

**OPENING OF COUNCIL MEETING**

Mayor Pro Tem Scott Yaeger opened the remote and in person council meeting at 7:00pm. Council members present were Michelle Plumb, Marsha Smith, Mike Schrag, and Debbie Chapman. Council Members Dede Boyer and Dennis Chamberlain were present remotely. Staff members in attendance were Public Works Director Dave Breazeale, Deputy Clerk Treasurer II Michelle Asmussen, City Police Chief David McCormick, City Fire Chief Joel Bell, and City Attorney John Kragt. Mayor Linda Kadlec and Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt were excused. Also present was Rod Larse from the Adams County Journal.

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Pro Tem Scott Yaeger asked if there were any changes to the consent agenda. Scott stated that item number 6B would not be discussed this evening. Council Member Mike Schrag made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Council Member Michelle Plumb seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Pro Tem Yaeger did a roll call of the council members so that everyone was known who was present in person and by phone. All council members were present.

**PUBLIC REQUESTS AND COMMENTS-** Mayor ProTem Yaeger asked if there were any questions or comments from the public. Chief McCormick stated he wasn't sure if everyone was aware but there was a special guest there tonight, Representative Joe Schmick. Representative Schmick stated he has made it a goal of his to get around to every community's city council in my district he didn't realize there were 44 of them. Representative Schmick stated if there is anything folks would like to talk to him about, he is more than willing to listen.

**ACTION AGENDA**

- A. Phase 2 Water System Improvements Engineer Agreement-Varela & Associates-** Ben Varela stated back in November, council approved amendment #2 with Varela to do the engineering work for Well 8 construction and the distribution design through construction. Varela and council signed it and it was sent it to Rural Development and they want the entire project scoped out in an agreement between the city and Varela up front, which normally the city doesn't do. If it's a multi-phase project, you usually go phase by phase. The exercise of scoping the entire project has taken the better part of four months now. There is now a new agreement for the entire project that Rural Development has already approved. In essence this agreement is a repeat of the amendment 2 in that council is authorizing Varela to begin work on the Well 8 construction and distribution project. The other project in the Rural Development scope of work is the park reservoir and booster station and some improvements to the golf course well. That work will not begin until we receive written authorization from Rural Development, but they are scoped ahead of time. In essence it is a repeat of the amendment that the council approved way back in November. Mayor Pro Tem Yaeger said the reason we had to have the park reservoir and the golf course well is because it had to include everything that was in the original 2019 application. If we tried to go in and switch things around it would take another four months to get it done. Council Member Michelle Plumb made a motion to approve the mayor to sign the Phase 2 Water System Improvements Engineer Agreement between the City of Ritzville and Varela & Associates. Council Member Mike Schrag seconded the motion, Motion passed 7-0.

- B. Well #8 Pay Estimate #1-Schnieder-** Ben Varela stated this is the first pay estimate for the Well 8 drilling project. This pay estimate is for excavation work to level the site, demolition of the existing Well 8 pump station & equipment and the beginning of the demolition of the existing well. Dave Breazeale stated the contractors said they could be done possibly by Friday, if not it would be early next week. The city awarded schedule C with the hopes the casings would be removed, and if that was not an option then we would have to move to schedule D. The project is covering both schedules C & D. Council Member Michelle Plumb made a motion to approve Pay Estimate No 1 to Schneider Water Services in the amount of \$174,307.93. Council Member Debbie Chapman seconded the motion. Council Member Dennis Chamberlain abstained. Motion passed 6-1-0.
- C. Fireman Air Packs Purchase-** Fire Chief Joel Bell stated they have been looking for air packs for two years. They had a couple vendors present to the fire department and they picked the gear that is the better of the two. Chief Bell checked with other fire departments around the area to see what they are using, and these packs seem to be the best for us right now. Dave McCormick stated this will be an ongoing project not only with the city but with the county fire commissioners for the other half that the county owns. Council Member Michelle Plumb looked up the amount budgeted for air packs in the 2022 budget. The amount in the ER&R is \$46,645 for the air packs. Scott Yaeger stated he feels the council should approve \$41,000 so they could get 4 instead of 2 since it is in the budget. Council Member Mike Schrag made a motion to approve Fire Chief Joel Bell to spend up to \$46,000 from the budget (ER&R) to purchase 4 complete air pack systems for the fire department. Council Member Debbie Chapman seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

