

NOTUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Regular Session: TUESDAY, SEPT. 4, 2018

@ 7:00PM at Notus City Hall

1. Meeting Called to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Mayor David Porterfield.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was taken with the following results: Council woman Michelle DeGiorgio, present. Councilmen Clint Berends and Richard Wallace Jr., present. Mayor, David Porterfield and City Attorney representative, James also present.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Public Concerns, Comments

Resident, Denise from 395 Fargo #A, commented on her concerns for lack of parking for her family when there is an event at the Community Center. She asks Council for suggestions to help them to be able to come and go when needed. This will be put on an agenda for discussion and possible solutions.

5. Consent Agenda, ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Disbursement List

NONE

5.2 Council Meeting Minutes

DeGiorgio stated that she would like her comments, questions and answers added on 7.3. DeGiorgio motioned to approve meeting minutes of August 20th, 2018 with before mentioned additions. Wallace Jr seconded. Roll call was taken with the following results: DeGiorgio; yes, Wallace Jr; yes, Berends; yes. Motion passed.

5.3 Committee Meeting Minutes: Library, Community Events

NONE

6. Community Relations

6.1 VRT Liaison

NONE

6.2 COMPASS – RTAC

Wallace Jr stated the COMPASS board asked him why Notus didn't apply for the \$200,000.00 grant monies that is part of the State Roadway Recovery Fund. Middleton received the grant instead. Mayor commented that we are the recipient of the 2019 grant money for City street chip sealing project.

Wallace Jr also commented that if there is a snow event this winter, we can contact Notus/Parma Hwy District for more sand for streets.

6.3 Notus School District

NONE

7. Professional's Reports

7.1 Wastewater

NONE

7.2 City Engineer

NONE

7.3 Crestline Engineering, Antonio Conti

NONE

8. Business: ACTION ITEMS

8.1 Potential Water Rate Increase for FY 2018-19

Mayor reviews proposed 3% water base rate increase and reasoning with Council. DeGiorgio motioned to do increase of water base rate to \$29.85 as of start of fiscal year 2019 and then put a freeze on that. (on future increases) Motion dies for lack of second. Berends comments that he won't approve an increase until clean water is provided. Discussion.

DeGiorgio motioned for no rate increase for FY 2019. Berends seconded. Wallace Jr questions the 2000 water bond fee's and conditions that needed to be met.

Berends would like to see a plan of action to fix the brown water, then he would vote for an increase.

Mayor reported that we don't have a written plan of action but he has been in touch with Tom Mehiel (water professional). We are tracking the water issues throughout town. They have been doing additional hydrant flushing. Part time City Maintenance, Cleve Clucas stated that they have flushed all City hydrants as required. He also stated that it is his understanding that the brown water is a result of the imbalance of the chemicals that have to be added to the water because of the natural occurring iron oxide that is in the water that reacts to the chlorine.

Discussion.

DeGiorgio comments that in her opinion the "bad" water was after new water lines and meters were installed with grant money for water improvements.

Mayor commented that one reason for the change to the water system starting around 1999-2001 was to gain fire suppression protection ability, which in turn lowered home insurance rates. The water system is a tough one to balance and we may have to look at putting in a costly filtration system. Roll call was taken with the following results: DeGiorgio; yes, Berends; no, Wallace Jr; no. Motion fails. Discussion.

Wallace Jr motioned to approve a 3% water base rate increase (for FY2018-19) and look into doing a lower .5% or .2% increase for the following fiscal year. Berends seconds. Roll call was taken with the following results: Wallace Jr; yes, Berends; yes, DeGiorgio; yes. Motion passed.

8.2 Potential Sewer Rate Increase for FY 2018-19

Mayor stated that the current sewer base rate is \$44.80. The rate schedule from USDA is to be at \$48.60 in 2019 and \$54.20 within one year of sewer improvement project completion. Any increase 5% or more requires a public hearing. Discussion.

Berends motioned to hold a public hearing for a proposed sewer rate increase to \$48.60 (increase of 8.482%) for FY2018-19 and give notice to residents. DeGiorgio seconded. Roll call was taken with the following results: Berends; yes, DeGiorgio; yes, Wallace Jr; yes. Motion passed. Hearing will be held next council meeting on September 17, 2018 at 7:00 pm. Citizens will be notified by mail.

8.3 Street Repairs – 1st St and Fargo Ave Intersection

Mayor asks Council to review the condition of the intersection by the post office at 1st Street and Fargo Ave. Engineer, Antonio Conti stated that there is significant cracking and safety issues. He suggests taking base out, subgrade, compact and asphalt. Estimated cost would be about \$36,300.00. Mayor states that we could see if LHTAC would allow us to use part of the grant we received for chip sealing City streets in 2019 for this repair.

The balance in the street fund as of 9-4-18 is \$6,478.43 and the LGIP street fund balance is \$84,136.27. The City wide chip seal project estimated cost was \$192,000.00. The grant is for \$100,000.00.

DeGiorgio stated that there is no reason to fix a street if we still have big trucks using our streets. Discussion. Wallace Jr motioned to fix the intersection at 1st Street and Fargo Ave. for \$36,000.00 and take the money out of the LGIP street fund. Berends seconded. Roll call was taken with the following results: Wallace Jr; yes, Berends; yes, DeGiorgio; no. Motion passed.

8.4 Onion Shed Sign/trucks

DeGiorgio stated that we need to have the onion shed put up signs to direct trucks to the right address, as well as the granary. Mayor comments that he has asked them to put up signage and they don't want a sign. DeGiorgio motioned to have the Mayor write a letter to the owner and ask them to put up a sign to direct trucks since we will be getting new roads and there are no trucks allowed. (Truck route). Wallace Jr seconded. Voice Vote. All in favor. Motion passed.

9. Mayor & Council Comment

Wallace Jr wants to know what happened to the new building at the well house. Mayor will have update at next meeting.

DeGiorgio wants to know where current employee evaluations are. She only has copies of 2014. City Clerk reminded Council of the separation of duties of Council (policy makers) and Administration (Mayor). It is not common practice for the Council to see employee evaluation and it is discouraged by ICRMP. City Attorney present concurred with City Clerk.

*CLERK NOTE: City Personnel Policy Manual; section V. Employee Evaluation and Discipline; subsection B.2 states 'access to personnel files shall be only with authorization by the Mayor, City Clerk and City Attorney.'

10. Adjournment

Berends motioned to adjourn at 9:04 PM. DeGiorgio seconded. Voice vote. All in favor. Motion passed.

Respectively submitted by Loretta Vollmer, City Clerk _____

David Porterfield, Mayor _____