

CITY OF HUMBOLDT
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2008 - 7:00 P.M.

The Council met in regular session on Monday, January 14, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Humboldt Public Library meeting room. Mayor Sharp called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following Councilmembers present: Aikins, Crawford, Griffith, Julich and McReynolds. City Attorney Works and Councilmembers Weilert, Walburn and Murrow were absent. Also present were City Administrator Tucker and Chief of Police Onnen.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilmember Crawford gave the invocation.

Public comments were made by Earl Lyon, who asked if something could be done about curbs and sidewalks for handicap persons and also the enforcement of speed limits near the schools, and Neil Hartwig, who voiced his concern about the possible increase in camping fees from \$2 per night at Camp Hunter, especially during the Bluegrass Festival. City Administrator Tucker assured him there would be no increase until after May when the Bluegrass Festival is held.

Councilmember McReynolds requested that Item d. Gas consultants-Reiss & Goodness Engineers, be removed from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion. Motion by Aikins, second by Crawford that items a, b and c of the Consent Agenda be approved. Motion carried unanimously. The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- a. Approval of Minutes of December 10, 2007 and Adjourned Meeting of January 7, 2008
- b. Warrant Ordinance No. 1641 dated December 28, 2007 in the amount of \$26,375.72 and Warrant Ordinance No. 1642 dated January 14, 2008 in the amount of \$92,600.30
- c. Resolution No. 1-14-08A - Annual GAAP Waiver as recommended by City's auditor

Councilmember McReynolds asked what services the City received for the annual \$3,000 that is paid to Reiss & Goodness Engineers and stated the City had just paid this annual fee last April. Al Reiss was present and explained that they are available for consultation and also make a physical review and report of the natural gas system operations on a quarterly basis. There was some confusion as to what period of time the \$3,000 would cover as it is usually paid in January. Due to the fact there had been some discussion in early 2007 about selling the City's gas system, there was a hold put on the invoice and it was not paid until April. Al Reiss said he would look into this and make it fair to the City. Motion by Aikins, second by Crawford to accept the contract of Reiss & Goodness for \$3,000 for the time period of January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008. Motion carried unanimously.

Stewart Braden, The Humboldt Union, asked the Council to consider them as the official City newspaper when appointments are made in April.

Rex Heape, Shafer, Kline & Warren, recommended the City accept the low bid of I-CON Underground, LLC of \$477,777.77 to do the sewer collection system upgrade. Motion by Julich, second by Aikins to accept the bid of \$477,777.77 of I-CON Underground, LLC to do the sewer collection upgrade. Motion carried unanimously.

Heape stated the bids were lower than expected. He said there would be money remaining as only \$239,000 of the grant can be used to pay I-CON because the City must match whatever is spent from the CDBG funds. City Administrator Tucker asked Heape to come back to the Council in February with additional repairs that need to be made to the sewer system and said he would also talk with Susan Galemore with the Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission about the remaining money and how it could best be spent on improvements. Heape also brought up the issue of the sewer line that is located under Humboldt High School and how some of the loan monies (not the grant monies) may be able to fund the \$10,000 needed to put in a pump station to remedy the problem and pay for the pump. It was the consensus of the Council to instruct Heape to pursue this.

Tom Aspirin, BG Consultants, presented plans for swimming pool additions and improvement upgrades as follows:

ADA Bathhouse	\$29,000
Filter and circulation system	\$73,000
Zero depth entry level addition	\$231,000
Water features	\$28,500
Other costs	<u>\$76,150</u>
Total estimate:	\$437,650