#### DISCUSSION AGENDA

- A. Amending Chapter 3.36 Nuisances, Ordinance No. 2159-** City Attorney John Kragt stated one of the main items on the mayor's agenda is to clean up these nuisance properties. Kragt was tasked with the project a while ago and it has gone through several different drafts and several different meetings. Kraft said we are now in the position to provide the city with some options and have a nuisance ordinance with some teeth in it and the ability to collect the funds. We still need to have a follow up meeting with the county treasurer regarding Section 3.36.085 abatement cost. Kragt's preferred method is the assessment lien where the county treasurer collects this lien, just like they do for the weed board. They can only charge 1% of the dollar amount so it is a whole lot cheaper than if the city utilizes an attorney for the lien process. Clerk-Treasurer Julie Flyckt and Kragt have a follow up meeting with the county treasurer to discuss some statues and see if this process can go through their office. The assessment lien statue was implemented in 2016 so it is a relatively new concept and there aren't a lot of municipalities on our side of the state using that process. When the property owner doesn't pay, it can be given to the county treasurer, she puts it on their property taxes and when they pay their property taxes each year, the city would receive the tax allotment money. Council Member Mike Schrag asked about site obscuring fences for wrecking yards and if it would include those? Mayor Pro Tem Yaeger stated to refer to RCC Title 11 Chapter 11.115 RCC. Kragt stated unless there were any drastic changes, the public hearing could be set for the next city council meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Yaeger stated it needs to go to the License & Rules Committee as they haven't had it to look over yet.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** RPDA Minutes-February 16, 2022 minutes were provided to council in their packets.

**MAYOR UPDATES:**

- A. Mayor Pro Tem Yaeger stated the council approved the county to work on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave Street project. The county is grinding pavement right now in small sections. Thursday the street will be closed until we it is smoothed and packed down. Mayor Pro Tem Yaeger sat down with the Ritzville Golf Association (RGA) members Bruce Benzel, Steve McPherson, Bill Markum, and Golf Manager Dan Duff to go over a rough draft change to the existing golf course clubhouse agreement. They would like to find someone to operate the restaurant and sub-lease to them. In this particular lease they would be taking in greens fees until they can find somebody. They need a lease so they can get their permits and liquor license. The agreement includes collecting greens fees and paying no rent at this time until they find someone to sub-lease the restaurant. It terminates when they find someone to sub-lease it and it is renegotiated. Now it will need to go to the city attorney for review and then brought back to council.

**DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

- A. **City Attorney-** City Attorney John Kragt reported he has been working on the nuisance ordinance, the golf course lease and a couple other small things with Clerk Treasurer Flyckt and the mayor.
- B. **Public Works-**Public Works Director Dave Breazeale stated he is meeting with the contractor from the Burroughs home on Friday to do his final. He still needs to paint the soffit and there is a little discrepancy on what he needs done to finish his scope of work. A screen was installed on the lift station to catch all the solids so the pumps would quit plugging. As soon as the screen was installed, there has not been one plug, but they have to be cleaned every other day. The crew started the patio project at city hall, and they are currently removing the old steps. The cemetery bathroom is complete minus the exterior painting due to the weather. There have been 4 or 5 traffic signs stolen around town in the last couple weeks.
- C. **Police Department-** Chief Dave McCormick stated they got Matt's car back from Bud Clary which was three for about two months. They think they figured it out this time so we will put it back in service. Both of the recruits are doing very well in training, and they are ahead of schedule from what we originally planned. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month, they will switch officers and shifts. The department has a death investigation occurring right now and one of the new guys will be attending an autopsy on Friday in Grant County.
- D. **Fire-**Fire Chief Joel Bell reported they are having the pancake feed on Memorial Day and everything else has been pretty slow.

Council Member Dede Boyer gave a quick update on the Chamber and stated they are looking for more people to be on the board and hoping for some younger people to get some new ideas.

**ADJOURNMENT-**With no further comments or business to come before the council, Mayor Pro Tem Yaeger adjourned the remote and in person meeting at 8:05pm.



Michelle Asmussen, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer II