CITY OF MONTELLO COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES

20 UNDERWOOD AVE.

MONTELLO, WI 53949

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2015

This meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Mayor Doudna

PRESENT: Jim Houdek, Shelley Freitag-Dufour, Barb Jordan, Venise Mugler, Ken Streich, Karlene Utke, Frank Breitenbach, Patricia Schaefer (arrived 6:45)

ABSENT:

BUDGET HEARING: Public hearing opened at 6:33 pm.

Citizens’ questions and comments:

* Kathleen McGwin asked about the actual YTD that had been printed. It was as of 10-31-15.
* Mark Robinson expressed his surprise that so few citizens were in attendance. Felt budget increase needs to be watched & also would like to see more motions made.
* Maureen Krivanick directed questions to council members
  + What percentage of budget increase is employee raises? According to her calculations she stated it would be 40%. Council members pointed out that was incorrect because not all employees are paid out of the general fund which is the budget in question. Krivanick asked what she as a taxpayer will be getting out of the increase of budget. Parks department: replacing playground equipment. Public Works: getting new equipment/upkeep of equipment, road construction. Mayor Doudna also mentioned the fire truck. Freitag-Dufour pointed out that the employees will also be paying for more of their health insurance which counteracts some of the wage increase. Breitenbach pointed out that the Public Works Department employees have been taking care of some things that could be or have been hired out for which has been saving the City quite a bit of money. Utke questioned comp time. Mike Kohnke spoke about the employee wages: Only 33% of Public Works employee wages are paid out of general fund. The water/sewer clerk is paid 100% out of water/sewer fund – no impact on general fund budget. Dawn (City Clerk and Treasurer) is paid 25% out of water/sewer fund. So, to say that 40% of budget increase for the general fund is employee raises would be false because that $1.00 per hour increase does not all come out of the general fund. Kohnke wanted to make sure it was clear that not all the increase is coming from the general fund. Mayor Doudna stated that the employee raises impact of the general fund budget is $12,142.

Resumed council meeting at 7:00 pm

Motion by Jordan/Streich to approve agenda with corrections. Motion carried.

COUNTY BOARD REPORT: None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None.

MAYOR COMMENTS: - Talked about Ice Age Trail plans.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Review and action on 2016 Budget.

* Utke asked about the amount in commercial revenue – it was sale of Public Works property. Utke also stated that there is some left over in the snow plow account – she stated any money left over does not belong to the department – it is still the taxpayers and should be approved if going to be used for anything else.
* Freitag-Dufour brought up fund balance, stated that she was told by auditor that there should be 18-22% of total budget in the fund balance account.
* Motion by Breitenbach/Jordan to accept 2016 budget as proposed. Houdek: yes, Freitag-Dufour: yes, Mugler: yes, Jordan: yes, Schaeffer: yes, Breitenbach: yes, Utke: no. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. First Impressions presentation rescheduled for January.
2. Review and action on Comprehensive Plan Contract
   * Mayor Doudna passed contract around.
   * Move on to next topic while members looked at contract.
3. Approval of Assessor contract from BA Pauls and Associates
   * Motion by Utke/Breitenbach to approve assessor contract. Motion carried
4. Discussion and approval of borrowing money from National Exchange Bank for Public Works vehicle to be paid from Sewer account. Houdek: yes, Freitag-Dufour: yes, Jordan: yes, Streich: yes, Utke: yes, Schaefer: yes, Breitenbach: yes. Motion carried.

Back to B – Comprehensive Contract - $2000.00 is out of current year budget, remaining balance will be paid out of 2016 budget. Freitag-Dufour would have like to have had a copy of this contract sooner, felt she did not have enough time to look it over and also felt council should have an attorney look it over.

* + - Motion by Jordan/Breitenbach to approve Comprehensive Plan Contract. Jordan: yes, Mugler: yes, Freitag-Dufour: no, Houdek: yes, Streich: yes, Utke: yes, Breitenbach: yes. Motion carried.

Review & Approve Previous month’s council minutes.

* + - Motion by Breitenbach/Freitag-Dufour to approve 11-2-15 council minutes. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

* 1. Finance – Motion by Streich/Jordan to approve voucher list from November 2015. Utke questioned Police Department CD for $9000. Chief Olson will get information. Motion carried.
  2. Lake District N/A
  3. Library – some discussion. Mary Doudna commented librarian and staff surely doing something right because circulation is up. Jordan commented they are doing a great job.
  4. License and Ordinance. – N/A
  5. Mayor’s Planning and Advisory –N/A
  6. Municipal Court – N/A
  7. Park Board- Discussion on changes to park rentals. Ron Knutson stated he did research and found other communities charge for use of electricity. There will be 2 separate application forms – one for general public, one for organizations/non-profit groups. Jordan felt $100 deposit was high for Montello, Schaefer felt this would encourage people to clean up more. License and Ordinance will need to meet regarding the new applications. Motion by Jordan/Mugler to tentatively approve 11-19-15 minutes with contingency that the applications be sent to License and Ordinance. Jordan amends motion to take out tentatively and contingency. Motion is to approve 11-19-15 minutes and that the applications be sent to License and Ordinance. Motion carried.
  8. Personnel – Motion by Utke/Jordan to approve 12-3-15 minutes. Motion carried.
  9. Public Safety – Motion by Houdek/Freitag-Dufour to approve 11-18-15 minutes. Motion carried.
  10. Public Works- Motion by Breitenbach/Jordan to approve 11-18-15 minutes. Motion carried.

Communication and misc business**.**  Freitag-Dufour would like to see it listed that there may be a possibility for a walking quorum of the council at the Chamber Holiday party.

Public Works Director, Mike Kohnke informed council of problem with grease going down sewer drains and causing major problems, and costing thousands of dollars. He will be doing grease trap inspections and would like to get the word out to the public to be aware of what is going down sewers. Kohnke also pointed out that road projects have been pushed back to 2019-2021: the longer these are pushed back the more it will cost. He encourages everyone to write their representatives, all money is going to DOT and they decide where it will go towards, bigger cities will have better chances.

Motion by Jordan/Streich to adjourn. Motion carried at 8:11 pm.

Minutes by Dawn Calnin