

**MCGREGOR CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 16, 2019 6:30 P.M.**

The MCGREGOR CITY COUNCIL met in Regular Session at 6:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, January 16, 2019** at City Hall with Mayor Lyle Troester presiding. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Troester led the Pledge of Allegiance. Council members present: Muehlbauer, Carroll, Halvorson, Echard, and Hallberg.

Echard moved, seconded by Hallberg to approve the Consent Agenda by one motion a) Agenda as listed b) Regular Meeting minutes December 19 c) Bills and Claims as presented for period December 20, 2018 through, January 16, 2019 - City- \$87,564.91, Library - \$673.27, December 2018 Revenues - \$91,348.21 December 2018 Expenses - \$160,523.04 d) Treasurer's Report for December 2018 e) Liquor License Application– McGregor Mercantile, Native Wine Roll call vote: Ayes – All. Motion carried.

Hearing of Delegations: Maria Brummel provided the council with a report of park board activities during 2018. Much of the work during the year revolved around replacement of trees in the parks damaged as a result of the tornado. Additional trees need to be planted along the Anne Street side of Canon Park to replace the large maples that had to be removed. Music in the Park will be suspended and it was requested that the \$800 previously allotted for this activity be allotted instead to movies in the park. Four Turner Park Committee fundraisers were held with success to continue to raise funds for the splash pad. Work is being done to clean and repaint the triangle park fountain. It is hoped that a larger pump may be installed before replacing the base and fountain and there is additional electrical and water line work needed. It is estimated that this project will cost \$2,500. Park Board funds have now been moved into the city's account and there is currently a balance of \$1,820.31 in that fund to help with costs of the fountain. \$3,000 was moved from savings into the Turner Park Improvement fund for the splash pad.

Police Report: Chief Robert Millin provided a power point presentation report of 2018 department activities. The report compared calls for service and displayed traffic volume in both communities. Chief Millin joined the department in October and will be better able to provide more detailed and accurate information in 2019. The presentation is available for public viewing on the department's website. A meet and greet will be held on Thursday, January 31, 2019 from 5 – 7 p.m. at the Marquette Community Room adjacent to city hall. This will be an opportunity for the public to meet the officers.

The council discussed the police 2019-2020 proposed budget submitted by the commission for council approval. Mayor Troester commended the commissioners and the chief for working through the budget to arrive at an amount that allows increased wages to full-time certified officers and that keeps other expenses in line with need. Muehlbauer expressed concern that Ploessl had not yet become certified. The chief explained that there was an additional requirement that he must fulfill prior to taking his exam so the test has been rescheduled for February. Other council recognized the improvements already visible in the department. Halvorson moved, seconded by Hallberg to approve the 2019-2020 police department budget in the amount of \$253,000, with the cost share being \$126,500 per city. Roll call vote: Ayes – all.

Motion carried. Muehlbauer moved, seconded by Hallberg to approve a pledge of \$5,000 to the Northeast Iowa Regional Housing Trust Fund for the year 2020. Roll call vote: Ayes – all. Motion carried.

Kristie Austin was present to report activities of the chamber during 2018 and planning in the works for 2019. During 2018 membership increased, classes were offered to assist businesses with marketing, an email listing of lodging availability was established, and the Road Guardians held a street dance with plans to return this year. Planning is in the works with Pikes Peak for a return of the GRRRR and the group is looking for other activities to hold in conjunction with the fall art festival. Public transportation during events in both communities is being explored. Austin thanked the council for their funding from 2/3 of the hotel motel tax and asked for their continued support.

Michelle Pettit provided council with a report of library activities during 2018. Volunteers provided many hours of assistance for programs and other tasks and especially to help with moving books and shelving to replace carpet damaged during the tornado. All patron computers were replaced as well following the tornado. A need assessment grant was received which provided information on programming for use in conjunction with the Native Fund grant which allowed planning and conceptual drawings for a library expansion/community center. The report gave a listing of grants, memorials, donations and fundraising throughout 2018. The budget included a proposed 3% increase in wages with other items either at or below previous budgets. Pettit thanked the council for their support and for the assistance from city staff.

Bonnie Pruet reported 2018 activities and a request for continued funding for the art center. The report showed special projects that are funded through grants and donations including children's programming, adult art workshops, and capital improvements. The building ownership is being finalized with the trust providing an agreement for the board to purchase the building with terms that fit into their budget. This will open up more opportunity for grants in the future. The gallery is staffed for both store and on-line sales. Rates for artists to display their work will increase in 2019 but is still low in comparison to other galleries. Pruet acknowledged the council's funding as an essential component in being able to provide art experiences to the area.

Funding requests from various agencies were reviewed. Muehlbauer moved, seconded by Carroll to included funding for four agencies at the same level as current budget year: NE IA Community Action \$500, Helping Services \$300, Clayton Co Development Group \$1,200, and Substance Abuse \$300. Roll call vote: Ayes – all. Motion carried. A request was considered for a donation to the Clayton County Freedom Rock. Council agreed that although it is a worthy cause it was not a request they could fund. Muehlbauer moved, seconded by Echard to approve the RFP for annual examination for two budget years ending June 30, 2019 and June 30, 2020. Roll call vote: Ayes – all. Motion carried. The state auditor will also be invited to submit a cost estimate in addition to several other regional firms.

Sander updated the council on the status of the pedestrian bridge. The representative at IA Homeland Security has been in contact once again with FEMA. FEMA has all of the documentation in hand for a request to fund at the higher cost but the government shut down has them short staffed so a decision is still pending and asked that we postpone rejecting the bids for

at least another 30 days. The contractor has agreed to honor the bid until the February meeting with the request to move completion date up to November. The engineer will be having a discussion with the contractor regarding the timing of various elements of construction to ensure that if a new deadline for completion is allowed it could be completed in coordination with Bunge's busy fall harvest time.

Audrey Posten informed the council that the museum digitization of the North Iowa Times from 1856 forward is complete and will be available soon on the museum sight. Other than a few missing years all papers have been digitized.

Sander noted that she had erroneously sent the 2017 wages for publication. The 2018 wage report was published on January 16. State auditors completed their field work for the 2018 annual examination. Work was completed on the sewer service line at 417 C. Street and in the process it was discovered that the line had been damaged by boring during Alpine's fiber optic project. Bills have been sent to West Union Trenching for the work. The police audit report is available for review. The police commission voted to move the \$8,000 carryover from the 2018 budget into a reserve fund for training, vehicle or emergency use. The post office is sending out notices to people affected by revisions in postal regulations. Council will need to consider options for mail box placement at an upcoming meeting.

With business concluded, Muehlbauer moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Hallberg. Ayes – All. Meeting adjourned.

Lyle J. Troester,
Mayor

Attest:

Lynette L. Sander
City Administrator