

City of Conesville
Council Meeting 5/13/24

Meeting called to order by Mayor Tom Van Auken 6:00 pm

Present: Mayor Tom Van Auken, Council Members: Cory Conaway, Azure Van Auken, Kassandra Espinosa, Bob Probst, Carolina Izaquirre City Clerk: Carol Zuniga

Previous Agenda and Minutes from 4-8-24 and April Bills/Bank report was approved. Motion by Azure, Second by Carolina. Pass 5-0.

Sewer Report by Austin Conaway. Requested comment to sewer bills about don't flush personal items. First week of June discharge is coming up.

Maintenance & Grounds by Danny & Mindy Conaway said overhead door on City shed broke. Council wants Quote. Need Front tires for tractor – getting quotes. Looking for flag options for missing Conesville banner flags. Brush pile needs burned; metal needs taken to recycle. Look for nice signs at each end of town. Asked if should use debit card or POs for Menards. Carol requested POs at recommendation from accountant. **Action:** Motion by Azure to purchase fill dirt for park holes \$300/load. Seconded by Carolina, Pass 5-0.

Community Items: Dead Tree requested taken down. Mayor and council replied city not responsible for cutting down trees, per ordinance it is the homeowners responsibility. Citizen also asked about tearing down an old house and requested contacts for this. Bloomers contact information was given.

Old Business:

- Motion by Bob to hire Scott Hardy as Conesville Police. Seconded by Kassandra. Pass 5-0. All documents and background are completed. Will start 5-22-24 at \$22/hr part time.
- Some street address requested changes by previous Mayor and Council have been completed in Beacon and at Post Office. There are some requests that cannot be changed and others that have suggestions. Carol to put list together for next meeting.

New Business:

- Mayor got \$1600 quote for changing all lights in community building to LEDs. **Action:** Motion by Azure, seconded by Carolina. Pass 5-0.
- Old Fire Station – Conesville Fire Department wants to make a museum out of this. It is the first fire station in Conesville. City does not want to foot bill. **Action:** Motion by Bob to sell building to Fire Department for \$1. Seconded by Kassandra. Pass 5-0.
- Discussion on whether Council want Porta-potties in park this summer. **Action:** Motion by Bob, Seconded by Kassandra to put 2 port-a-potties in main park. Pass 5-0.
- Discussion on clean-up day. Council would like one if not too expensive. Clerk to call around and get options.

Clerk report by Carol Zuniga

- Deposits: Garbage - \$2888.56, Sewer: \$6933.14, Interest \$189.68, Local Option Tax \$3782.91, Property Tax: \$10,921.05, Community Center Rent \$525, Road Use Tax \$3837.43 Total Deposits \$29,077.77

- Discussion on Bloomer locates bill. These are locates for State Hwy project. Find out more information as to who should be billed for this. Austin questioned Kinetic bill. Said the line for the pump station can be removed. Clerk to follow-up. **Action:** Motion by Azure, seconded by Cassandra to pay Gazette and Kinetic bill. Pass 5-0
- Update on Sewer and garbage accounts. 79 accounts up to date. 26 accounts slightly delinquent. 15 accounts over 6 months delinquent. Many City accounts were behind and have been caught up.
- Bob talked about another approach to collection through a municipal infraction ordinance. Jamie Boston, Muscatine Lawyer has experience in this and council would like to hear more.
- Clerk discussed current CD at very low rate. Look into options.

Mayor Tom Van Auken gave update on letter sent to Carlos Cantina about proper procedure for a building permit and the applicable ordinances the Council will use in order to approve or disprove the permit. Parking and obstruction are two categories of major concern with the market building in question.

Council Items: Clean up wooden train. This was already voted on. Slide and swing can be taken off and just leave wooden train. Better, safer updated play equipment in park.

Closed Session: Motion by Bob, seconded by Cory to go into Closed session per Code of Iowa Section 21.5 subsection g to discuss initiating a criminal investigation. Passed 5-0. Entered close session at 7:20. Cassandra, seconded by Carolina to come out of closed session at 7:53. **Action from Closed Session:** Motion by Bob to pursue criminal investigation by contacting Muscatine County Sheriff. Seconded by Cassandra. Pass 5-0.

Adjourn: Cory motioned to adjourn, seconded by Azure. Pass 5-0.

Tom Van Auken, Mayor

Carol Zuniga, City Clerk