

City of Melbourne
Regular City Council Meeting
February 15, 2022
7:00 at Library basement

Melbourne City Council met in special session on February 15, 2022, at 7 pm. Council members present were Carrie White, Beth Smith, Gary Fricke and Gaege Bracy. Hauser messaged would be arriving late. Also present were Mayor Cynthia Mansager, Clerk Mary Pothast, Forrest Aldrich from Veenstra & Kimm, Asher and Andy Nichols, PW Superintendent Jim Pfantz and PW Assistant Nathan Clark. Mayor Mansager led the Pledge of Allegiance. Motion to approve agenda made by White, 2nd by Bracy. Vote was all ayes. There were no public comments.

First on the agenda, Forrest Aldrich presented an opportunity to apply for a \$1 million EPA grant for innovative water technologies for lagoon wastewater systems in small communities. The opportunity to work with EcoFixe, a Canadian company has presented itself in finding a solution for our lagoon needs to comply with our NPDES wastewater permit with the DNR. The timeline is short, as the due date is March 7. The grant comes with a matching 53% requirement, which the company has agreed to provide. It is a modular technology that would lower the ammonia levels in our wastewater discharge, which is the main problem we have currently in colder months. Aldrich explained the system and asked if the council would be interested in applying for this grant. The city has basically nothing to lose except the time spent applying. Motion made by Fricke to pursue the grant opportunity, 2nd by Bracy. Vote was all ayes. More details on the system are available at city hall if anyone is interested in looking them over. Mayor Mansager thanked Aldrich for thinking of us with this opportunity. He will contact EcoFixe Wednesday morning regarding the letter of approval that will need to be signed and contact Pothast.

Next on the agenda, Asher Nichols presented his proposal for an Eagle Scout leadership project to facilitate the building of a mini mousehole structure at Smoke Meier Park. It could be a 10' x 10' -- 5' wide or slightly different dimensions. It will have a steel framework covered in 3" concrete. Fundraisers include personalized bricks, dinners, etc. The bricks will be donated by the Doe Family from the old Melbourne school. Asher was looking for approval to proceed with the project and having the city allow him to send a flyer to the city residents. Motion to approve the project made by White, 2nd by Smith. Vote was all ayes. Nichols is to get a flyer to Pothast so they can do the labeling and mailing.

Next in new business, PW Superintendent Jim Pfantz and Assistant Nathan Clark presented some information they have gathered regarding purchasing a new skid loader. The current model is 25 years old and developed a leak last year. In inquiring about servicing the machine, he was told that it would likely cost more than it's worth once it was torn apart to replace pieces. They have gathered information and preliminary quotes from several companies for a replacement unit. There are funds available to purchase the machine as follows: Vehicle CD \$10,162.57 plus 2022 addition \$8,000 plus Roads CD \$18,356.89 to equal \$36,529.46. With a trade in the cost should be covered. They will check into low-cost financing and warranties as well, as suggested by Council. Motion by Bracy with 2nd by Fricke to pursue hard quotes and select the model they are interested in and present at next meeting. Hauser arrived at 7:56 pm.

When the city received an owner occupied CDBG housing grant, part of the agreement residents signed were a 5-year forgivable mortgage. The residents had to remain in the house five years, or the remainder of the mortgage had to be repaid to the city to help fund affordable housing projects in the

futures. A request for 310 3rd Street to be forgiven was made. The amount remaining is \$15,351. After some discussion, council felt it would be a precedent they didn't want to establish to forgive the loans. Motion to not sign a release on the funds made by White, 2nd by Smith. Vote was all ayes.

Clerk presented two proposals by IT in a Box for IT services, cybersecurity, and backup for the two computers at City Hall. Clerk stated she and Deputy had discussed it and felt it was not exactly what they were looking for and suggested they keep looking for something that fit the needs better. Council felt it was a good suggestion and employees will keep looking for the perfect fit.

Clerk requested that two water and sewer debts be written off in the amounts of \$17.25 and \$29.54. Both parties had moved out of town. The debts were over a year old. Motion by Hauser and 2nd by White to write the amounts off. Vote was all ayes. Clerk also requested to be allowed to write a letter in the city's name regarding some legislation that would not require landlords to notify water utilities that a renter has moved. This could cause problems with bills being unpaid and uncollectible. Council agreed the clerk should send the letter.

At 8:16 Mayor Mansager opened the public hearing for max levy certification. There was no discussion. Hearing was closed. Motion to approve Max Levy Certification Resolution 22-02-01 made by C. White, 2nd by Lucas. Vote was ayes. Mayor Mansager set the date for the public hearing for the budget as presented for March 14, 2022, at 7 pm at the library basement. Clerk was directed to publish the notice.

Clerk had been directed a few months ago to submit a request to the landfill for a hazardous pickup date. They have contacted Rhodes and asked to hold a joint event. Rhodes Clerk and Pothast had discussed holding it June 25 in the morning in Rhodes at the old fire station. We would need a volunteer for the day. Clerk said she would publicize it on Melbourne Happenings FB page with a list of allowable items.

In public comment, Mayor Mansager said she had been contacted by Craig Pfantz, State Center mayor regarding purchasing the skating rink. City Hall had been contacted as well. After some discussion, she agreed to ask what they were wanting to pay and go from that point.

Motion to adjourn made by White, 2nd by Hauser. Vote was all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.

EXPENSES: GENERAL \$21,996.27, ROAD USE \$1705.43, EMP BENEFITS \$1756.35, WATER \$11,911.42, SEWER \$7691.38. TOTAL EXPENSES \$45,060.85.

REVENUES: GENERAL \$26,350.97, ROAD USE \$8908.94, LOST FIRE \$4393.78, LOST 1ST RESP \$1120.78, POOL \$1126.48, LOST REC CENTER \$1121.45, WATER \$12,836.59, SEWER \$18,501.17. TOTAL REVENUE \$74,360.16.