

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2022 COLD SPRING CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dave Heinen at 6:30 p.m. The following City Council members were found to be present in person: Mayor Dave Heinen, Council Members Mike Fall, Shannon Miller, Fran Ramler and Doug Schmitz. Absent: None. Others present: Brigid Murphy, Jason Blum, Cliff Johnson, Laura Eyesnogle, Robert Krzyzanowski, Richard Krueger, Ruth Kraemer, Ken Kraemer, Gary Traut, Bill Latare, Gretchen Rogge, Audrey Nierenhausen, Dave Dingmann, Karen Dingmann, Marv Soldner, Brenda Timm, Jim Kraemer, Wendy Sturm, Ginny Anderson, Ole Jallo, Steve Dingmann, Brian Eisenschenk, Glenn Mueller, Jon Douvier, Dale Johnson, LuRae Scoles, Jeff Scoles, John Maile, Brigetta Klemek, Dan Weber, Matt Hesse, Kara Langston, Jason Kirchoff, Adam Dullinger, Christi Hoffman, Ruben Zayas, Brady Goebel, Jason Spoden, Joe Jelovnick and Aaron Barker.

OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

Cliff Johnson from the Cold Spring Area Historical Society spoke about the exhibits being featured at the museum.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION WAS MADE BY MILLER, SECONDED BY FALL, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA OF THE JANUARY 11, 2022 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes – December 28, 2021 Regular Meeting

B. Nicholas P. Koenig HERO Foundation, LG220 Application for Exempt Permit, Raffle to be Held February 5, 2022 at The Great Blue Heron

MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHMITZ, SECONDED BY RAMLER, TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT

A. Request to Purchase Stainless Steel Sander from Falls Equipment

Murphy explained that both purchase requests were budgeted items for 2022.

MOTION WAS MADE BY RAMLER, SECONDED BY MILLER, TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A STAINLESS-STEEL SANDER FROM FALLS EQUIPMENT OF LITTLE FALLS AT A COST OF \$5,705.00, AND FURTHERMORE TO BE PAID OUT OF THE STREETS DEPARTMENT LINE ITEM EQUIPMENT PARTS AND MATERIAL #6314. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

B. Request to Purchase 125 Tons of Salt from Cargill

MOTION WAS MADE BY RAMLER, SECONDED BY SCHMITZ, TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF 125 TONS OF SALT AT THE STATE BID PRICE OF \$85.61 PER TON FROM CARGILL FOR A TOTAL PRICE OF \$10,701.25, AND FURTHERMORE TO BE PAID OUT OF STREETS DEPARTMENT LINE ITEM SALTS SAND CHEMICALS #6315. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

Mayor Heinen opened the public hearing at 6:35 p.m. Laura Eyesnogle and Robert Krzyzanowski from Five Bugles gave a presentation on the GIS Study. The following individuals spoke during the hearing:

Ken Kraemer, 600 4th St N – Kraemer stated he wanted the public safety building to be put to a vote, that another committee should be established consisting of citizens, not a majority of staff or council members. He stated that the cost and tax increase need to be considered and other options need to be looked at for the community. He also suggested that the police department stay in its current location and be remodeled with the rest of the building which would cost less. He stated he wanted to help both the fire and the police departments but felt that tax payers should be more involved. Kraemer later spoke about sharing services and resources with other departments that are less than five miles away. He stated he thought that Cold Spring should start to work together more with the other area departments.

Dale Giinthir, 117 14th Ave N – Giinthir verified that the ongoing operational costs for the new building are not included on the cost figure chart provided. He stated that will be a burden paid by the tax payers and inquired about an estimate for those costs. Krzyzanowski stated he did not know off hand but could get close to an estimate based on a square footage basis from other departments. Giinthir later spoke about the need for affordable housing and that there seems to be a disconnect in actions with logic.

Ole Jallo, 1306 4th Ave N – Jallo stated that the response time to the school district should be considered as well as Cold Spring Brewing Company. He stated it is important to take care of the children and a better location can be found.

Dave Dingmann, 904 2nd St N – Dingmann inquired whether the proper people were on the location selection committee. He stated that city employees are not tax payers, although their input is good, they are not paying taxes therefore their vote should not be considered. He inquired whether the design of the public safety building took into account the new standards coming in the near future for electric vehicles. Krzyzanowski stated that it did not but that could be added. Dingmann stated that the new building is three times the size of the current building, and it should be downsized to save tax payer money and that Richmond should be in the discussion for more support.

Ruth Kraemer, 600 4th St N – Kraemer inquired about the four minute response time and asked the Council to consider the shift change at Pilgrims, when there is a steady flow of traffic coming and going and how that will impact response times.

Bill Latare, 1503 3rd St N – Latare stated that he was concerned about moving the public safety building to the location near Pilgrims. He stated that in instances of strokes a delay in response time can be crucial. He asked if geothermal sources were being considered for the mechanical system and that to him the building seems large.

