CITY OF MONTELLO

COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES

12-4-17

Meeting called to order at 7PM by Mayor Doudna

**Members Present**: Jim Houdek, Venise Mugler, Barb Jordan, Ken Streich, Karlene Utke, Frank Breitenbach, Joanna Christian

**Member Excused**: Barbara Barton

**Others Present**: Chief Olson, Keri Solis, Keith Wollfert, Jim Giese, Fred Logemann

Motion by Jordan/Streich to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Christian/Mugler to approve the 11-6-17 and 11-30-17 Council minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Streich/Jordan to approve the November voucher list. Motion carried.

Discussion:

* Utke questioned the Public works credit card and stated she thought that a certain amount could only be spent before approval was needed. (anything over $500 needs prior approval) The purchase questioned was the new water fountain at city hall. The Mayor explained that he did know about the purchase this was a maintenance replacement as the old water fountain leaked and the motor was not working. Utke questioned the account that this purchase came from. (answer: the purchase came from the maintenance account for the municipal building and there was money in the budget for this)

Motion by Jordan/Mugler to approve the 11-30-17 License and Ordinance minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Christian/Jordan to approve the 11-29-17 Park Board minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Houdek/Mugler to approve the 11-15-17 Public Safety minutes. Utke and Breitenbach voting no.

Discussion:

* Utke questioned the $20,000 CD. She stated that the tax payers gave money for salaries and so it should be spent on salaries and if not the money should go back to the general fund.

Breitenbach stated that at the county level any money left over goes back to the general fund.

Chief Olson disagreed and stated that the Public Safety committee spent a lot of time on this discussion and agreed to CD any leftover funds. The committee is doing this as trying to plan for the future.

Houdek feels that if the council saves for the future, then the need to borrow will be less. Houdek asked if the wording should be changed.

The Mayor stated that a motion on the committee level cannot be changed and asked for a vote.

Houdek: yes Mugler: yes Jordan: yes Streich: yes Utke: no Breitenbach: no Christian: yes

Motion carried.

Motion by Mugler/Jordan to approve the 11-9-17 Public Works minutes. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON COUNCIL’S RECOMMENDATION FOR 2018 BUDGET.

Motion by Streich/Mugler to accept the 2018 budget as presented. Motion carried.

1. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MASONIC LODGE REQUEST FOR TAX FORGIVENESS.
* Masonic Lodge was approved to become tax exempt. However, the group owes for back taxes in the amount of $3564.47. Jim Giese from the Masonic Lodge was on hand to explain that he had gone to the County to ask for tax forgiveness and was told they would have to ask the City for that.
* Breitenbach stated that that would be opening up a can of worms if allowed.
* Jordan stated that the Council needs to be careful in this decision as to not set a precedent.
* Utke feels that the City does not have the right to forgive other portions of the tax payment.
* Keith Wollfert from the Masonic Lodge was also in attendance and asked if this could be tabled.

Motion by Breitenbach/Utke to table New Business Item B until further information is gotten.

Motion carried.

1. MOTION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE FIRE DISTRICT PURCHASE OF NEW TRUCK FOR A PRICE OF $533,000, WITH THE CITY PORTION BEING $96,286.45.

Motion by Breitenbach/Streich to proceed with the purchase of a new fire truck. Motion carried.

Jordan asked where the money will be coming from. The Mayor stated that the first portion of the payment due on 6-1-18 is $36,000. The City has already paid $20,000 to the District.

MAYOR’S COMMENTS:

* Told the council that Park Board member Dick Dufour’s daughter passed away in Oct.
* Stated the tree lighting was attended by approximately 100 people.
* Stated that he attended a tour of the Brakebush facility. “amazing facility and property”
* Housing study has been completed by Marquette Co.
* Thanked the Chamber

Motion by Jordan/Mugler to adjourn. Motion carried at 8:02 PM

Minutes by Dawn Calnin