

Regular meeting of the mayor and council was held December 5, 2016, 5:00 p.m. at city hall. Mayor Jennifer Brush presided. Council members present: John Bisnette, Tonya Kuhn, Teri Cordill, and John Cary. Absent: Devin Renken. Also present: Evan Joy, Bruce Berkley, Terry Gradig, Ron Duran, Vickie Oviatt, Curtis Miner, Justin Towery, LaRhea Cole, Terry Craig, Kelley Berkley.

Mayor Jennifer Brush called the meeting to order and led in the flag salute.

Teri moved, seconded by John B., to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2016 meeting. Carried.

Sheriff Miner reported that November was a light month in Downs. He presented the report of activity for council's review. Sheriff Miner had met with the city attorney concerning the abandoned vehicles in town. Warnings will be issued, giving 20 days to comply.

Terry Gradig had nothing to report on code enforcement activity.

City Attorney reported that he had not prepared the deed for Erik Vrbas yet. Bruce is preparing a letter to the owners of the property at 810 Osborne Street for cleanup.

Ron Duran, Animal Control, reported that he had picked up a half dozen cats and a few dogs. He will be following up on a complaint received for barking dogs. Mayor Brush asked Ron to keep a log book of his activity and present a monthly written report to the council.

John B. reported that he had several people ask him about allowing three dogs. One person had suggested that there be a fee of \$100.00/year, for the third dog, that could be renewed yearly, with no complaints. There was discussion. John B. moved to direct the city attorney to draft an ordinance to allow three dogs with a permit for \$100.00/year for the extra dog. Teri seconded the motion. There was further discussion. Justin Towery asked to speak. He is the owner of three dogs. He had two dogs, he then married and his wife had a dog. He noted that Downs is a hunting community and they had chosen to buy a house here. He had visited with his neighbors to see if they approved. He was in favor of the council allowing the third dog. Following discussion, Mayor Brush called for a vote. Teri and John B. – Yes; John C. and Tonya – No; Mayor Brush cast the tie-breaking vote – No. Motion is not carried.

Kelly Berkley was present to announce that the memorial park project was selected to receive the Dane G. Hansen grant for \$5,000.00. Tonya moved, seconded by John B., to accept the Dane G. Hansen grant for \$5,000.00 for the memorial park. Carried.

Terry Gradig, City Superintendent, reported that the Dri-Deck tile was received for the pool. He has attempted to contact Donnie File regarding the clinic for a test, and will

try again to reach him. A person from Kensington had contacted him to do concrete crushing, and Terry will get an estimate. He has applied for a grant for the ballfield.

City Clerk reported that those requesting hearings on their water bills, have paid and are now current.

John C. reported that the fire department will have a report at the next meeting.

Mayor Brush reported that the beautification project (cemetery flag poles) was also selected to receive the Dane G. Hansen grant. This is in the amount of \$6,500.00. Terry had estimates for two flag pole options. The sand blasted powder coating in white, \$9,222.00; and the sand blasted painted gray, \$6,606.30. Following discussion, Tonya moved to accept the Dane G. Hansen grant for \$6,500.00 to replace and powder coat the cemetery flag poles with the additional funds from the cemetery care fund, for a total cost not to exceed \$10,000.00. Teri seconded the motion. Carried.

Mayor Brush reported that the city was also selected to receive the Dane G. Hansen grant for city wide clean up. John C. moved to accept the Community Clean-Up grant from the Dane G. Hansen grant program in the amount of \$1,815.67. Teri seconded the motion. Carried.

Tonya moved, seconded by John B., to approve the builder's licenses #17-06 through #17-10. Carried.

John B. moved, seconded by John C., to approve the plumbing licenses #17-11 and #17-12. Carried.

Tonya moved, seconded by Teri, to approve the special use permits #16-30 and #17-01. Carried.

Teri reported that there will be lifeguard certification in Beloit. She will be putting up a poster and running an ad. Teri moved, seconded by Tonya, to place an ad in the Downs News for the lifeguard training to be held December 29th and 30th in Beloit, and run the ad December 15th and 22nd. Carried.

Mayor Brush had contacted Kathy Tucker regarding her request to appear. Kathy reported that the floor cleaning machine had been left in the middle of the floor at the memorial hall. Since she had to move it herself, she was requesting a refund of rent fees. There was discussion. No refund will be issued.

There will be a special meeting of the council on December 29th at noon for year-end business.

It was agreed to have John C. contact Lyle Lewis from Alton concerning the Code Enforcement position.

John B. will check with the ambulance director about providing schedules.

Vouchers were reviewed and signed. John B. moved, seconded by Tonya, to approve the vouchers and payrolls as presented. Carried.

At 6:44 p.m., Tonya moved to adjourn the meeting. Teri seconded. Carried. Meeting adjourned.

Jennifer Brush, Mayor

Vickie Oviatt, Clerk