

CITY OF COSMOPOLIS
Regular City Council Meeting
December 15, 2021

Mayor Kyle Pauley presiding.

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT

Candice Makos, Stana Cummings, Debbi Moran, Jim Ancich, and Miles Wenzel.

STAFF PRESENT

Attorney Steve Johnson, Police Chief Casey Stratton, City Administrator Darrin Raines, Public Works Superintendent, Asst Fire Chief John Bramstedt, and Finance Director Julie Pope

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Moran made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Cummings seconded. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Moran made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Councilmember Makos. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Sub Committee – Councilmember Wenzel stated that they had met earlier this week. He said they were talking about moving the general fund reserves from 15% to 10% and moving the Utility fund reserves from 15% to 0%. We are looking at significant increases to the rate payers. It is in the public's best interest to put on hold the water and sewer reserve funds. Councilmember Wenzel made a motion to amend the General and Enterprise Fund Reserve policy for the 2022 calendar year to 10% from 15% for the general fund and to 0% from 15% for the enterprise funds. This is just for 2022. Councilmember Moran seconded. Motion carried. Councilmember Wenzel stated they also discussed the changes to the Stormwater fees that will be discussed under new business.

CITY OFFICIALS

City Administrator – Administrator Raines thanked the Friends of Highland Park for getting the T-Mobile grant. He thanked Councilmember Wenzel for his help with that as well. He thanked all the staff for their hard work this year. He appreciates the Council for all they do. Pape Kenworth is moving into the Peterbilt building on 1st Street.

Finance Director – Director Pope thanked everyone for their help with the budget.

Asst. Fire Chief – Asst Chief Bramstedt stated that we are a little over 200 calls for the year. He stated they are running the trucks around on December 18th around 6 or 7 p.m. The Association received a payment for 2020, but doesn't believe they received one for 2021. The points spreadsheet has been submitted.

Public Works Superintendent – Superintendent Nations stated they met with the Public Works Committee. They discussed purchasing a gator and the projects they have going on. Public Works needs another person but looking over the budget, but unfortunately, we aren't able to do so at this time. He gave a shout out to Tom, Jamin, and Joe Ortiz. He thanked Ed VanSyckle for all the hours he has volunteered with keeping the City clean. Dave Wolf has given numerous hours to maintaining Makarenko Park.

Attorney – Attorney Johnson took part in a Zoom meeting regarding the Police Reform Laws. There is a draft bill out to clarify the confusion regarding the bills that were passed. One is in regards to military weapons which prohibited the use of bean bag shotguns. The legislature is going to make it clear that Police can use beanbag shotguns and other less than lethal weapons. They will also try to make it clear that Police can use force to take someone into custody with mental health issues if it comes under the statute. Tomorrow is the last court session for the year. It starts at 1:00 p.m. The public is welcome to join on zoom. The zoom information is on the Municipal court section of the City's website. He thanked the Council especially Councilmember Moran. He said it was a pleasure working with her.

Police Chief – Chief Stratton stated that a patrol vehicle was sent to EVS for repairs due to a lightbar failing. He said that the staff within the City came together this year to financially keep all of the departments within the budget. He thanked all the department heads and the staff. He thanked Attorney Steve Johnson for all of his help with the new laws. He said that we need to clean up the municipal code.

MAYOR’S REPORT

The Peterbilt sign came down over the weekend with Pape Kenworth coming in. Burkhamer Properties put in a lighted sign. The T-Mobile grant is incredibly exciting to receive this. Kudos to the Friends of Highland Park. He stated that Administrator Raines plays a vital role in the City. Finding a quality administrator is not easy and we are blessed to have him. Finance Director Pope has been key in the past two years with all of the budget issues. Chief Stratton has had to work with budget and staffing issues over the past two year. It has been a pleasure to work with him. He gives kudos to Assistant Chief Bramstedt for stepping into a role that he hadn’t asked for. He commends him on his efforts. Public Works Superintendent Nations has really excelled at his position. Attorney Steve Johnson is an amazing sounding board. He thanked the Council for their adaptability and cooperation. He stated that Councilmember Moran is a pleasure to work with. She is an asset to the City. He presented a plaque for Councilmember Moran for her time on the Council. She will be missed.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Ordinance 1371 (2021 Budget Amendment)** – Director Pope read the ordinance. We are adding \$550,000 to the general fund budget for 2021 fiscal year. She stated that we are adding to the general fund due to the ARPA funds received by the Federal Government. We also had some increased revenues that we did not anticipate. Councilmember Moran made a motion to approve the ordinance. Councilmember Wenzel seconded. Motion carried.
- B. **Ordinance 1372 (City Administrator Salary 2022)** – Director Pope read the ordinance. Councilmember Moran made a motion to approve the ordinance. Councilmember Cummings seconded. Motion carried.
- C. **Ordinance 1373 (2022 Budget)** – Councilmember Moran made a motion to read by title only. It was seconded by Councilmember Makos. Director Pope read the title of the ordinance. Councilmember Moran made a motion to approve the ordinance. Councilmember Makos seconded. Motion carried.
- D. **Resolution 2021-08 (Water & Sewer Rates)** – Councilmember Moran made a motion to read by title only. Councilmember Wenzel seconded. Motion carried. Director Pope read the resolution by title only. Councilmember Moran made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilmember Ancich seconded. Motion carried.
- E. **Resolution 2021-09 (Finance Director & Police Chief Pay)** – Director Pope read the resolution. Councilmember Moran made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilmember Cummings seconded. Motion carried.
- F. **Ordinance 1374 (Amend Stormwater Utility)** – Director Pope read the ordinance. Councilmember Moran made a motion to approve the ordinance. Councilmember Ancich seconded. Motion carried.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Moran – She thanked everyone for their help and kindness. She will miss everyone.

Councilmember Makos – She wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Councilmember Cummings – She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and told Councilmember Moran that she will be missed.

Councilmember Wenzel – He stated that he appreciated working with Councilmember Moran. He appreciates everyone working with him and working towards a better City.

Mayor Pauley wished everyone Happy Holidays

Mayor Pauley adjourned the meeting.

Finance Director

Attest:

Mayor