Marv Soldner, 1109 1st St S – Soldner stated that he agrees that space is needed for the fire and police departments, but stated that the tax payers will end up paying for it which will be a significant increase to residents. He stated that he would like to see the City follow their own standards for a small town, not national standards. He stated that the current plans are excessive and an option for building just a fire hall should be considered. He stated that by moving the police department into the former fire department space it could cut the costs in half. He wondered whether the city would really grow to a population of 17,000 since it is land locked. He stated that the project should be paused. Soldner later discussed projected increases to population growth and the number of police vehicles needing to be stored indoors.

Jason Spoden, resident of North Pointe – Spoden stated that there was no police response time study conducted, and that the new building is projected to serve the community for the next forty years. He stated that the police department is at capacity and with the growth already experienced by the City, the police department really should have been in an expanded space back in 2004. He felt that separating the fire and police department will cost more because shared space is accounted for in the proposed new building.

Matt Hesse, 14596 248th St – Hesse stated that he believes the 40 year projection for the building to be a huge factor. He stated response times are key. He stated that needed training space is included in the building and stated that the selected location is better because it's not land locked. He stated that a ladder truck will likely be needed in the next five years as builders and contractors want to build higher structures, and an inability to service those buildings will limit growth potential. He urged the Council to not think short sighted.

Audrey Nierenhausen, 215 1st St S – Nierenhausen stated that she is the owner of a building in the proposed trail site. She talked about growth and that small businesses should not be displaced, which would happen if the new building would be put in one of the alternative location sites.

Brenda Timm, 500 9th Ave N – Timm stated that the City has been wrangling with expanding the current building for the last 15 to 20 years. She stated multiple studies have already been done on the space needs for each department and as the years go by costs just increase. She stated she was in favor of moving the departments so that everyone has the space they need. She stated that the school district did an expansion about seven or eight years ago and it is already busting at the seams again.

Jon Douvier, 20854 Bolfig Rd – Douvier stated that the new pumper was purchased with the new building in mind. He stated storing the grass rig off site is not optimal and that issues need to be resolved so that the equipment and gear are not at two different locations. He stated that the selected site may not be ideal but the other suggested sites are not either. He stated that buying out homes will add to the costs. He explained that when Red River Avenue was reconstructed all of the fire department trucks were relocated to the maintenance shops and there were no major impacts to the response times to calls.

Brigetta Klemek, 905 1st St N – Klemek stated that she was supportive of City staff providing input on the project. She stated that the City is behind the times and that an expansion should have been done years ago. She stated she did not want to undersize the new building but wanted a building size that is appropriate for the community.

Jim Kraemer, EDA President – Kraemer stated that the proposed new building is two and half times the size of the current building, and the new building would only be for police and fire. He stated that he felt it was the wrong decision

to move forward with the building on the east side of town and that it should be put on hold until the completion of the comprehensive plan, and the completion of the contract renewal with the City of Richmond. He was in favor of a 10-12 person committee to explore what would work for everybody.

Dan Weber, 609 6th St N – Fire Chief Weber stated that there are limited areas to build and that a great deal of time and money has been put into the project to date. He stated that drive thru bays are needed for the fire department for safety of everyone. He stated that half of the information was incorrect in the ad that was placed in the Cold Spring Record. He added that on a majority of the medical calls the police department arrives and starts rendering aid before the fire department.

Jason Blum, Chief of Police – Chief Blum stated that the police department outgrew it's current space years ago, and that it may seem like a large jump in space from the current square footage to the proposed area, but it is needed and should have been done years ago.

Mayor Heinen called three times for further comment, after hearing none he closed the hearing at 8:11 p.m.

Councilor Ramler stated that he did not want the new building on the east side of town, he suggested that land be used by the EDA for trucking, industrial or commercial use businesses. He stated he would like to see a traffic control device at the intersection by Schwieters Chevrolet. He stated he would like to see a stand alone fire department on the Granite Landing site. He suggested that the library be moved into the empty strip mall, and to keep the police and administrative departments together to deter confrontations.

Councilor Schmitz stated that he would like to pull back and re-think the proposed building. He stated that he did not want to make a hasty decision. He stated that he felt the current building design was oversized and did not believe the population could double in 40 years. He was open to a standalone fire department and expanding the rest of the departments within the current building to save money.

Councilor Fall stated that he does not like the proposed site location and was concerned about the response times to calls especially for residents in North Pointe. He stated he was not opposed to increasing the size space for departments but felt it could be pared down. He stated he would like to do something to keep moving forward. He felt that the tax increase would be significant and that there are also other city projects that are on the horizon besides the public safety building. He suggested abandoning the idea of the proposed building and proposed location and instead look at a standalone fire department at another site. He felt that the police departments needs could be accommodated in a remodeled space at the current location once the fire department moves out.

Councilor Miller stated she was frustrated that everything is being looked at again. She stated that this topic has been discussed for years and that there has always been poor attendance and interest in the past. She said she has a hard time with what she feels is moving backwards.

Mayor Heinen stated that he too was struggling with moving backwards, but stated that it was clear the majority felt differently. He stated he was okay with putting things on hold but felt that the new building was very nice.

