

The second meeting of December for the Denver City Council, Bremer County, Iowa was held on Monday December 19, 2016 at the Denver City Hall Council Chambers. Council members present were Derek Gustafson, Jeremie Peterson, Mark Richmann, Mary Scharnhorst and Joel Wikner. There were thirteen people present from the public.

Mayor Diercks called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Motion Wikner, second Wikner to approve the agenda with one change to move up Agenda Item #10 to be discussed after Agenda Item #6. AYES: Gustafson, Peterson, Richmann, Scharnhorst, Wikner. NAYS: None.

Motion Wikner, second Richmann to approve the minutes of December 5, 2016. AYES: Gustafson, Peterson, Richmann, Scharnhorst, Wikner. NAYS: None.

During Public Forum Bob Kastli of 421 Ridgeway Street informed the Council that his baby sitter had received a parking ticket for the Snow Emergency. Mr. Kastli did not know about the Snow Emergency due to a lack of communication. The Parking Ticket was issued at 1:43 a.m. which was before the snow plows started plowing. Mr. Kastli is trying to find a solution the City can communicate with the public better with getting the word out about Snow emergencies. Mr. Kastli read a letter to the Council. Reason #1 is that he felt he should not have to pay the ticket due to the lack of communication through the community. Reason #2 Find a solution to this problem so we don't have parents like me coming home to find out that our babysitter bill went from \$30 to \$55 because of a snow emergency policy that we were unaware of. I reached half of the town on Facebook by venting. I don't usually do that type of thing, I am usually a positive person, but this is pretty disappointing that we are receiving tickets due to lack of communication through the community.

Councilwoman Scharnhorst informed Mr. Kastli that the City calls KWWL, KWAY, KCRG to have the Snow Emergency Notice put on television and radio stations and they put the Snow Emergency message on the City's Entrance Sign. The Snow Ordinance has been in effect for three years. Councilman Peterson felt the City should do something with improving communication and be ultra-consistent with sticking to the Snow Emergency Ordinance, then everyone is treated all the same. Make sure we clarify the process, possibly create an e-mail list and look at as many ways as we can to tell the public as early as possible when the Snow Emergency will be put into effect. Dale Schneider of 411 Prestien Drive felt the City should re-assess, re-evaluate the Snow Emergency as we add streets and take a look at emergency routes. Mr. Schneider felt instead of plowing the North-South Streets before the East-West Streets should be looked at for changes. Councilman Peterson received a letter from Anthony Wagner of 1110 Prestien Drive who was confused concerning the snow emergency and had two vehicles ticketed and was unaware of the snow emergency. Snow plowing did not plow my road until after 9:40 a.m. if it were a snow emergency the plows should have been out sooner. Mr. Wagner was also concerned about how the snow plows are on Prestien Drive before plowing Willow Run St. Councilwoman Scharnhorst doesn't understand why people don't use their driveways. Dale Schneider felt social events scheduled in privet residences are not big enough to hold all the cars. His sons were at a social event and two vehicles received tickets for being parked on the street at someone else's house. Councilman Wikner asked what their suggestions were to improve the current snow emergency notification. Dale Schneider felt a two-tier type of system to issue a warning ticket the first time a car is parked on the street during a snow emergency and the next time they receive a Parking Ticket in the amount of \$50-\$75. Councilman Richmann thanked Mr. Kastli and Mr. Schneider for coming to the Council Meeting and voicing their concerns regarding the snow emergency.

Lane LeBahn from Advanced Systems Inc. presented a Laser Fische Paper Document System. All city documents are scanned into the system at 120 pages per minute and backed up by the Cloud. Then you create a folder for the different types of documents such as ordinances, resolutions, minutes etc. The cost of the system is \$573 per year, software is \$2,865 and the Canon Scanner is \$1,650.

