

The minutes of the Fairmont City Council meeting held on Monday, December 12, 2022, at the City Hall Council Chambers.

Mayor Deborah J. Foster called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Council Members Wayne Hasek, Britney Kawecki, Randy Lubenow, Michele Miller and Bruce Peters were present. Also in attendance: City Administrator Cathy Reynolds, Finance Director Paul Hoye, Chief of Police Mike Hunter, Assistant Finance Director Julie Zarling, Economic Development Coordinator Ned Koppen, Planner/Zoning Official Peter Bode, City Clerk Patricia Monsen and City Attorney Mark Rahrck, via telephone.

Council Member Kawecki made a motion to remove item 6.C.6 Purchase of Pickup Trucks from the consent agenda and address it as item 9.8 under new business. Council Member Lubenow seconded the motion and the motion carried. Council Member Peters made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Mayor Foster recognized the following city employees for their years of service: Mark Drever, Street Department, 10 years; Paul Hargan, Fire Department, 15 years; Jeff Miller, Fire Department, 15 years; and Brandon Scott, Fire Department, 20 years.

Reynolds presented Certificates of Election to Lee C. Baarts as Mayor, Jay Maynard, Ward 1 City Council Member and Deb Foster, Ward 3 City Council Member.

During Public Comment, the following Fairmont residents spoke in favor of the community center: Jay Maynard, Kristy Olson, Megan Brusky, Chad Brusky, Kate Grogin, Selvin Forsythe, Tam Plumhoff, Emily Lubenow, Brenda Lubenow, Amber Hanson, Isaac Abel, Chuck Omvig, Beth Kloeckner, Carolyn Bird, Tabitha Johnson, Vicky Schulte, Ruth Cyphers, Kelly Iverson, Randy Lubenow and Neil Johnson. The following non-residents spoke in favor of the community center: Dianne Bettin, Bonnie Vetter, Bryan Gregor, Hannah Neusch, Karl Vlieger, Deb Barnes, Patti Mathews, Hayley Luther, Celia Simpson, Cathy Celander and Steve Pomerence. Residents Rin Porter and Nathan Scott spoke in favor of the community center and in support of having the Human Rights Commission reinstated. The following residents voiced their concerns about a community center: Terry Riggs and Sandy Meschke.

Council Member Peters made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion and the motion carried. Items on the Consent Agenda were: minutes from the November 28, 2022 city council meeting; **Resolution 2022-41**, establishing the City of Fairmont's 2023 polling place; Temporary On-Sale Liquor Licenses for Martin County Preservation Association, d/b/a Red Rock Center for January 21, 2023, March 4, 2023 and April 13 and 14, 2023; 2023 license renewals for cigarette, refuse hauling, taxi and theater; appointing Brian Roggow to the FEDA Board; and P.O. 14486 for ILS Design Services by KLJ Engineering for \$50,000 for the design of the new instrument landing system.

Mayor Foster opened the public hearing on proposed **Ordinance 2022-14** amending Chapter 26 of the City Code regarding water-oriented accessory structures. No public comment was

received. Council Member Peters made a motion to close the public hearing. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Mayor Foster opened the public hearing on the payable 2023 property tax levy and 2023 budget. Finance Director Hoyer and Assistant Finance Director Zarling presented the payable 2023 property tax levy and 2023 budget. Residents Terie Larson, Chuck Omvig, Terry Riggs, Carolyn Bird and Carl Vlieger commented on the budget and tax levy. Council Member Miller made a motion to close the public hearing. Council Member Peters seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Kawecki made a motion to recall all motions made for the community center on November 28th and would like to go back to the resolution that we made with the Foundation in the past for them to raise 6 million and council explore other options to fund the 1.5 million for compressor and mechanics for the hockey arena, including removing the \$850,000 for Gomsurd Park from the local option sales tax and working with the Hockey Association to raise funds on their own and explore other funding options to raise the 1.5 million needed. Also, look at new market tax credit, complete state bonding and ½ cent sales tax to complete a community center that includes a YMCA and ice arena in one building at the same time, if able. Council Member Lubenow seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Kawecki and Lubenow voted aye. Council Members Hasek, Miller and Peters voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion failed. Council Member Miller made a motion to explore additional funding options, including new market tax credits, state bonding and local option sales tax to go towards a community center/hockey arena to be built at the same time. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Miller, Peters and Hasek voted aye. Council Members Kawecki and Lubenow voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed.