MOTION WAS MADE BY FALL, SECONDED BY RAMLER, TO MAKE PLANS TO BUILD A FIRE HALL AT ONE DOWNTOWN LOCATION AND REMODEL THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AT IT'S CURRENT SITE. MOTION PASSED 3-2. AYES – FALL, SCHMITZ, RAMLER. NAYES – HEINEN AND MILLER.

The Council then further discussed how much money has been spent to date on the project and that the designer would have to go back to the conceptual step. They also discussed which of the alternative sites would be preferred between the Granite Landing site and the Trail site. It became clear that there were more obstacles with the trail site including being located in the 500 year flood plain, dislocating small businesses and other challenges.

MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHMITZ, SECONDED BY FALL, TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY OF THE GRANITE LANDING SITE FOR A STANDALONE FIRE HALL. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

MOTION WAS MADE BY FALL, SECONDED BY SCHMITZ, TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE REMODELING OF POLICE, ADMINISTRATION AND LIBRARY AT THEIR CURRENT LOCATION. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

MOTION WAS MADE BY RAMLER, SECONDED BY MILLER, TO RECESS FOR FIVE MINUTES AT 9:07 P.M. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

REQUEST TO PLACE A TV IN CITY HALL LOBBY

Aaron Barker, Tri-City Cable Programming Director explained they have been doing some additions to programing and would like to install tvs in critical locations, such as the City Hall lobby. He explained it would be a 40-50 inch screen and would stay on Channel 10 at all times. He stated that it would also serve the overflow when there is a large crowd that doesn't fit inside the Council Chambers. He stated that the City would just need to provide the cable to it.

MOTION WAS MADE BY RAMLER, SECONDED BY SCHMITZ, TO APPROVE THE REQUEST BY TRI-CITY CABLE TO PLACE A TV IN THE CITY HALL LOBBY FOR DISPLAY OF CHANNEL 10 PROGRAMMING. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-01, APPOINTMENTS RESOLUTION

Murphy explained there were a few election dates that would conflict for Council meetings. Several of the members expressed interest in switching the boards that they were serving on.

MOTION WAS MADE BY FALL, SECONDED BY MILLER, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2022-01, THE APPOINTMENTS AND MEETING DATES RESOLUTION AS REVISED. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

DIVERSITY AND EQUITY CONSULTANT FINALIST

Councilor Fall stated that interviews were held with the two finalist for the consultants, Huelife and DeYoung. He stated that the interview group is recommending DeYoung. He stated that they felt that DeYoung had an excellent presentation, were organized, have more employees and will provide a customized plan, which they have experience doing.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MILLER, SECONDED BY FALL, TO APPROVE ENTERING INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH DEYOUNG TO PROVIDE CONSULTING SERVICES FOR DIVERSITY AND EQUITY WORK WITH THE AD HOC COMMITTEE. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-02, APPROVING THE LOW BID AND AWARING CONTRACT FOR THE RAW WATER STANDPIPE

Murphy explained that the low bid was near the engineers estimate for the project and that they would like to get going on the work as soon as possible.

MOTION WAS MADE BY RAMLER, SECONDED BY MILLER, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2022-02, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BIDS AND AWARDING A CONTRACT TO GREAT PLAINS STRUCTURES, LLC, FOR THE 2022 RAW WATER STANDPIPE PROJECT. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Blum provided a report on the monthly calls for November. He stated the third meeting for the Community Policing Agreement will be held the following evening. He stated that the background check is wrapping up and the hiring recommendation will be at the next meeting.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

A. Pay Equity Report 2022

Murphy explained every three years the City is required to do a pay equity report. She stated that Kathleen Murphy had completed the report which then gets submitted to the State for approval.

MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHMITZ, SECONDED BY RAMLER, TO APPROVE THE 2022 PAY EQUITY IMPLEMENTATION REPORT COMPLETED BY KATHLEEN MURPHY AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

B. Mutual Aid Agreement with Rockville Fire Department

Murphy stated that every five years the mutual aid agreement with the Rockville Fire Department needs to be renewed.

MOTION WAS MADE BY RAMLER, SECONDED BY SCHMITZ, TO APPROVE THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT WITH THE ROCKVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

LIST OF BILLS

MOTION WAS MADE BY RAMLER, SECONDED BY SCHMITZ, TO REVIEW AND ACCEPT PAYMENT OF THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ACCORDING TO THE LIST TOTALING \$730,097.22 AND SUPPLEMENTAL LIST TOTALING \$14,277.70. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM CITY COUNCIL

Councilor Schmitz inquired at what point does a committee need to be formed for the input on the feasibility reports being done by Five Bugles. Murphy stated she would check with Five Bugles on their timeline. Councilor Schmitz wanted to make sure that taxpayer input and representation would be on the committee this time. Councilor Fall commented on the email received from Kelly Springer requesting a mask mandate for the City. The Council agreed that it was not their duty to mandate masks, that it is up to each individual to make that decision. Mayor Heinen asked about firefighter hiring, to which Chief Weber explained they would start advertising at the end of the month.

ADJOURN

MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHMITZ, SECONDED BY MILLER, TO ADJOURN AT 9:42 P.M., SEEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

Dave Heinen, Mayor

Brigid Murphy, City Administrator