

A worksession of the City Council was held at City Hall, 200 S. Main Street, on Monday, December 5, 2011, at 5:00 p.m.

Present were Mayor Platte and Councilpersons Brown, Greenhoe and Harri. Councilman Letarte arrived at 5:13 p.m.

Administrative Staff Present was City Manager Jon Stoppels, Police Chief Paul Malewski, WWTP Director Todd Nichols, City Assessor Mike Baker, DPW Director Scott Poyer, Fire Chief Roger McNutt, Treasurer Lisa St. Aubin, Deputy Carla Mazur, Building Inspector Jon Hill, Library Director Sandy Porter, City Attorney Phil Erickson and City Clerk Kristy Reinecke.

Purpose of the meeting was a worksession. Notice of the meeting was duly given.

Public Comments:

None.

Department Head Reports:

DPW Director reported on the following: that with colder weather, there needs to be clarification on how to handle shut-offs for customers with electric accounts only, and the situation of non-sufficient checks. After a lengthy discussion, it was concluded that a letter should be sent to the customer advising them of the situation, and to give the customer three days to come to City Hall and pay for the non-sufficient check without an interruption to their service.

Old Business Topics of Discussion were:

City Attorney Phil Erickson reviewed with Council current Legislation regarding the Medical Marijuana Issues. Attorney Erickson stated that they City had six options as to how to proceed with this issue. Attorney Erickson stated that the first option was a ban, and was the one that he would recommend; the second was regulation and licensing requirements; the third was to control it by Zoning Enforcement; the fourth option was licensing and zoning; the fifth option was to do nothing and wait and see what happens in surrounding communities; and the sixth option was to extend the moratorium. After a lengthy discussion it was Council's opinion to proceed with the recommendation made by the City Attorney and to have him draft up language for an Ordinance to ban this type of service in the City of Eaton Rapids. This item will appear on the December 12th Agenda for First Reading.

Mayor Platte reviewed with Council the proposed Dog Park Business Plan review. Council had several different opinions on language within the document and the meaning that could be interpreted. After a lengthy discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to have a representative from the Dog Park be at the next Worksession to further review this with Council and to answer questions.

City Manager Stoppels reviewed with Council the quote that has been received to have an evaluation done on the property located at 414 Brook Street. Councilwoman Brown moved that Council accept the bid from Fibertec Industrial Hygiene Services, Inc., in the amount of \$986.00; seconded by Councilman Greenhoe, passed unanimously.

New Business Topics of Discussion were:

DPW Director Poyer reviewed with Council the work that had been performed on Well #5 and the Rehabilitation Project. DPW Director Poyer stated that Peerless Midwest had performed the work, and that the City has a good working relationship with this Company. DPW Director Poyer stated that when Peerless Midwest got into the work at the well, that they ran into more extensive problems than what they had originally quoted. DPW Director Poyer stated that he felt that Peerless was being fair and was willing to reduce their standard profit margin of 15% to 5%. DPW Director Poyer stated that it was his recommendation to Council to pay Peerless Midwest the additional \$11,282.48, for the work that needed to be performed to rehabilitate Well #5. This item will appear on the December 12th Agenda.

DPW Director Poyer reviewed with Council the need for the Autoclave at the Water Plant to be replaced as it has gone bad. DPW Director Poyer stated that the cost to repair the current Autoclave was around \$1,700.00, and that the price for a new one was around \$4,633.00. DPW Director Poyer stated that he was also looking at the State Surplus Facility to see if they had one available at a reduced cost. DPW Director Poyer stated that he will continue to research this issue, and possibly have this item placed on the December 12th Agenda.

Mayor Platte stated that the next item on the Worksession Agenda was an item that Councilman Letarte had wanted to discuss. Councilman Letarte stated that he had concerns regarding the Citizen Dashboard Report that was on the City website. Councilman Letarte stated that the City needs to look at Health Insurance Costs and Retirement Issues in future Budgets and the other unfunded liabilities. Council stated that they would continue to look at these issues at future budget meetings, and that great strides have been made in recent Contract Negotiations.

Public Comments:

None.

Other Items of Discussion:

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Steven G. Platte, Mayor

Kristy Reinecke, City Clerk