

City of Melbourne  
Regular City Council Meeting  
December 14, 2020

Melbourne City Council met in regular session on December 14, 2020 at 7 pm at the Melbourne Library basement. Members and Clerk were all seated a minimum of 6' apart per social distancing protocol. Council members present were David Gibbs, Carrie White, Shawn Goodrich and Lucas Hauser. Also present were Mayor John White, Clerk Mary Pothast, PW Superintendent Gary Fricke, guests Tracey Decker with Partner Communications and Danny Smith. Absent was Vickie Stahl. Mayor White called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with the pledge of allegiance. Motion to approve the agenda, minutes and bills made by C. White with 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hauser. Vote was all ayes.

Mayor White introduced Tracy Decker, General Manager with Partner Communications to answer questions about improvements and the future of internet services in Melbourne. Decker explained that PCC was losing money for each cable subscriber and their board decided it was time to discontinue that service. This December PCC will make the final payment on the exchange that includes Melbourne, State Center, Baxter, etc., which they purchased from Iowa Telecom. That will give them more cash flow to make improvements. Clerk asked about fiber optics. The cost to lay that cable runs anywhere from \$20,000 per mile in the rural area to \$50,000 in towns. They average 4 customers per mile which makes it very costly, but it is on the horizon. 2021 will be a year of construction for PCC. Questioned about having to have a phone line, Decker stated that it made the connections stronger and gave less interference to hardwire. Gibbs said he had complaints about service, and was told that everyone needs to continue to call if they are unhappy with service. Before he had left for the day, Melbourne had 23 service calls recently, all of which were closed, most within a day. The key for complaints is to keep calling until it is resolved. Many times it can be solved with a phone call, but they will keep coming back until it is taken care of. Decker explained a bit about internet speeds and gave a list of services available. PCC wants to be a part of the Melbourne community and continue to serve the city's needs. Councilman Hauser thanked Decker and Partner Communications for putting up the Christmas lights on Main Street again this year free of charge.

Next in new business, Clerk had several policies to approve, most of which were for the FEMA application. They included two Conflict of Interest policies, a Fraud Reporting Policy, Public Information Protection Policy, Segregation of Duties Policy, and an amended version of the prior approved Procurement Policy. Clerk was given guidance on these from the Iowa Homeland Security Office. Motion to approve all policies made by Hauser with 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. White. Roll call vote was all ayes. Above policies were approved. Clerk presented a Cell Phone Stipend Policy, which put in writing the procedure the city is currently following. Motion made by C. White to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Goodrich. Vote was all ayes. Policy was approved.

Dates for budget meetings were set for January 11 and January 19 at 6:00 pm at City Hall for easy access to the computer system. Next on the agenda was approval of the Fire Protection 28E Agreement with Logan and Washington Townships. There were no changes in the agreement. Motion to approve Resolution 20-12-01 for the 28E Fire Protection Agreement was made by Hauser, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Goodrich. Roll call vote was all ayes for approval. There were two bids for stump grinding the trees taken down. \$1250 was the bid from Trees to Go; \$3000 was the bid from Bolar & Gill. Motion made by C. White with 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hauser to go with the \$1250 bid. Roll call vote was all ayes. Clerk had typed up an agreement for the City

to continue to collect water samples at the Mike Needham property. The DNR requires the City to collect samples from the first tap past the treatment plant, which is that location. Needham is planning on discussing it with his insurance company and then getting back with the City Hall. Council agreed that a small payment for the use was appropriate and motion to approve made by C. White, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Goodrich with roll call vote all ayes.

In old business, clerk updated Council on the CARES Act application of \$18,870.65 and the possible uses allowed for this reimbursement. Status of the FEMA application is moving along and the 18<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for the Damage Inventory Review. Deck the House entries were due on the 11<sup>th</sup> and City Hall will print up a map for easy viewing and voting.

In public comment, Danny Smith wanted to know if a portable tent building required a building permit. Council had addressed this earlier in the year and decided one was not necessary. Hauser asked about the blower repairs from the information the clerk had sent out. Fricke explained that we were told by the company that the blower we sent in for repairs had several things wrong with it internally and would cost more to repair than to purchase a new one. The cost for a new one was \$1800. The last new one purchased was \$2300. No vote was taken. Hauser also asked if Daltin Dillingham had approached City Hall about a hauler permit, as he was on Facebook saying he was starting up a garbage service. He had not, but Hauser said he knew that it was needed before he started serving the City.

Motion to adjourn was made by C. White with 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gibbs. Vote was all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

REVENUE: GENERAL \$21,899.78, ROAD USE \$10,335.93, EMP BENE \$2920.16, EMERGENCY 511.05, LOST FIRE \$758.47, LOST 1<sup>ST</sup> RESP \$758.47, POOL \$758.47, LOST REC \$758.46, WATER \$13,229.01, SEWER \$17,226.21. TOTAL: \$69,156.01.

EXPENSES: GENERAL \$10,686.85, ROAD USE \$51,293.95, EMP BENE \$1433.19, LOST FIRE \$114.23, WATER \$11,190.05, SEWER \$8498.12. TOTAL \$83,216.39.

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