

City of Melbourne
Regular City Council Meeting
December 13, 2021

Melbourne City Council met in regular session on December 13, 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 and Beth Smith. Lucas Hauser. Stahl was absent. Also present were Mayor John White, Clerk Mary Pothast, Gary Fricke, Gaeger Bracy and Cynthia Mansager. Mayor White led the Pledge of Allegiance. Motion to approve agenda, minutes and bills made by Gibbs, 2nd by Hauser. Vote was all ayes. Public comments were moved to the end of the meeting.

In building permits, Jesse Schanbeck submitted a permit to build a lean-to at his property at 501 Ketchum. After looking at the building and taking photos, and input from Fricke, it appears that the building is closer to the property line than 7'. Motion made by Gibbs with 2nd by C. White to contact Schanbeck to stop building and submit a variance. Vote was all ayes. Clerk will publish the variance and send the letters to those within 250' of the property.

Mayor White opened a public hearing for the budget amendment. Clerk explained that the increases in revenues and expenses were as discussed in last month's meeting. It had been published and clerk hadn't had any comments from the public. Motion by Gibbs to close hearing and approve the amendment, 2nd by C. White. Roll call vote was 4 ayes, 1 absent. Amendment was approved.

Next clerk swore in new council members Fricke and Bracy and Mayor Mansager. They will take office January 1, 2022. Dates were set for January budget meetings. The first meeting will be after the regular Council meeting on January 10. Meetings will be held at City Hall in January for better computer access. The second meeting will be January 17 at 5:30, at which they will likely work on the max levy amount. Clerk asked if they could set a date for in-house training for Council for Wednesday, December 22 at 5:30 at City Hall. Budgeting and City finances will be covered.

Holiday lighting contest update: Any house decorated is automatically entered in the contest. Voting will take place Dec. 20-24. Vote via email (citymelb@partnercom.net) or at city hall. December 23, library basement will have drive-thru hot cocoa and trivia from 4-7. Winner receives 4 person pool pass for Melbourne Pool next summer.

Clerk noted that Iowa Regional Utilities will increase water prices by 2% in January. Per ordinance, city fees for water and sewer will increase by the amount IRUA goes up plus 3%, which is the usual increase. This allows the City to continue to operate in the black and pay the sewer revenue bonds. This will be reflected in the billing going out February 1, 2022. This will be approximately \$.73 for the first 1000 gallons of water and \$1.80 for the first 1000 gallons of sewer. It will increase gallons of water used over base by \$.52 per thousand and sewer by \$.20.

C. White and clerk had met with Ratcliff Blake Insurance regarding health insurance for full time city employees. Currently, health insurance is not offered by the City. The conclusion and recommendation was to look into some sort of stipend instead of offering the insurance, due to the fact that if a plan is offered, the employees must take it or lose access to the Marketplace insurance unless they can prove the city's plan is 9.61% of their income. The price was less on Marketplace than what the City could secure. There was some discussion as to what the best option would be. Mayor Elect Mansager stated

that she felt whatever way the Council decides to go that it be equal among all four of the full-time employees. This will be discussed at the first budget meeting in January.

Public works had secured two quotes for two trees and a large limb on the ROW that were dead or diseased. The lowest bid went to Bolar and Gill. Clerk was instructed to let PW know to contact them. There is a new HazMat 85%/15% grant for a storm siren available. Clerk is instructed to look into it and submit a NOI (notice of interest) to begin the process. There will be a process that needs to be followed, so not to expect this happening immediately. It would be set off through the Comm Center in case of a storm.

In old business, regarding the generator at the lagoon, the gas line needs to be reconfigured in order to provide enough to pass the test requirements, it will then be wired with the transfer switch and ready to go. The storm sewer at Ketchum is complete and will need to be paved next spring/summer. No estimates for the roadwork available due to the changing prices. The water leak is still being worked on. VisuSewer televised a portion of sewer looking for I&I (inflow and infiltration) from the leak. PW just received the video that morning.

Motion to adjourn made by Gibbs, 2nd by Hauser. Vote was all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.

EXPENSES: GENERAL \$59,136.72, ROAD USE \$2832.53, EMP BENEFITS \$3396.42, LOST 1ST RESP \$98.21, WATER \$16687.06, SEWER \$11400.41, TOTAL EXPENSES \$93,551.35.

REVENUES: GENERAL \$28,155.05, ROAD USE \$6898.84, EMP BENEFITS \$1129.15, EMERGENCY \$193.17, LOST FIRE \$2985.04, LOST 1ST RESP \$2985.04, POOL \$4490.82, LOST REC CENTER \$3007.19, ARPA REVENUE \$198.22, WATER \$13,876.34, SEWER \$17,242.48, TOTAL REVENUE: \$81,161.34.

PUBLISHED PRIOR TO APPROVAL.