

January 14, 2010

The Conrad City Council met in regular session on 01/14/10 in Council Chambers. Officials present were Council Members LeAnn Lynch, Deb McAteer, Sue McLeland, Brad Murty, and Gary Stattler. Mayor Gregg Sharp called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk Hoy then administered the Oath of Office to Gregg Sharp, Deb McAteer, Brad Murty and Gary Stattler.

The agenda was approved as posted. Stattler moved, Murty seconded, to approve the following consent items: Minutes from the 12/10/09 council meeting; December 2009 clerk's financial report; Payment of claims totaling \$90,667.46; 2010 Council Committee and Liaison appointments; Appointment of Todd Schnathorst to the Park Board, term expiring 12/31/2012; Designate THE RECORD as the official newspaper for City of Conrad publications and notices for 2010. Ayes: 5.

The following claims include expenses for the City, Park Board, Library, Museum, Fire Department and B-CERT.

A-Kleen Towel, service	40.50	IRS, federal W/H	5,634.68
Accucut, library equipment	159.00	Iowa One Call, locates	7.20
Alliant, utilities	6,076.09	Iowa Wholesale, parts	33.65
B & G HVAC, furnace	2,961.71	IPERS, W/H	2,189.39
Bill Bacon, contract snow removal	60.00	Jack & Jill, periodical	13.95
Bank of America, gas/ postage/training	485.45	KB Underground, repairs	1,715.00
Bob's Farm Center, diesel/trucking	3,548.52	Ladehoff Lawn Care, mowing	425.00
Body & Soul, periodical	14.95	Petty Cash, library	176.82
Car & Driver, periodical	18.00	McNair Wrecker, services	350.00
CID, supplies	211.48	Memory Makers, periodical	16.96
Coates Mfg, parts	131.94	Moler Sanitation, services	160.00
Conrad Auto, supplies	113.27	Monkeytown, supplies	69.99
Conrad Tire, repairs	49.90	Brad Murty, mileage	72.05
First National, library exp	348.82	NADA, periodical	90.00
Glo-Brite, window clean	75.00	O'Halloran, parts	31.76
Grundy Co. Auditor, election	738.15	Premier Office, contract	154.00
Grundy Co. Sheriff, contract	4,728.25	The Record, publications	86.50
Hawk, chemicals	348.18	Self, periodical	10.00
Hanzelka, repairs	1,564.68	Sign Creations, lettering	90.00
Chris Harris, training reimbursement	300.00	Sports Illustrated, periodical	39.76
Hawkins, chemical	199.46	State of Iowa, W/H	836.00
HDC, business forms	31.82	Test America, lab	301.67
Heart of Iowa, phone/internet	271.90	Union Auto, Chassis	33,235.00
Denise Hoy, mileage	16.50	Verizon Wireless, cell phones	69.65
Hygienic Labs, lab	54.00	Wolf Creek Childcare, LOST	5,018.24
IMFOA, annual dues	30.00	Wages, 12/11/09 to 01/14/10	16,778.46
Ingram, books	484.16	Totals Claims	\$90,667.46

Expenses per fund: General \$55,226.61; Road Use Tax \$13,012.65; Employee Benefits \$2,563.96; LOST \$5,018.24; Water \$8,100.46; Sewer \$6,745.54. December 2009 receipts per fund: General \$15,708.52; RUT \$6,815.13; Employee Benefits \$1,057.73; TIF \$1,589.98; Debt Service \$5,993.03; Water \$708.38; Sewer \$1,750.80; Storm Water Utility \$199.91. Total \$33,823.48.

Carol Schmitz, Conrad Development Committee (CDC), visited with council about the Wolf Creek Estates Phase II residential lots. There are 7 lots remaining and the CDC plans to run a promotional discount on the lots during the months of March and April. The incentive would reduce the lots from \$18,000 to \$15,000 over the 2 month period. Schmitz also reported that the sale of the former Home Care Building located at 106 Main Street was finalized and proceeds would be forwarded to the City as per the agreement.

Kent Higgins informed council that the grass-rig chassis had arrived and is ready to be picked up from Union Auto, Inc. He also presented information on the quick-attack slide-in unit, radio equipment, and installation needed to complete the unit. Council member Stattler moved to authorize the Fire Department to move forward with the purchase of the equipment as presented at the cost of \$42,418 and authorize a \$10,000 grant from the Local Option Sales Tax funds toward the expenses. The total cost for the quick-attack grass-rig unit is projected at \$75,653, and will be paid for with grants and fire reserve funds. Murty seconded and the vote was unanimously approved.

Jim LaPlant, CEO and Mark Schoborg, Engineer from Central Iowa Water Association (CIWA) presented council with information pertaining to an emergency water hook-up from their source located at the west entrance of Conrad. The emergency hook-up would cost the city a one time fee of \$7,500 and includes the meter and connection costs. Conrad would then only be required to pay for water if and when it is used. A second scenario Schoborg offered council is the option of an emergency hook-up at no cost to the city in return for Conrad using a 90 day free trial of water supplied by CIWA. During the 90 day period an independent rate study would be completed to see what the cost comparison of water from CIWA verses water produced by the city would be. At the end of the trial period Council would decide to either stay on the CIWA connection permanently, or only use the supply for emergency purposes. After the 90 day trail there would be no cost to the city for the emergency connection. Council will make a formal decision at the February meeting. In the meantime, the city will make efforts to educate the public and solicit input.

The Committee appointed to study the engineering proposals for the CDBG sewer line project met and recommended the appointment of Ryken Engineering. Council member Lynch moved to appoint Ryken Engineering for the CDBG sewer line project and Stattler seconded. Ayes: 5.

Council member Murty moved and Stattler seconded to appoint Kirby Schmidt as the City Attorney for 2010 and to set the annual retainer at \$1400. Ayes: 5.

Council member Murty moved to approve a 2-year burn site lease with Robert J. Klein and JoAnn R. Klein and set the annual rent at \$350 per year, seconded by Lynch. Ayes: 5.

Council discussed a request proposed by Joshua Christensen regarding the forgivable loan for a housing rehab project at his property located at 217 N. Alice. Christensen has moved out of the home to attend college in Iowa City and would like to have the house occupied as he continues to try and sell it. The contract states "If the assisted property becomes other than the assisted property owner's principal place of residence at any time during the five-year term (through sale, transfer, rental, or vacating or abandonment of the property), repayment of the principal amount, based on the above schedule, is immediately repayable to the City." Council discussed the option of allowing Christensen to make monthly installments towards the balance due on the loan, in turn enabling him to rent the property at his discretion. A formal agreement will be drafted, reviewed by the city attorney, and placed on the February 2010 agenda for consideration.

Council member Stattler announced that the Personnel Committee had meet with Bruce Marble, Nick Kitzman, and Denise Hoy and recommends a 3% wage increase, and an increase of \$50 per month towards health benefits, commencing July 1, 2010. McLeland moved to approve the salary/benefit recommendation for Marble, Kitzman and Hoy; McAteer seconded. Ayes: 5. Council member Stattler then moved to increase Joan Schleisman and Jennifer Yantis' hourly wage by 3%, McAteer seconded. Ayes: 5.

Mayor Gregg Sharp spoke briefly to council about the County Conference Board and his role as Conrad Mayor on the Board. The recent retirement of the County Assessor and the plan for reorganizing the office was discussed. He shared his position in opposition to the suggested salary recommendations for the current employees. Council voiced their support for the decision Sharp made regarding the salary recommendations.

With no further business evident, meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.