Council Member Miller made a motion to approve **Resolution 2022-43**, adopting the 2023 property tax levy and ordering its certification to the Martin County Auditor by December 28, 2022. Council Member Peters seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Miller, Peters and Hasek voted aye. Council Members Lubenow and Kawecki voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed.

Council Member Miller made a motion to approve **Resolution 2022-44**, adopting the 2023 budget. Council Member Peters seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Miller, Peters and Hasek voted aye. Council Members Kawecki and Lubenow voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed.

Council Member Peters made a motion to approve **Resolution 2022-45**, relating to softened water service rates. Council Member Miller seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Peters, Hasek, Kawecki and Miller voted aye. Council Member Lubenow voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed.

Council Member Peters made a motion to approve **Resolution 2022-46**, relating to public utility wastewater rates. Council Member Hasek seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Hasek, Kawecki, Miller and Peters voted aye. Council Member Lubenow voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed.

Council Member Lubenow made a motion to approve **Resolution 2022-42**, the de-certification of TIF districts 22 Bank Midwest and 23 Kahler Automation. Council Member Kawecki seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Miller made a motion to approve a conditional use permit for a boathouse at 420 Lake Aires Road. Council Member Kawecki seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Hasek made a motion to approve the contact with AFSCME for January 2023 – December 31, 2025. Council Member Peters seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Miller made a motion to approve the contract with LELS for January 2023 – December 31, 2025. Council Member Peters seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Peters made a motion to approve the annual wage adjustment and employee handbook changes for non-union employees. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Peters made a motion to approve **Resolution 2022-47**, accepting donations to the city. Council Member Miller seconded the motion. On roll call: Council Members Hasek, Kawecki, Lubenow, Miller and Peters voted aye. No one voted nay. Mayor Foster declared said motion passed.

Council Member Peters made a motion to approve P.O. 14498 for the purchase of a new pickup for the Fire Department. Council Member Lubenow seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Miller made a motion to approve P.O. 14497 for the purchase of a new pickup for the Line Department. Council Member Peters seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Miller made a motion to approve P.O. 14309 for the purchase of a new pickup for the Water Plant. Council Member Peters seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Peters made a motion to approve P.O. 14491 for the purchase of a new pickup for the Wastewater Plant. Council Member Lubenow seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Peters made a motion to approve P.O. 14492 for the purchase of a new pickup for the Water Plant. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Council Member Peters made a motion to approve P.O. 14499 for the purchase of a new pickup for the Street Department. Council Member Miller seconded the motion and the motion carried.


Reynolds reported that the city has hired a new Water Resources/Engineering Tech who will be starting on Thursday. The AMI project for the electric meters is ongoing. The water meter installation will begin January 4, 2023. Information about the project will be mailed to residents.

Information on the Gomsrud Park revitalization will be brought to a January meeting to look at phasing. The zoning code update is moving forward and a work session will be scheduled for February or March to review. Building permit information in November shows 15.6 million in 2022 to date, with four new homes being built. Interviews for the Public Works Director/City Engineer are scheduled for the first week of January.

Councilor Hasek reported that the PUC reviewed chemical costs for the water and wastewater departments. They also reviewed and discussed the budget.

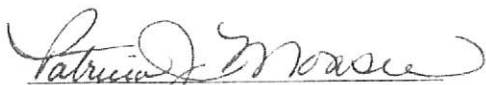
Mayor Foster thanked Councilors Lubenow and Peters for their service to the city.

A motion was made by Council Member Peters, seconded by Council Member Miller and carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:38 p.m.



Lee C. Baarts, Mayor

ATTEST:



Patricia J. Monsen, City Clerk