Larry Farley explained that he had contacted the City's Bond Attorney to see if the Council could change the housing incentives of giving the tax abatement to the Home Builder for the next 3-4 years instead of the home owner. It is legal to give the tax abatement to the Home Builder but he hasn't had a town that he works with do it this way, usually any incentive given to the Home Builder is given to them upfront. Al Hintz informed the Council he would like to finish the First Phase of the twin homes. There are 11 Denver residents that have purchased twin homes from him. Mr. Hintz distributed copies of what twin homes are priced for in Cedar Falls and felt the residents are getting a much better deal for less money. Al Hintz felt the 4-5-year tax rebate to the Home Builders is a no brainer. Wes Gielau felt the twin homes had the quickest pay back to the city and would like to see the program continued. He suggested trying it until July 1 and see what happens and to finish out Phase 1, he is in favor of the proposal. Put a deadline on it. Councilman Peterson asked when do we stop incentivizing new home construction? He didn't feel the city needed to incentivize into eternity and felt the city should look at the existing inventory of homes for sale in town before changing the program. Councilman Gustafson was concerned about keeping the price of the twin homes artificially low. Councilman Richmann said the Home Builders receive the tax abatement rebate in Forest City, Iowa and Lake Mills, Iowa. Mayor Diercks referred the question to the Economic Development Committee of Councilman Richmann and Councilwoman Scharnhorst. The committee will bring something back to the January 3, 2017 Council Meeting.

Jim Scharnhorst presented the Parks and Street Budget request. Jim presented a cost estimate for a new shelter 18' x 36' at City Park in the amount of \$9,225, the Forrest Ave. Park Shelter may need a concrete pad if it doesn't drain properly. Jim Scharnhorst announced that he plans on retiring at the end of 2017.

Justin McGlaun presented Water & Sewer Department Budget request that included a valve in the sewer pipe by the RV Dump at Forrest Ave. \$5,000, raise four manholes above the flood plain \$8,000, and replace two fire hydrants at \$6,000 each for a total of \$12,000, UV Bulbs at the sewer plant are \$60/each and there are 80 bulbs for UV Disinfection.

Larry Zars presented the Electric Department Budget request that included maintaining \$40,000 for ongoing electric distribution system improvements, replace the boom truck with a used model in the \$80,000-\$100,000 price range, Schumacher Third Addition Subdivision Phase II underground electric work. Larry asked how the area South of the Schumacher Subdivision would be developed as it would make a difference in what is installed in the Schumacher Subdivision. Tree Trimming budget item for \$5,000, Cold Storage Building at the Public Works Site so the reels of wire, reel trailers, snow plows, sanders, trailers and other miscellaneous equipment could be stored inside. The existing Public Works Building is 60' x 96' the addition would be 60' x 108' with two overhead doors with openers for a total estimated cost of \$69,957. There would be minimal site work and the site work, tile installation and electric work would be done by city employees.

Motion Peterson, second Wikner to approve the Second Reading of Ordinance No. 5-2016 Golf Cart and Utility Trail Vehicles. AYES: Gustafson, Peterson, Richmann, Scharnhorst, Wikner. NAYS: None.

Motion Scharnhorst, second Peterson to waive the Third Reading of Ordinance No. 5-2016 Gold Cart and Utility Trail Vehicles. AYES: Gustafson, Peterson, Richmann, Scharnhorst, Wikner. NAYS: None.

Motion Scharnhorst, second Richmann to approve Resolution No. 105-2016 Approval of Application for Residential Tax Abatement under the Urban Revitalization Plan for the City of Denver. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Gustafson, Peterson, Richmann, Scharnhorst, Wikner. NAYS: None.

Motion Peterson, second Richmann to approve payment of \$15,000 each for the last three Residential Lot Grants to Panther Builders 421 Schumacher Blvd., Scott Hintz 941 & 951 Mill Street and Tyson Lanus 410 Schumacher Blvd. AYES: Gustafson, Peterson, Richmann, Scharnhorst, Wikner. NAYS: None.

