen called the meeting to order at 6:27 p.m.

Swearing in of New Officer: The following individual who was elected in November sworn in: Monte Knudsen, Council, 4 year term.

Roll Call Elijah Gnann (present), Monte Knudsen (present); Gary Lane (present), Eric Peterson (present), Darrel Rogers, (present)

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

Lynn Whaley of Wemiga Waste was recognized by the Mayor. Mr. Whaley presented a five year service agreement with the cost per month in FY23 and FY24 at \$850 and in FY25, FY26, and FY27 at \$900. He indicated that if costs continue to go up he might need to raise these rates with the consent of the Council. The Mayor noted that one issue of concern is the size of the garbage truck that is being used. It exceeds the 15,000 ton limit for City streets. Mr. Whaley said that he may be having a need for smaller trucks for another client and if so, he would calculate the difference in cost between using the smaller versus larger truck. The cost of the smaller truck might be higher because of the increased cost of traveling to Burlington. Before this agreement is signed Mr. Whaley will provide the Council with the additional information.

Minutes for the Council Meeting held January 17, 2022 were presented. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilman Lane 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 Councilman Rogers The motion was approved.

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 Shed Update** The Mayor will be finishing this project and ordering the shed.
- Westwood Landscaping** In April the Council will set the dates for Spring cleanup and make a list of all those things that need to be addressed. It was discussed whether to use bulk mulch (which is cheaper) or bagged mulch. It was decided that the bagged mulch added enough convenience to make it worth the difference in price. Mulch can be distributed early so that residents can work on this when it is most convenient for them. Everyone can't always be available on one particular Saturday.
- Water Meters** The Mayor is continuing to research options for use of meters, billing and arrangements with Mt. Pleasant. Currently there are six meters that are not functioning. The Council agreed that the City would go ahead and install the three meters we currently have in stock while the discussion is ongoing.

New Business

- Resolution 3-2022 Notice of Public Hearing on the FY23 City Budget** **The Public Hearing on the City Budget is set for March 21, at 6:30 p.m. at 3005 Hickory Lane.** Councilman Rogers moved the adoption of Resolution 3-2022 and the motion was seconded by Councilman Knudsen. The motion was approved by roll call vote: Elijah Gnann (Aye), Gary Lane (Aye), Monte Knudsen (Aye), Eric Peterson (Aye), Darrel Rogers (Aye) The notice for the hearing will be posted on March 9, 2022.
- Resolution 4-2022 Second Reading of the FY23 Budget** The Council reviewed the budget for FY23 and the need for revisions in the FY22 budget. It was moved by Councilman Peterson and seconded by Councilman Lane to accept the second reading of the FY23 Budget. The motion was approved by roll call vote: Elijah Gnann (Aye), Gary Lane (Aye), Monte Knudsen (Aye), Eric Peterson (Aye), Darrel Rogers (Aye) The budget discussion was primarily centered on anticipated road repairs. At this point this is not included in the budget. However, a bank loan is pending and if that is realized it will be included in the FY23 Budget. The cost of the road repair is approximately \$319,000. The City will put down \$50,000 and borrow \$269,000. The time for repayment will be based on the most favorable interest rates. There was also discussion of increasing utility rates by \$1.83 per month in line with increasing costs.

Mayor / Council Member Comments

The Mayor noted that he would not call for street cleaning (sand removal) until sometime in March when we could be sure it would not be needed again. **Also**, he has been attending Henry County meetings that are setting increases for non-elected officials.

Councilman Rogers raised the question of why there was no road sign at the corner of Franklin Avenue and Route 34 that indicated a direction to get to Westwood. Inquiries will be made to DOT.

City Utilities Comments The summary was reviewed.

Adjournment: There being no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Gnann and was seconded by Councilman Knudsen The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 21, at 6:30 p.m. Home of Mayor Brant Knudsen at 3005 Hickory Lane.

Respectfully submitted

Brant Knudsen, Mayor

Nancy Erickson, Clerk