

Regular Session
January 11, 2023

The Primghar City Council met in regular session on January 11, 2023, at 5:00 PM in the council chambers with Mayor Kurt Edwards presiding. Council present – Steve Wittrock, Tim Honkomp, Ryan Jenness, Ken Miller, and Kevin Smith. Staff present – Carol Chicoine, Sarah Rohwer, and Jarrett Russell. Motion Honkomp, approving the consent agenda, approving January 11th agenda, council minutes from December 14, 2022; library minutes from December 14, 2022; golf board minutes from December 15, 2022, federal milage rate change to .655; appoint City Attorney Bruce Green; continue lease Primghar Community Building and Kid’s Kampus FY23; Gary Lansink Planning and Zoning (2027) Robert Schall Board of Adjustment (2027); Ashley Mendenhall Primghar Ambulance Team Driver. Second Jenness, all ayes, motion carried.

Visitors: Joseph Staneart came to follow up with the council on the potential changes to the city’s ordinance on chickens. Staneart turned in the petitions that were left at the post office, Bob and Scotts, and ProGo for residents to sign to gauge the support on revising the current ordinance. Council will take copies of the petitions and will have the Chicken Ordinance on next month’s agenda.

Jarrett Russell gave council an update on projects that the city workers have been working on: Moving snow has been a constant, the sander truck is down and different options for repairs are being explored, picking up and trimming branches, pushing snow back at intersections to lessen blind corners, new playground equipment should be coming in June, the city is looking to replace the fire pits at the campground, and the first free skating Sunday will be on January 29th from 1:30 to 3:30.

City attorney Bruce Green was not present and unavailable for comments. Motion Jenness Resolution Appointing O’Brien County Bell-Official City Newspaper. Second Smith, all ayes, motion carried. Motion Honkomp Resolution Official Bank Depository and Establishing Investment Limits of Public Funds. Second Wittrock, all ayes, motion carried. Motion Smith Resolution Setting time and place for Public Hearing for the Purpose of Considering the Maximum Tax Dollars from Certain Levies for the City’s FY 23 Budget February 8, 2023. Second Miller, all ayes, motion carried.

Council discussed the City’s current Urban Revitalization plan. Currently the plan is that 100% of the taxes for properties valued up to \$250,000 for 10 years. Chicoine provided council with a spreadsheet that was interactive to see the differences between keeping the current plan and a graduated plan. Motion Honkomp to implement the graduated plan. Second Smith, Honkomp, Miller, Wittrock, and Smith voting Aye and Jenness voting Nay. Motion carried 4 to 1.

Motion Wittrock Council Committee Appointments. Second Miller, all ayes, motion carried. Motion Jenness approve Mosquito Contract Summer 2023. Second Honkomp, all ayes, motion carried. Clerk Chicoine gave updates on streets, electric, and lagoon projects. Justin Christensen came earlier in the week to discuss with Chicoine and Mike Warnke to discuss different street projects. The main priority would be the water line on 4th Street NE by the Grace Lutheran Church going down all the way to the intersection of 4th Street NE and Heritage Park Road. The drainage issue at the intersection of Heritage Park Road and 4th Street NE also needs to be addressed. What was proposed is to pave the intersection and go south past Kid’s Kampus to fix the drainage issue. With the discussion of different street projects that need to be done also came discussion of whether street assessments should be done. For the new generator, documentation was submitted to the Environmental and Public Health department for the new generator. Once the new generator is up and running, the City will have to keep track of the diesel usage. For the lagoon, an announcement should be made about the Block Grant soon with bids being accepted in late March to early April.

Motion Honkomp approving December Finance Report. Second Jenness, all ayes, motion carried. During the December Finance Report, Clerk Chicoine informed council that the library’s Amazon charge account was no longer going to be an option and that the server that stores the City’s digital data needs to be updated. Chicoine also informed council that another budget workshop should be set up to discuss the next fiscal year’s budget. A workshop is tentatively February 1st. Motion Smith approving January Claims and bills paid in vacation. Second Miller, all ayes, motion carried.

Chicoine gave updates on nuisance abatement cases. A hearing was supposed to be earlier in the week for 460 3rd St NW, but a deal was made between both parties. Property at 180 2nd St SW is going to be considered an abandoned property as it has not had city services in over 5 months.

Motion Smith to adjourn. Second Honkomp, all ayes, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:13 pm.

ATTEST: Sarah Rohwer, Deputy City Clerk

Kurt Edwards, Mayor