

City of Melbourne
Regular City Council Meeting
December 10, 2024
7:00 at Library basement

Melbourne City Council met in regular session on December 10, 2024, at 7:00 pm at the Melbourne Library basement. Present were Council persons Lucas Hauser, Gaege Bracy, Gary Fricke, Beth Smith and Beth Opperman. Also in attendance were PW Jim Pfantz, PW Doug Beadle, MCSO Deputy Dierking, Kent and Brayden Thomas, Mike Wagner with Alliant, Olivia Patton with V&K Engineering, Mayor Mansager and City Clerk Pothast. Mayor Mansager called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance. Motion to approve the agenda and bills made by Hauser, 2nd by Opperman. Vote was all ayes. There was no public comment. The Sheriff's report was read. Fricke advised that there had been 4 wheelers and other vehicles racing around College Hills at night without lights. It had not been called in. Deputy acknowledged the report.

Veenstra & Kimm engineer Olivia Patton presented the engineering contract and explained the sewer project the City is involved in. The sewer committee and Patton have been meeting for the past 6 months or so in the planning stages. Melbourne had been allowed to delay construction of improvements due to the disadvantaged city status, but is no longer eligible, and is now required to move forward to upgrade the sewer treatment plant to meet the NPDES permit. Melbourne is currently operating an aerated, continuous discharge system. The options discussed were a SAGR or LEMNA system and a controlled discharge system. Due to costs of upgrades and operations, the preferred option is a controlled discharge system. This upgrade is approximately one-half of the SAGR/LEMNA option, but still estimated at nearly \$2 million at this time. The City has operated a controlled discharge system previously, but did not have capacity to hold the waste for 6 months as required. There has been a concentrated effort to cut down I&I (infiltration and inflow) to the Melbourne sewer system by continued upgrades to lining. The controlled discharge system option requires enlarging the first cell of the lagoon plus upgrades to the aeration and relining of the entire 3 cell system. Additional real property contiguous to the present sewer plant is required to make the enlargements and maintain proper right of ways. to accommodate this. The engineer and the sewer committee believe the controlled discharge system is the most feasible and appropriate for the City. The permit requires the IUP (Intended Use Plan) to be filed with the DNR this month. Bids for the project could potentially start by December 2025. Due to the scope, cost and type of the project, each aspect of the project must go out for a public competitive bid and the City is required to select the most responsive/responsible bidder. Pothast stated that the cost of the project will most likely be completely financed and the debt service will be a long-term liability for the City. The City is unlikely to qualify for CDBG or similar type grants, due to the median household income, which is too high to meet the necessary requirements. The Council approved the agreement with V&K

Engineering to continue the preliminary requirements of the project. Patton will look into a new 0% interest Planning & Design loan through IEDA for the project. The prior one the City had was required to be paid off this summer. Another meeting of the committee will be scheduled for January.

Mike Wagner from Alliant Energy, presented Resolution 2024-12-01 Approving an Agreement for the Leasing, Assignment, or Sale of Existing Dark Fiber Located in the City of Melbourne Right of Way by Interstate Power and Light Company. Alliant has, under the franchise agreement in place with the City, installed fiber optic cable and requested permission by Resolution of the City to lease, sell or assign the currently unused portion to a third part(ies). Discussion of the request followed, and the Council tabled the matter to January, citing lack of information and knowledge regarding the request.

Pothast presented the gWorks (city software program) invoice for approval for 2025. As of December 2025, the City will be required to move to the Cloud based system or find a new one. There have been many issues with the new program, and Pothast is hesitant at this time about it. She will be viewing another system soon, but would like to stay with gWorks if possible. The increase is from \$5209 to \$7500. This amount is locked in for 2026 as well if the contract is accepted for the Cloud move. Motion to approve the invoice made by Hauser, 2nd by Opperman. Vote was all ayes. Public works would like to take the older Kubota to be serviced in the off season. Fricke recommended they take it to Bobcat of Ames, as they have had good service there in the past. Pothast would also like to purchase a new computer hard drive for City Hall. The deputy Clerk had one replaced in 2022 from a state grant, and the master computer was purchased December of 2017. Council ok'd the request to investigate the matter. A quote from ASTRA Security for two additional cameras at the library was discussed. After much discussion, a motion was made to pass on the proposal, with 4 approving and one nay. Motion carried. The Council did not object to additional cameras but requested more information from ASTRA about different options for the library, park and Rec Center. Clerk will contact the library and ASTRA for assistance.

Pothast has set up a tentative budget schedule for January through April 2025. The first budget meeting will be at 6:00 on January 13, followed by the regular council meeting at 7:00. There were no updates from Mansager regarding the DeSaussure property, but Fricke had seen legal notices in the TR regarding the residence, so it is proceeding. In other information, Fricke said 911 Comm center is now sending different reports to 1st Responders and Fire department. It had been an issue that they were not receiving enough information. There was also a question about stakes on the ROW and the City plows. Mayor will look into the issue and asked PW to see how many locations are affected.

Motion to adjourn made by Hauser, 2nd by Smith. Vote was all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 8:19.

EXPENSES: GENERAL \$15,504.32, ROAD USE \$2927.26, EMP BENEFITS \$2123.66, ARPA \$4620.00 WATER \$6661.30, SEWER \$7135.55, SANITARY SEWER. TOTAL EXPENSES: \$39,814.09.

REVENUES: \$13,743.02, EMP BENEFITS \$1128.27, WATER \$13,490.10, SEWER \$19,629.90. TOTAL REVENUES: \$47,991.29.

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