

Audubon City Council
Regular Meeting
January 11, 2015
5:30 pm
City Hall

The meeting was called to order at 5:35pm by Mayor Jacobsen. Council in Attendance: Hocker, Jacobsen, Hemmingsen, Murray Griffith. Department heads in attendance: Foran, Thygesen, Ballou, and Starmer. Hocker moved, Jacobsen seconded, to approve the agenda. ALL AYED. Murray moved, Hemmingsen seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. AYES: Hemmingsen, Murray, Jacobsen, Hocker NAYS; none ABSTAIN; Griffith (employed by Cliff's). MOTION PASSED 4-0.

Public Hearing-

Murray moved, Griffith seconded to open the Public Hearing for FY2016 Budget. ALL AYED. Griffith asked about the expenses in transfers and in Economic Development. Jacobsen moved, Hocker seconded, to close the Public Hearing. ALL AYED.

Public Comments-

John Whetzal-

Encouraged the Council to vote in favor of the 5% Franchise fee. He questioned why so many PW staff were given vacation around Christmas considering the weather. He also suggested a term limit be placed on some Boards.

Delbert Artist-

Asked that the Council look into increasing the volume of the sound system so that people could hear better.

Department Reports-

Public Works-

Thygesen expressed concern with compliance with the snow ordinance pertaining to shoveling sidewalks. He stated that a few businesses were not compliant. Starmer will look into abatements and Council will consider amending the snow removal ordinance to be similar to the mowing ordinance.

Clerk-

Foran stated that the Council had new Code Books to use and additionally the Code was on the City website. He explained the Downtown Revitalization Program Region XII was offering and how initial response from Business owners was very positive.

Library-

Richardson summarized information on the Buthweg donations and how the Library has used or invested those funds.

Fire-

Ballou explained what the Fire dept. used some of its Buthweg donation and additionally reported on plans for expanded rescue abilities and equipment.

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Committee Reports-

Personnel and Finance-

Hocker explained that in an upcoming meeting the Council will want to go into Closed Session to discuss the counter proposal to the Union.

Old Business-

Gas Franchise Ordinance-

Hocker moved, Murray seconded, to adopt Ordinance 721 at a 5% Franchise fee. ROLL CALL: AYES; Hocker, Jacobsen, Murray, Hemmingsen NAYS; Griffith SECOND READING PASSED 4 to 1.

Electric Franchise Ordinance-

Hocker moved, Murray seconded, to adopt Ordinance 722 at a 5% Franchise fee ROLL CALL: AYES; Hocker, Murray, Jacobsen, Hemmingsen NAYS; Griffith. SECOND READING PASSED 4 to 1.

Annexation-

Toft updated the Council on the option of having the County deed land over to allow for the connection needed to annex the truck stop. He stated that there were too many obstacles for that option to be viable in a reasonable amount of time. Other options are to talk to a couple of land owners about voluntary annexation to connect the properties.

AFLAC-

Hocker moved, Griffith seconded, to allow AFLAC to contact employees about benefits and if enough interest is generated proceed with signing them into the program. ALL AYED.

New Business-

Order for Public Hearing-

Hemmingsen moved, Murray seconded to set a Public Hearing for Amending the Flood Plain Ordinances on February 8th at 5:30pm

Resolution 16-1-

Hocker moved, Murray seconded, to adopt the Mayoral appointments ROLL CALL: AYES; Hocker, Jacobsen, Hemmingsen, Murray, and Griffith NAYS; none RESOLUTION PASSED 5 to 0.

Resolution 16-2-

Hocker moved, Hemmingsen seconded, to adopt the Council appointments ROLL CALL: AYES; Hocker, Hemmingsen, Jacobsen, Murray and Griffith NAYS; none RESOLUTION PASSED 5 to 0.

Resolution 16-3-

Jacobsen moved, Griffith seconded, to adopt appointing Audubon State and Landmands as depositories and Audubon Advocate Journal as Newspaper. ROLL CALL: AYES; Jacobsen,

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Griffith, Hocker, Hemmingsen, Murray NAYS; none RESOLUTION PASSED 5 to 0

Resolution 16-4-

Hocker moved, Jacobsen seconded, to approve the FY 2016 Budget Amendment ROLL CALL: AYES; Hocker, Jacobsen, Hemmingsen, Murray, and Griffith NAYS; none RESOLUTION PASSED 5 to 0.

Resolution 16-5-

Hocker moved, Griffith seconded, to adopt the Committee assignments and responsibilities. ROLL CALL: AYES; Hocker, Griffith, Murray, Hemmingsen, and Jacobsen NAYS; none RESOLUTION PASSED 5 to 0.

Work Session-

Jacobsen moved, Hocker seconded, to set a work session for January 23rd at 8:00am. ALL AYED.

2015 Wages-

Griffith moved, Murray seconded, to order the City Clerk to publish the wages for 2015. ALL AYED.

Water/Wastewater improvements-

Foran and Thygesen both recommended to the Council that the funds for wastewater improvements be increased and to start a similar process with the water infrastructure. Hocker moved, Murray seconded, to increase the funds borrowed for the wastewater improvements and to instruct Mayor and City Clerk to start application process with water improvements. ALL AYED.

Schwab Alley-

Murray showed a picture that illustrated an overgrown tree or bush that when snow piles in winter blocks the sidewalk from being used. Murray moved, Hemmingsen seconded, to instruct Starmer to send an abatement to the property owner. ALL AYED.

Comments and Propositions-

Mayor-

Jacobsen announced that Kauffman would continue on the E-911 Board and that Thygesen would be the second contact.

Murray-

questioned if Wahlert's drainage issues had been taken care of. Thygesen informed her that tiles had been installed to correct the problems.

Griffith-

Stated that he wants the meeting times and frequency on the next agenda.

Jacobsen-

Asked about the lack of internet signal in the Council room. Foran explained that IT personnel

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are coming in on Thursday to lay line and install a booster for the room.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm

Barb Jacobsen, Mayor

ATTEST:

Joseph Foran, City Clerk