

Mayor David Sims called the regularly scheduled council meeting of January 2, 2018 to order at 7:00 p.m. Present for the meeting were Mayor Sims, Council President Rick Alonzo, Council Members Ron Smith, Ken Toline, and Adam Arthur, Councilwoman Elect Valerie Thompson, Clerk Kris Larson, City Engineer/Administrator Mike Klaus, Attorney Andrakay Pluid, Police Chief Vic Watson, and Fire Chief Dave Winey. Also present were Jerry Higgs, Jessica Tingley, Dave Gray, Dottie Gray, Dave Anderson, Silas Thompson, Riley Thompson, Jace Thompson, and Jim Woodward.

Dave Gray thanked the City for restoration of power quickly during the winter storm. He also complimented the Street Crew for their upkeep of the roads and the Police for their efforts keeping the public safe. He complimented the City Crews.

Jerry Higgs asked that council consider a storm water management plan ordinance and a snow removal and storage ordinance. He said it is important to get both of these ordinances in place because it is difficult to enact one without the other. He would like to see these in place before the highway project is completed in 2019. Jerry said there is a shrinking amount of space available for storage for snow. He said we need to look at commercial development, and when there is a parking lot or a large paved area that there are designated snow storage areas. He also asked the City to consider installation of culverts for drainage in areas that might be considered nonconforming because of the angle of approach. He spoke of places where culverts could be installed in nonconforming areas so snow storage would not affect drainage.

Police Chief Vic Watson said since December 20th they have had one petit theft case, one no contact order violation, one driving without privileges, one investigate suspicious case, one forgery case, one felony possession of a controlled substance, one DUI, one misdemeanor warrant arrest, one poisoned dog case, and one unattended death. The New Year holiday was quiet with no incidents. There have been a few vehicle crashes and traffic incidents with the bad weather, but they are working in conjunction with the Street Department.

Fire Chief Dave Winey said since the last meeting there were a couple calls. A CO2 call, medical lift assist, minor car fire, and a false alarm at the Jenny Lane Apartments.

Mike Klaus said a lot of snow removal activity over the past two weeks has been going on. The interviews were held for the water/sewer employee. There were three candidates selected and they are doing plant walk-throughs. The final decision will be made soon on who to hire.

Rick Alonzo commented on the quick response by the City crews when the electricity went out and the great job the street department is doing.

Rick Alonzo moved to approve the consent agenda. Ron Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Ken Toline “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”. The consent agenda contained the following: roll call; approval of accounts payable and payroll; and approval of December 19, 2017 council meeting minutes.

Ken Toline thanked Council for the honor that has been bestowed upon him. He said it was a privilege to serve the community as councilman. Ken said due to a death in the family, he and his wife will be relocating to Nebraska. He appreciates the confidence that people had in him.

He honors the council members. This position is held in honor because he believes in Val and knows she will do a good job.

Council Members Ron Smith, Adam Arthur, and Valerie Thompson were sworn in.

Ron Smith nominated Rick Alonzo for council president. Val Thompson seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Valerie Thompson “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”.

Mike Klaus spoke regarding utility application fees. He said many times there is time lost for figuring application costs for utilities when people request the quote but do not go through with the project. He said much staff time is lost when something like this happens. Mike said if a fee is associated with the application the people would be more serious when they request the estimate. Mike said the application fee would not be reimbursed to the customer. It would be in addition to what we now have. Mayor Sims said if council wants to go forward with the application fees we will go forward in publishing for a hearing for the fees. Mike went over the following fees that will be published for utility applications: residential water \$75.00; commercial water \$150; residential sewer \$40; commercial sewer \$40; electric residential \$200, commercial electric \$330; electric commercial three phase \$530. Attorney Andrakay Pluid said Northern Lights charges \$750 for a residential service application fee. Jim Woodward said the Northern Lights jobs are based on actual costs when the service is trued up. Val said she likes the idea of the fee and suggested refunding part of it back to the customer when the hookups are connected. Mayor Sims explained if we want to refund a portion of the application fee then we need to track all the time for each estimate. Mike explained how the work orders are done for each service connection. We charge an estimate of the cost of the work to be done and then at the end of the job we true up the costs and either refund or bill the customer. Mike said it would be easier to not refund the application fee. Ron Smith asked if the fees discussed tonight will be what is published in the paper. Mayor Sims said they are what will be published so we can go lower but not higher at the hearing. Ron Smith moved to hold a fee increase hearing with the proposed fees included in the memo for applications for water, sewer, and electric services. Adam Arthur seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Val Thompson “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”.

The snow sculpting event was discussed. Rick Alonzo moved to sponsor the snow sculpting event as a city event and approve the list of volunteers including Lee Harris, Wes Raynor, Brady Matthews, Madeline Guenther, Tyler White, and Ben DeClue. Val seconded the motion. The motion passed – Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo “yes”, Val Thompson “yes”, Adam Arthur “yes”.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

David Sims, Mayor

Attest:

Kris Larson, City Clerk