Motion Wikner, second Peterson for acceptance of Legal Services for representation from Ivan T. Webber of Ahlers & Cooney. AYES: Gustafson, Peterson, Richmann, Scharnhorst, Wikner. NAYS: None.

The Council reviewed upcoming Council Appointments for 2017. Mayor Diercks will be looking for one Planning & Zoning Member and two Park & Recreation Members before January 3, 2017.

Larry Farley reviewed Capital Projects cost estimates with the Council for FY 2018

**FY 2017 / FY 2018 Projects Already Approved by City Council**

- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| 1. FY 2016 Sidewalk Improvement Project                   | \$185668.80  |
| 2. Schneider Street Improvement Project                   | \$142,534.20 |
| 3. Engineering for S. State Street Reconstruction Project | \$105,000    |

**FY 2018 Capital Projects Proposed**

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|---|--|
| 1. State Street Bridge Deck Repair  | No Price Yet Working with Buchanan County Engineer and Local Contractor to spot repair bridge deck |
| 2. Iowa Street Reconstruction and Water and Sanitary Sewer Replacement                                  |  |
| Iowa Street Reconstruction/Water Main/Sewer Main Replacement  | \$1,041,022.94   |
| Electric System Improvements on Iowa Street   | <u>\$60,000-\$70,000</u>   |
|   | \$1,111,022.90   |
| 3. Water Tower Painting Mobilize/enclose and sandblast \$100,000  |  |
| 4. West Main Street 1 Block Reconstruction and 1 Block of Transit St. between Fayette St. and Eagle St. |  |
|   | Street Reconstruction \$45,488-\$79,536  |
|   | Curb & Gutter 640' E. Main and 315' Transit  |
|   | 955' x \$25/Foot Curb & Gutter/Excavation \$23,875   |
|   | Storm Intake Repair \$7,000  |
|   | Engineering/Staking \$5,000  |
|   | Total \$115,411  |
|   | Less Dollar General Portion \$20,000-\$25,000  |

- 5. Transit Street Reconstruction between Hoover Street and Eagle Street (Asphalt & Sub-Base)
  - Street Reconstruction \$24,917.75
  - Curb & Gutter 620'x\$25/Foot \$15,500
  - Storm Sewer/Intakes \$25,000
  - Engineering/Staking \$10,000
  - \$75,418
  
- 6. S. State Street Reconstruction Project first 1/2 of Project \$928,300
  - \$450,000 STP Funds
  - \$478,300 City Funds
  
- 7. Cold Storage for Public Works Building \$70,000

**FY 2019 Capital Projects Proposed**

- 1. S. State Street Reconstruction Project Completion

The Council reviewed rates and charges and suggested the following changes, Park Shelter Rentals \$15 to \$25, Water Used during Construction \$15 to \$50, Utility Disconnection Notice (Red Tag Fee) \$30 to \$50, Utility Re-connection Fee during business hours \$50 to \$75, Peddler’s Permit \$10

In Other Business Councilman Peterson felt we should consider making a list of eligible snow plow drivers and research better communication methods to notify the public about snow emergencies, look into a Facebook Page for City Notifications.

**Revenues for the Month of November 2016**

General Fund	\$34,190.96
Library Savings Fund	\$ 1.42
Road Use Fund	\$19,857.34
Local Option Sales Tax	\$25,254.56
Tax Increment Financing Fund	\$ 3,910.60
Debt Service Fund	\$ 2,601.60
Permanent Fund	\$ 299.36
Water Utility Fund	\$12,117.24
Sanitary Sewer Fund	\$36,353.43
Electric Utility Fund	\$92,849.68
Electric Utility Deposit Fund	\$ 525.00
Storm Water Utility Fund	<u>\$ 1,804.46</u>
Total	\$229,765.65

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Rod Diercks, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Larry Farley, City Clerk/Admin.