

City of Melbourne
Regular City Council Meeting
April 5, 2021

Melbourne City Council met in regular session on April 5, 2021 at 7 pm. 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, Vickie Stahl and Lucas Hauser. Also present were Mayor John White, Clerk Mary Pothast and Justin Young. Mayor White called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with the pledge of allegiance. Mayor asked that the public hearing for the variance for 402 2nd Avenue be addressed first. With that change made, motion to approve the consent agenda made by C. White with 2nd by Goodrich. Vote was all ayes.

The public hearing for the variance for 402 2nd Avenue was opened. Clerk had not received any written correspondence or verbal comments. C. White asked Mr. Young to clarify the location of the addition and the reason for the need for a variance. The addition is to be in line with current garage, also 4' from the property line. There was some additional discussion. Public hearing was closed. Motion made by Gibbs with 2nd by Hauser to approve the permit with the variance. Roll call vote was all ayes. Variance and permit approved.

Next on the agenda was the public hearing regarding the approval of the 20/21 budget amendment. Clerk presented the amendment as published with an additional \$120,111 in additional revenues and \$101,675 in additional expenditures. There was no discussion or public comment. Public hearing was closed. Motion to approve the amendment as published and Resolution 21-04-01 stating such by Hauser with 2nd by C. White. Roll call vote was all ayes. Amendment approved.

Back to building permits, a permit for a shed at 705 Butler for McGee/Branson was proposed. No variance needed. Motion by C. White, 2nd by Goodrich. Roll call vote was all ayes. Permit approved. Next permit for 410 2nd Avenue for Troy and Cindy Schelling carport was pulled due to proximity to sewer line. Last permit was for Reitano at 212 1st Avenue for a 16 x 28 addition to the north side of the house. No variance required. Motion to approve by Gibbs, 2nd by Hauser. Roll call vote was all ayes. Permit approved.

Next was a discussion regarding a building permit initiated by Tom Kimberly for a self storage unit at 203 1st Avenue. Kimberly wanted input from the council regarding the proposition. Location would be between the current apartment units and the building/apartment along 3rd Avenue. The size is to be 130 x 30' with the entrance likely the same as the apartments. Clerk and Mayor told how it had been handled last time there were storage units built in town. Clerk is directed to contact city attorney for legal handling. Item tabled until May meeting.

Next Mayor had been approached about removing some of the trees on the ROW near the old school and west near Doug Watt's home. Stahl felt we should not be just removing trees, but adding trees to the ROW as they need to be removed. She asked how the ordinance reads. Stahl will further research the ordinance and feels it needs to be changed if the city is not consulted for removal. Mayor said the big maple by the school has some damage to the south side, and the one by Watt's has a limb rubbing some electrical wires. There was a lot of damage to that one from the Derecho. After discussion, Goodrich made motion to remove the one by Watt's and leave the other two alone. 2nd by Stahl. Roll call vote was all ayes.

Clerk asked permission to add a credit/debit card payment link to the melbourneiowa.com website. There is no cost to the city or security issues, as it connects directly to the processor's site. The customers WILL need to know their own information such as account number and amount due in order to use the app. Motion by C. White to approve, 2nd by Stahl. Vote was all ayes. Goodrich asked if we could email bills with the link to the website in the email. Clerk stated she was sure that we could individually, but would look into the cost of the city software application doing it as well. She will contact the processing company this week to initiate the next steps. Next clerk inquired about purchasing a new laptop for public works. The one they currently have was purchased in 2013 for \$400. PW is required to submit reports to the DNR via computer now and a laptop is most efficient for moving between the buildings. Partners has looked at it a couple of times and Pothast has worked with it as well. Since it is 8 years old, motion was made by Gibbs to spend up to \$1000 on a replacement if necessary and get one that will be adequate to last several years. 2nd by Hauser. Vote was all ayes. Gibbs covered some fire damage done to one of the grass rigs at a controlled burn a couple weeks prior. An insurance adjustor has been to see the vehicle and recommended totaling it due to possible wiring and engine damage that can't be seen at the time. Clerk and Gibbs had spoken to the adjustor via phone, and set up another phone call with the fire department officers to discuss what needs to be done.

In old business, clerk told ideas from FB page regarding cleanup day. There were not 8 volunteers, which is what they asked for. They discussed having a one day drop off and other methods of cleanup without spending the entire week going house to house. One idea Council liked was to try to assist a couple residents that still had large trees down on their property that they likely couldn't move themselves. Clerk was directed to draft a letter and share with council to edit before sending to some residents with the remaining Derecho damage. Clerk was directed to put on FB that due to lack of volunteers the city will not be doing cleanup week as we have in the past. Next in old business was the status of the hidden water leak. PW has spent the greater share of two weeks with assistance from others testing each hydrant, then each shut off valve for pressure loss. There were a couple false positives, but they have not found the source. They will continue to work on the remaining streets in town. Stahl asked the cost of the leak, and Clerk stated approximately \$1000 a month. Update on FEMA was that Category A project had been submitted for final approval.

Motion made to adjourn by Gibbs, 2nd by C. White. Vote was all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

EXPENSES: GENERAL \$41,609.68, ROAD \$4569.08, EMP BENEFITS \$1390.60, WATER \$20,938.15, SEWER \$9843.28 TOTAL: \$78,350.79.

REVENUE: GENERAL \$48,716.76, ROAD USE \$3592.75, EMP BENEFITS \$225.50, EMERGENCY \$39.46, LOST FIRE \$1772.60, LOST 1ST RESP \$1772.60, POOL \$4772.60, LOST REC \$1772.56, WATER \$14,905.63, SEWER \$18,410.21 TOTAL: \$95,980.67.

PUBLISHED PRIOR TO APPROVAL.