REGULAR MEETING of the COMMON COUNCIL of the City of Cuba City, January 03, 2024.

Mayor John Van De Wiel presiding. Called to order at 7:00 PM

Present: Mayor J Van De Wiel, Alderpersons L Weber, B Loeffelholz, T Hazen, C Hendrickson, R Hess,

F Raupp, S Tranel, N Moris

Also Present: J Hill, G Morrissey, T Terpstra, Z Lovell, E Vondra, M Runde

Mayor Van De Wiel asked all present to join in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Alderperson Tranel and seconded by Alderperson Hess that the Common Council approve the consent agenda items: Approval of the minutes of the December 5, 2023 Regular Meeting and the December 22, 2023 Special Meeting of the Common Council; approval of notice of this meeting posted at City Hall, IGA and the Cuba City Post Office and e-mailed to the Tri-County Press on December 28, 2023; and authorize payment of claims against the General Fund and Municipal Sewer Plant in the amount of $88,671.30. Motion carried: Ayes-8; Noes-0.

**Citizens Comments**

Citizen Mary Runde was in attendance to suggest that the City use a portion of the former Epione Pavilion site for a dog park. Mayor Van De Wiel informed Ms. Runde that there will be public meetings in the future to obtain citizens’ input on potential uses of the property.

**Committee Reports**

Finance – Met earlier tonight to make recommendation on Fire Department purchases. Police - Met earlier tonight to make recommendation on hiring a full-time officer. Sanitation – Alderperson Weber stated that he visits the wastewater treatment plant often and visits with Operator Chad Bennett. Weber stated that Chad does an excellent job. Park & Recreation – Met in December to adopt a park/shelter rental policy.

**Department Reports**

Sergeant Investigator Lovell presented the department’s monthly report. Sgt. Lovell and k9 Thor attended training in Dubuque and Crawford County. A 2024 Durango has been ordered to replace the oldest squad car. Sgt. Lovell submitted an invoice for an AED to the Masonic Lodge. If approved, this will allow the department to have one in each squad. Sgt. Lovell is in the process of applying for a Small, Rural and Tribal Law Enforcement body worn camera grant. Officer Bendickson completed training on drug impaired drivers. Thor was deployed twice in the month of December. Officer Bendickson held a falconry demonstration at the school and it was well attended. Chief Terpstra and Sgt. Lovell have been working on ordering the necessary equipment for the new squad. Officer Bendickson responded to a serious incident where he administered aid and assisted the CCFD with setting up a med-flight landing zone. Sgt. Lovell assisted the Grant County Sheriff’s Department with a serious 2 vehicle crash on County H. Sgt. Lovell administered medical aid and fire suppression. Sgt. Lovell and the Cuba City Fire Department recommended to Grant County that Travis & Jodi VanNatta receive a life-saving award for their part in removing the victim from the burning vehicle. Chief Terpstra added that Sgt Lovell and firefighter Josh Stowe have also been recommended as life-saving award recipients for their part in placing a tourniquet on the victim’s leg. According to the doctor who cared for the patient, the tourniquet saved his life.

DPW Morrissey presented his monthly report. The Park & Recreation Board has implemented a park/shelter rental policy. The Board will be meeting more in the next couple months to discuss the new restroom facility and inclusive playground equipment to be added at Splinter Park. The replacement concrete has been poured on Main Street where the most recent water main break occurred. The sanitation department is working on the annual chloride report and adaptive management reports. The 2024 road salt allotment is in. The former Epione site has been fenced off for safety to prepare for razing of the structure. Morrissey met with a DNR representative at the Simons property to begin work on the Phase 1 study. An asbestos assessment of the property will be completed in the next couple weeks. In preparation for Tim Pickel’s retirement in February, a full-time street laborer position has been posted. The application deadline is January 18th and interviews will be scheduled shortly after.

Fire Chief Mark Patterson presented the fire department’s monthly report. Painting of the fire station is in progress. The department is working with 3 different vendors on quotes for turnout gear replacement. Training for the month included search and rescue, ropes and pump operation. Calls for the month included a smoke investigation on Hwy 80 and mutual aid with Platteville for a chimney fire on 12/10, assisting SW Health setting up a landing zone for med-flight on 12/11, a structure fire 12/14, an accident on County H that included setting up a landing zone for med-flight on 12/15, and an accident on Main Street on 12/19. Chief Patterson thanked the police department for their assistance and noted that both departments depend on each other and work very well together. Chief Patterson also noted that it was only 18 minutes from the time the call came in for the accident on County H until med-flight landed.

**Action Items**

Moved by Alderperson Weber and seconded by Alderperson Hess that the Common Council approve the Finance Committee’s recommendation to use fire equipment outlay funds to pay for the cost of primer pumps in excess of the Fire Department’s available 2023 budget funds. Motion carried: Ayes-8; Noes-0.

Moved by Alderperson Loeffelholz and seconded by Alderperson Hendrickson that the Common Council approve the Police Advisory Committee’s recommendation to hire Kyle Jorgensen as a full-time police officer at a starting wage of $26.73/hour, contingent upon negative drug test results. Motion carried: Ayes-8; Noes-0.

**Informational Items**

The following upcoming meetings and events were noted:

* Electric & Water Commission Regular Meeting – Wed, Jan 17th – 4:30 p.m.
* Grant County Economic Development Corporation Meeting – Wed, Jan 24th
* Common Council Regular Meeting – Wed, Feb 7th – 7:00 p.m.

Moved by Alderperson Hess and seconded by Alderperson Tranel that this meeting adjourn. Motion carried: Ayes-8; Noes-0. (7:31 PM)

Jill M. Hill

Clerk-Treasurer

I hereby certify that the Clerk-Treasurer has submitted the above minutes to me, and I hereby by my signature approve said minutes and all acts of the Common Council as set forth herein.

John Van De Wiel

Mayor