

## Special Session September 15, 2021

The Primghar City Council met in special session on September 16, 2021, at 5:00PM in the council chambers with Mayor Kurt Edwards presiding. Council present – Tim Honkomp, Jack Black, Ryan Jenness, and Ken Miller, and Kevin Smith. Staff present –Carol Chicoine. Motion by Black, approving the consent agenda, second Jenness. Discussion was held to set trick or treating for Sunday October 31<sup>st</sup> from 5-7. Motion Honkomp increasing land rent for both parcels of city property by \$50 for a cost of \$350 and \$385, second Jenness, all ayes, motion carried. Council agreed to review Primghar Urban Revitalization Plan every year. Discussion was had with the plan has helped with 4 new homes being build and 2 homes relocated to Primghar, and improvements to existing properties that have benefited from the program. Council reviewed the general budget and what programs are funded by the tax revenue, so discussion was had about researching into a change in the residential tax abatement from 100% for 10 years up to \$250,000 of value to a graduated plan allotting for the city to utilize some of the new revenue. Discussion was also had about implementing a cap for commercial property values. Discussion was had about current O’Brien County Ag application for tax abatement. Clerk Chicoine will reach out to attorney about questions council has about tax abatements. Council discussed concerns with hiring, starting wages, and current wages to be competitive with the current economy. Concerns were had about hiring of a lineman and competition other entities and starting wages from REC, Alliant, and Mid-American. Council agreed in increasing staff current staff salaries for Administrator/City Clerk, Water/Wastewater Operator Jared Roos, Appoint Mike Warnke to Street/Water/Wastewater Superintendent, Deputy Clerk- Sarah Rohwer, Asst Clerk Amber Mulder, and new starting wages for a certified lineman and lineman apprentice. Evaluation was completed by Council of the City Administrator/Clerk Carol Chicoine. Motion by Honkomp to approved starting wages and all pay raises for staff, second Smith, all ayes, motion carried. Motion by Jenness to adjourn, second Honkomp at 7:30 PM. All ayes, motion carried.

Kurt Edwards, Mayor

ATTEST: Carol Chicoine City Administrator/Clerk