

The Palo City Council met in regular session at Palo City Hall September 17, 2012. Mayor Tom Sanders called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Council Members present: Trent Miller, Doug Hanover, and Josh Frank.

Absent: Brian Beaty and Scott Packingham. Others present: None.

The Mayor stated Donna Walton, Linn County Soil & Water Conservation District, presentation of Signs for the Rain Garden, item #7 would be moved to the October 15, 2012 meeting as initially the signs were not complete; then they were complete, but had not been delivered. Item #7 was replaced with Set Public Hearing for Electric Franchise Agreement Ordinance.

Hanover moved approval of the **agenda** with the following revisions removing item #7 Sign Presentation by Donna Walton and adding Set Public Hearing for Electric Franchise Agreement Ordinance, Frank second.

Motion carried. (3-0)

Council reviewed the AgVantage fuel bill. Miller moved approval of the **consent agenda**: bill approval, treasurer's reports, DAR, and regular Council meeting minutes from August 20, 2012, Hanover second. Motion carried. (3-0)

The **Linn County Sheriff** was not available.

A **Lion's Club representative** was not available.

Audience Comments-Agenda Items: None.

Department Reports: Council discussed maintenance/fire parking availability at the maintenance building/fire station. The maintenance staff will not park in the area designated for fire personnel. In the event of a fire more parking may be needed for firefighters. Everyone has been contacted.

Council discussed information from ITC Midwest LLC including the proposed new transmission line, both proposed and alternate routes, and the informational meeting ITC Midwest LLC will hold on October 11, 2012. Two Council members and the Mayor plan to attend. The Mayor encourages attendance.

Miller motion to set the **public hearing for ITC Midwest LLC and the City of Palo Electric Franchise Agreement Ordinance 584-2012** on October 15, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at Council Chambers, Palo City Hall, Hanover second. Motion carried. (3-0)

Miller motion to approve **Ricklefs Pay Application 6 Water Main Distribution System Phase 1**, Hanover second. Motion carried. (3-0)

Miller motion to approve **Ricklefs Pay Application 5 Water Main Distribution System Phase 2**, Frank second. Motion carried. (3-0)

Miller motion to approve **Shawver Well Company Pay Application 6 Well #2 Park Well**, Hanover second. Motion carried. (3-0)

Council reiterated to Howard R. Green (HRG) representative, Lauren O'Neil, phase 1 final grading and seeding should be completed by September 30, 2012. HRG representative has informed the contractor and has been in daily contact with the contractor about the deadline. It is possible the seeding window could be extended. The contractor estimates it will take a week to complete the grading and seeding for phase 1 and it will be completed by the deadline.

Council, with input from HRG, discussed **301, 303, and 305 1st Street Cost Differential** (between 1 bore under 1st Street for 301 vs. boring 2 times; once for 301 and once for 303 and 305. The cost difference will be between short cut open side service and long side drilled service. HRG confirmed ownership and property lines. Not all the locations were on the original engineering plans. Another location had 2 service lines and a service line was omitted in this area. As has been the policy, the owners will be contacted and they will make the decision on the location of the service line. The "option" stick can be moved laterally; this includes corner lots, unless notified differently. HRG will research if another alternative; installing one 2" line is in compliance with City Ordinances and engineering specifications. HRG confirmed this does not require immediate Council action and

can be researched and put before Council at the next Council meeting. Clerk instructed to add this item to the next Council agenda.

HRG provided information on **Alliant Energy Estimate Installation of 3 Phase UB-Duct Pulling**. This was the cost to pull the wires for installation of a new service. The cost has been reduced. The Mayor noticed an invalid tax charge which was removed. Ricklefs will trench; then coordinate with Alliant to pull the wires while the trench is open. Alliant will provide the necessary materials. Miller motion to approve Alliant Energy Estimate Installation of 3 Phase UB Duct Pulling, Hanover second. Motion carried. (3-0)

Motion by Hanover to approve **Resolution 091712A The Reappointment of Tom Yock to the Park and Recreation Committee**, Frank second. Roll call. Motion carried. (3-0) The Mayor directed the Clerk to express the Mayor and Council's appreciation for Mr. Yock's service to his community.

Motion by Miller to approve **Resolution 091712B The Reappointment of Micah Mogle to the Board of Adjustment** for an additional term, Frank second. Roll call. Motion carried. (3-0) Clerk instructed to confirm term dates.

Hanover motion to open public hearing on the **Termination and Vacation of Easement** (abandonment of old sewer line) at 7:17 p.m., Miller second. Roll call. Motion carried. (3-0) The Clerk did not receive written comments. Audience comments: None. Mayor Sanders provided a history of the easement. The Maintenance Superintendent and City Engineer have been consulted. Frank motion to close the public hearing at 7:20 p.m., Hanover second. Roll call. Motion carried. (3-0) The manhole covers have been removed, the area has been reviewed, and no other action is required. Miller motion to approve **Resolution 091712C Termination and Vacation of Easement**, Hanover second. Roll call. Motion carried. (3-0)

An ITC representative plans to attend the next Council meeting. Several Council Members and the Mayor plan to attend the informational meeting to be held October 11, 2012.

