

The Palo City Council met in open session Monday July 27th, 2009 at the Temporary City Hall located at the FS Building. Mayor Jeff Beauregard called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM with the following council present: Alan Mengler, Paula Gunter-Mayor Pro-tempore, Trent Miller and Jeannie Blumer. Absent: John Harris. Others present: City Attorney; Scott Peterson, City Infrastructure Commander; Tom Watson, City Administrator; Stacy Dix.

Mayor Jeff Beauregard asked everyone to stand and say the pledge of allegiance.

Motion by Council member Al Mengler to approve the agenda, seconded by Council member Paula Gunter, motion carried (4-0).

Motion by Council member Paula Gunter to approve the consent agenda including July 13th, 2009 Council meeting minutes, seconded by Council member Al Mengler, motion carried (4-0).

Claims Report: Farm Plan, Sewer Hose, \$372.02; Shakespeare Storage, Storage unit, \$660.00; Michelle Nejd, Demo lien letters reimb., \$68.10; Shallow Water Marine, L.L.C., HF64 Fire Rescue Boat, \$7,014.72 Total Disbursements: \$8,114.84

Chamber of Commerce Report by Beth Rathje; Stated the GEESE group has decided to dissolve and become active with the chamber. PCG; Parade grand marshal will be Lillian Frantz, requesting city pay for Sheriff's department for the Palo Fun Day event. Council will review and put on the agenda for consideration at the August 10th Council meeting. Also may to extend the time frame for the Vinton Street closure, will meet with the PCG members and will be placed on the next agenda for consideration.

Rebuild Palo Fund Report by Tom Watson; Stated to date the board has given out \$136,000 to residents that were affected by the June 2008 flood. The board is reapplying to the Greater Cedar Rapids Foundation and Wal-Mart has donated \$10,000 to the Organization.

Audience Comments:

Several questions were asked regarding water utility.

Rosanne Sanders, Q: What are the rules & regulations for the voting process? Why not allow another vote. A: Our form of government is a council/mayor form. The citizens elected the mayor and council to make informed decisions. The Council had requested that if the referendum passes and the city receives the grant funding that the residents would have a vote to help decide which distribution system they would like to go with. It has been researched and is illegal to have another vote. The Council and Mayor are insistent on having citizen input and would like to do this with a professional survey system, public hearings and Town Hall Meetings.

Penny Galvin stated working with the Long Term Recovery Coalition the residents of Palo missed out on funding for 7 potential grants due to the fact we do not have a municipal water utility. A water utility will also help spur growth to allow more businesses and residents to help spread out the infrastructure cost so our utilities and taxes do not go up.

Mary Benion stated she has three questions:

- 1.) Why there is no incentives for residents who live here
 - a. Stated the City waived all fee's for residents in the interim and the incentives being referred to are from the Rebuild Palo Fund, not the City. This was also open to all residents to apply for funding to help with recovery efforts through the Rebuild Palo fund.
- 2.) Contract work for the City what about employees doing work in the City?
 - a. The Council approved a form that would need to be submitted for any employee doing work in the City limits for a personal use.

- 3.) The third question is will they dig up my yard to hook sewer in?
- a. Stated that the infrastructure would need to be installed and that would require hooking in to individual homes. We would anticipate that this process would be done similar to the sewer project where they would reseed when done with construction.

Water utility discussion; Mayor Jeff Beauregard stated the City Council has committed to only pursuing the water distribution if there is grant funding available. Council member Paula Gunter discussed this being a good opportunity to look at sewer bills, currently everyone is paying a flat rate and cannot meter the sewer, however if there was a water source the sewer would be billed for usage and could be a savings to several families. Was also stated the grant has been written to include hooking into the individual homes.

Resolution #072709A to approve the Re-construction permit affidavit. Motion by Council member Paula Gunter, seconded by Council member Al Mengler, roll call, motion carried (4-0). Resolution #072709B awards L.L. Pelling the Street Repair Bid at \$195,052.50. Motion by Council member Al Mengler, seconded by Council member Paula Gunter, roll call, motion carried (4-0).

Resolution #072709C to approve the property lien for 1450 Cedar River Drive. Motion by Council member Paula Gunter, seconded by Council member Al Mengler, roll call, motion carried (4-0).

Resolution #072709D to approve the property lien for 48 Lincoln Drive. Motion by Council member Paula Gunter, seconded by Council member Al Mengler, roll call, motion carried (4-0).

Department Reports:

Council member Paula Gunter stated she attended the Linn County EMA meeting on June 16th, 2009. They were looking at changing the bylaws. Board members had some reservations about this. Paula was concerned about the 1020% over expenditure of one budget item, turns out it should have been expended through the FEMA account not GL so it looks unbalanced but they are working on correcting the budget.

Doug Hanover discussed that he and Tony will be setting up the new Tent the City purchased to make sure everything works. Council member Al Mengler stated he would like to assist along with recruiting a few more members to have a total of 6 individuals.

Old Business

Council member Trent Miller discussed the Benton/Linn Ambulance board meeting, the Board is dissolving, they have donated \$75,000 to St. Lukes Hospital grant fund, and \$51,000 each to Atkins, Shellsburg and Palo First Responders Unit. Any remaining funds will be donated to St. Lukes. The Palo Fire Department has added a First Responders Unit and will be able to perform all aspects that the Benton/Linn Ambulance provided except for transport.

Motion by Council member Paula Gunter to adjourn at 7:59pm, seconded by Council member Jeannie Blumer, motion carried (4-0).

Respectfully submitted by,

Trisca Smetzer, City Clerk