

BELT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

January 15, 2025

7:00PM

The second regularly scheduled meeting of January 2025 was called to order beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance were Mayor James Olson; Aldermen Paul Heikkila, Sally Miller, April Wells, Becky Gorton, and Michelle Stinson; Clerk-Treasurer Lynn Schilling and members of the public including Rolf Johnson.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

The Minutes, claims and warrants were submitted for approval. All were approved by unanimous vote of those present.

The Complaint Log was reviewed

NEW BUSINESS: The Council conducted a periodic budget review. Special attention was given to \$40,000 + invoices for the ARPA Library Project for which a warrant had been executed prior to their being funds secured in the back. Also addressed was \$18,000 + that had been spent on a HB355 project to replace the windows in City Hall, prior to those funds being awarded. Mayor Olson indicated that those funds would be coming, and Clerk-Treasurer Schilling reported that the resulting invoice from Highfill Construction had been paid months earlier using General Fund monies. Schilling stressed the importance of not spending money or engaging contractors until project funds were secured and physically in the city's possession. \$7800 remaining in the SB-536 Road Project Fund for the designated project of having potholes repaired by a contractor, was briefly discussed with the decision to complete that item as soon as possible in the Spring. Clerk-Treasurer Schilling reported that once again the city has not received biannual Library Fund payments from the county as outlined in the county's contract with the City of Belt making Belt solely responsible for library administration and management in return for \$52,000 annually in 2 payments due the first week of July and January. Schilling reported that the funds were normally over 3 months late in being paid causing the Library Fund to be over expended.

Rolph Johnson presented a proposal to establish an official website for the City of Belt. Johnson, as a member of the Planning Board explained that a website would facilitate a way for the city to provide NFIP and flood plain information to the citizens during the critical period of corrective actions, as well as be a future conduit of other city business. He stated that setup of the site would be \$860 for the first year, with a maintenance fee annually of \$361. After some discussion, Alderman Heikkila made a motion to approve the setup of a city website. That motion was seconded by Alderman Wells and carried by a vote of those present.

Mayor Olson proposed that the city get a short-term loan of \$40,339 to pay Spark Architecture for their part in the Library ARPA Project. He explained that such action would be necessary since funds would be coming from the County Commissioners and they had rejected Belt's application for award of funds on a hardship basis in the traditional draw request manner. After some discussion the Council approved a motion to secure the short-term loan to gain funds to pay Spark Architecture, with the understanding

that the reimbursement from the county would be awarded as soon as the city can show a cancelled check for that amount.

OLD BUSINESS: Mayor Olson and Rolf Johnson reported to the Council with regards to ongoing corrective actions being made to FEMA on behalf of Belt's membership in the NFIP. Johnson reported that a general letter and outreach information had been mailed out to every property owner in the flood plain. He explained that this completed a task for the corrective action plan. He further reported that Great West Engineering has identified all properties in the flood plain as an additional task. A proposal to form a committee to address the corrective action plan was discussed. Mayor Olson appointed committee members following a motion to form the committee. The motion was seconded and carried by a unanimous vote of those present.

PUBLIC INPUT: None

COUNCIL INPUT: Alderman Wells urged the mayor to use the seasonal public works employee as well as the full-time public works employee to get the job of snow removal and sanding done promptly and well. She stated that there is plenty of money in the budget obligated to the use of both employees, especially during large storms and after hours.

CLERK-TREASURER INPUT: None

MAYOR INPUT: Mayor Olson announced that representatives of DEQ would be at the next meeting to report on delays with the cleanup plant.

There being no further business to attend to the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 PM.