The Council would like to see the same style of lights continued through future developments in the Dry Creek area. Hanover motion to approve **Resolution 091712D Decorative Street Light Resolution for Dry Creek 3rd Addition**, Frank second. Roll call. Motion carried. (3-0)

Miller motion to approve **Resolution 091712E City Street Financial Report**, Hanover second. Roll call. Motion carried. (3-0)

The **snowplow** was purchased in 2004 and it has been used constantly and repaired several times. The last time it was taken in for repair it was suggested it would cost more to repair the plow than it was worth. Consensus was reached that the current V-blade is not as functional for City snow removal as a straight blade. Maintenance recommends a 9' straight blade rather than a 10' blade or a V-blade. Quotes were presented. Future Line offered \$750 for a trade-in. Previous experience with Future Line has been good. The City has received needed parts within a day. The warranties and installation cost were analyzed. Frank motion to approve purchase of a 9' Super Duty Straight Plow from Future Line with the \$750 trade in of the current V-blade snowplow, Hanover second. Motion carried. (3-0) Clerk instructed to inform the Maintenance Staff of Council's decision. Plans will be made to conduct the transaction. Clerk instructed to relay Council's request that Maintenance Staff make their preferences clear if they do not attend the meeting.

The Mayor instructed Council to review the list of **City property (sale and/or disposal)** items the Maintenance Staff prepared that are of little or no use to the maintenance department. The Council does not have to make a decision at this meeting. The Mayor encouraged Council to look at the items and render an opinion for the next Council meeting. The Maintenance Staff included descriptions, locations, and contact information for Council's convenience. The Case tractor is paid for, but has a tire that goes down. Councilor Hanover estimates other needed repairs at \$200. It does not have air-conditioning. It would need to be started occasionally for the battery to remain charged. It was previously used for snow removal; the Bobcat is used for snow removal now. The Case is tall enough to remove material from a dump truck; the Bobcat is not. The Case is currently stored

outside. If the City needs a backhoe, it may be less expensive to purchase attachments for the Case. There are some tasks the Kubota is too small to handle. There are currently 2 storage containers at the lagoon site. The storage container at AgVantage will be emptied and moved to the lagoon site for additional storage. Other ways to manage storage at the maintenance building and fire station were discussed. Mayor Sanders requested Council view these items over the next 30 days and render an opinion at the next Council meeting.

Miller motion to approve the third and final reading of **Ordinance 582-2012 Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Palo, Iowa, 2012, by Modifying Portions of Chapter 90 Regarding Fees**, Hanover second. Roll call. Motion carried. (3-0)

Hanover motion to approve the second reading of **Ordinance 583-2012 Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Palo Iowa by Adding a New Chapter Pertaining to the Operation of Golf Carts on City Streets with a City Issued Permit**, Frank second. Roll call. Motion carried. (3-0)

Mayor Sanders reviewed Chapter 95 Sanitary Sewer System 95.05 Sewer Connection Required. City sewer maps will be reviewed to determine if the “public sewer is located within one hundred feet of the property line...” The City Maintenance Staff, Engineer and Attorney will be consulted as needed. Other factors that may be considered are the condition of the septic system currently in use. Hanover motion to table **Sewer Water Connections**, Frank second. Motion carried. (3-0) This agenda item will be brought back to Council for review once the information has been compiled.

The **service solutions provided by SimplexGrinnell** were reviewed. More information is needed to make an informed decision. Council would like other service providers to be consulted. Clerk instructed to contact SimplexGrinnell and invite them to the next Council meeting to go over the current system and review contract options. Clerk instructed to provide other service provider information to Council.

Tax Increment Financing process was reviewed. Hanover motion to approve **Resolution 091712F Establishing a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Revenue Fund & Authorizing Loan to that Fund**, Miller second. Roll call. Motion carried. (3-0)

Audience Comments-Non-Agenda Items: None

Old Business: Mayor Sanders reviewed the **Iowa Living Roadways Welcome Signs Project**. The current grant ends 12/31/12. The project may be extended if necessary. The proposed locations, installation, design and maintenance requirements were discussed. Dan Diehm, Cedar River Garden Center, has been storing the 3 remaining stones for the City. The City Attorney is preparing a draft easement agreement. The Mayor and/or Clerk will discuss the agreement with the proposed property owners upon completion. Clerk will review project with the project officer. Upon approval, Maintenance Staff will begin working on the proposed sign on City property. Once that sign is placed, the two other signs will be moved to City property or their final destination, depending on the project’s progress. Council inquired about the yard waste drop off at the lagoon site. Council would like a cost breakdown for the needed fencing material at the next Council meeting. The Council would like used fence quotes, if possible and an inventory of existing fence and fence posts. Councilor Frank shared compliments he has received about the Splash Pad and Boat Ramp. The Council would like the Park and Recreation Committee to work with Council Members on the donation box and boat ramp sign for placement in the spring. Council instructed Clerk to follow up with Senior Housing on the status of their driveway project. The water is not flowing correctly on Clinton Street and winter will make the situation worse. After the water project is complete, street work on Clinton Street will need to be a priority.

New Business: Trick or Treat times will be from 5:00 to 8:00 on Wednesday, October 31st; as in previous years. Clerk instructed to work with HRG to inform contractors to have equipment safely secured. Council was pleased with the contractor’s efforts during Palo Fun Days.

Councilor Miller encouraged Mayor and Council to review the Council Rules provided by former City Attorney, Scott Peterson, during Council training. The Council may or may not want to adopt these rules; they are an option.

Frank motion to **adjourn** at 9:12 p.m., Hanover second. Motion carried. (3-0)

Michelle Nejd
City Clerk