Motion by Aikins, second by Griffith to allow City Attorney Works to move forward and prepare paperwork to be voted on by Councilmembers at the February Council Meeting to hold a special election for voter approval for a 1/4 cent sales tax increase to raise enough revenue to pay off general obligation bonds of approximately \$400,000 that will need to be issued to fund swimming pool upgrades. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Aikins, second by Crawford to accept the new job descriptions in the Pay Plan for all City positions as prepared by City Administrator Tucker. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Aikins, second by Crawford to accept Ordinance No. 1416, an ordinance amending Article 4 of Chapter I of the Humboldt City Code relating to personnel policies and employee benefits and adopting by reference the Employee Pay Plan of the City of Humboldt, Kansas. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Julich, second by Aikins to proceed with adoption of a Neighborhood Revitalization Plan. Motion carried unanimously. The plan would identify two areas in the City for residential, commercial or industrial property owners to apply for tax rebates on new improvements, those areas being the Central Business District (Neosho Street

between 6th and 10th Street south to Cherokee Street) and South Humboldt (Bridge Street south to the City Limits, excluding the Central Business District.)

Motion by Julich, second by McReynolds to adopt Resolution No. 1-14-08B, a resolution authorizing Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas to administer the Internal Revenue Service Section 125 Employee Flexible Benefits Plan for the City of Humboldt, Kansas. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Aikins to proceed with the City planning proposal by John Riggs of Riggs Associates, Lindsborg, Kansas, to perform the following services: 1) Phase 1-Comprehensive City Plan; 2) Land Use; and 3) Update the zoning and subdivision regulations at an estimated cost of \$14,750. After a short discussion, Aikins amended her motion and it was seconded by McReynolds to proceed with the City planning proposal by John Riggs of Riggs Associates, Lindsborg, Kansas, to perform the following services: 1) Phase 1-Comprehensive City Plan; 2) Land Use; and 3) Update the zoning and subdivision regulations at an estimated cost of \$14,750 with the work to be complete in 12 to 18 months. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Julich, second by McReynolds to authorize the City to purchase the land north of Sweatt Ballfield for \$7,600 with one-half to be paid by a private donation. Motion carried unanimously. The land will be leased to the Humboldt Recreation Commission to expand the baseball complex and add additional parking.

Motion by Julich, second by Crawford to adopt Ordinance No. 1418, an ordinance amending Section 15-420 of the Humboldt Municipal Code relating to the assessment of charges for solid waste collection and repealing the existing section thereof. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Aikins, second by McReynolds to make a payment of \$750 to Rebuilding the Public Square. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by McReynolds, second by Aikins that the junk vehicles at 718 Cherokee (James Leroy, owner) and 108 Pecan (Travis Booe, owner) be deemed a nuisance and that Chief of Police Onnen be directed to abate the nuisance. Motion carried unanimously.

City Administrator Tucker presented photographs of several nuisance properties to the Council and asked what course of action they would like to take, also stating that Community Development funds could be used by the City for clean-up of said properties. Motion by Julich, second by Aikins to cite the listed properties as being nuisance properties and set a public hearing date at the Regular Council Meeting on February 11, 2008 and proceed with a plan for the City to correct these issues if not corrected by the landowner. Motion carried unanimously.

City Administrator Tucker said the Home Housing Grant would be promoted on the City's website and that Susan Galemore, Southeast Kansas Regional Planning

Commission, would be at City Hall January 15 to train staff on what information is needed to better help residents making application.

City Administrator Tucker told Councilmembers that two rural businesses had approached him about connecting to the City's sewer. He reminded Councilmembers that as long as proper application is made and it passes the City's inspection, connection to the City's sewer could be approved by him and would not require Council action.

Motion by Julich, second by McReynolds to recess to executive session for 10 minutes at 9:25 p.m. for discussion of non-elected personnel with the Mayor, Council and City Administrator requested to be present. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting will resume regular session at 9:35 p.m.

The meeting resumed regular session at 9:35 p.m.

Motion by Julich, second by Aikins to hire Craig Mintz as Public Works Director/Code Enforcement Officer at a salary of \$48,000 a year. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by McReynolds, second by Aikins to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Robert Sharp
Mayor

ATTEST:

Jean M. Flores
Assistant City Clerk