Members present: Mayor Ahrenstorff, and Councilors Wiens, Gengler, Schultz, and Cooper.

Staff members present: Taylor Gronau, City Administrator; Teri Thompson-Hobart, Office Manager; Dean Tibbetts, Street and Maintenance Superintendent; Justin Anderson, Lake Crystal Fire Department; and Christopher Kennedy, City Attorney.

Others present: Don Marben, Lake Crystal Tribune.

Call to Order: Mayor Ahrenstorff called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: All present stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:
Councilor Schultz moved and Councilor Gengler seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2019 Regular Meeting of the City Council. All present voted in favor thereof. Motion carried.

Approval of City Bills:
Councilor Gengler moved and Councilor Wiens seconded the motion to approve the city bills totaling $146,897.64. All present voted in favor thereof. Motion carried.

Staff Reports

Ambulance Department Update:
- No report.

Fire Department Update:
- There was one fire call during the month of November.
- Nine applications were received for the open positions with the Fire Department. The following three individuals were recommended for appointment: Tyler Eckert, Chad Volk, and Danny Grimes.
- The Fire Department requested approval to add two additional positions do to anticipated future retirements.

Mayor Ahrenstorff moved and Councilor Wiens seconded the motion to hold a workshop on January 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. with the Townships to discuss the addition of two additional positions for the Lake Crystal Fire Department. All present voted in favor thereof. Motion carried.

Police Department Update:
- The November Call Report was included with the council packets.
Street & Parks Department Update:
- The leaf vac being purchased from MacQueen Equipment will be picked up Tuesday, December 17th.
- Recent snow plowing went well.
- The new grader worked great.
- Superintendent Tibbetts requested approval to purchase a snow pusher for the loader. This expense would be included in the 2020 budget. The estimated cost is $4,600.00

City Attorney Update:
- No report.

City Administrator Update:
- The City was asked to select one sidewalk/trail project it intends to submit for TAP grant funding. The City selected the Safe Routes to School (Bert Street) sidewalk project.
- Staff is working on updates to the City’s drug testing policy.
- The City has been awarded a $4,500 grant from the DNR to develop an Emerald Ash Borer management plan. A 25% match ($1,500) will be required from the City. A grant contract will be presented for approval at a future City Council meeting.
- The 2020 utility budget was approved by the Public Utilities Commission. The budget includes a 2% across the board increase of electric, water and sewer rates. The PUC also reduced the usage included in the minimum charge from 2,000 gallons to 1,000 gallons. The rate increases were necessary to cover the bond payment for the Southwest Street and Utility Improvement Project and increasing operational expenses. The PUC decided to conduct a water/sewer rate study in 2020.

Action Items:

A. Consider approval of Resolution No. 1930, Approving the 2020 Final Tax Levy and General Fund Budget:
   Councilor Wiens moved and Councilor Cooper seconded the motion to approve Resolution No. 1930. All present voted in favor thereof. Motion carried.

B. Consider approval of Resolution No. 1931, Approving Transfers:
   Councilor Cooper moved and Councilor Schultz seconded the motion to approve Resolution No. 1931. All present voted in favor thereof. Motion carried.

C. Consider approval of Resolution No. 1932, Authorizing the Crystal Waters Project to Conduct Charitable Gambling at the Lakes Sports Bar and Grill:
   Councilor Wiens moved and Councilor Gengler seconded the motion to approve Resolution No. 1932. All present voted in favor thereof. Motion carried.

D. Consider renewal of Kevin’s Market 2020 Tobacco License:
   Councilor Wiens moved and Councilor Cooper seconded the motion to renew the 2020 Tobacco License for Kevin’s Market. All present voted in favor thereof. Motion carried.

E. Consider renewal of On the Rocks 2020 Tobacco License:
   Councilor Schultz moved and Councilor Gengler seconded the motion to renew the 2020 Tobacco License for On the Rocks. All present voted in favor thereof. Motion carried.
F. Consider renewal of the Lakes Sports Bar and Grill 2020 Tobacco License:
   Councilor Cooper moved and Councilor Schultz seconded the motion to renew the 2020 Tobacco License for the Lakes Sports Bar and Grill. All present voted in favor thereof. Motion carried.

G. Consider renewal of Collis “C” Store and Bakery 2020 Tobacco License:
   Councilor Wiens moved and Councilor Gengler seconded the motion to renew the 2020 Tobacco License for Collis “C” Store and Bakery. All present voted in favor thereof. Motion carried.

H. Consider approval of Police Department Supervision Agreement with the Blue Earth County Sheriff’s Department:
   Councilor Wiens moved and Councilor Cooper seconded the motion to approve the Police Department Supervision Agreement with Blue Earth County Sheriff’s Department. All present voted in favor thereof. Motion carried.

I. Consider appointment of 2020 board and commission members:
   Mayor Ahrenstorff moved and Councilor Cooper seconded the motion to appoint the following individuals to the 2020 board and commission openings:
   - Don Johnson
   - Al Davis
   - Glen Wiens
   - Mayor Ahrenstorff
   - Michael Windsperger
   - Olivia Bryson
   - Doni Walker-Jackson
   - Jamie Christensen
   - Todd Wiens
   - Gloria Williams

   All present voted in favor thereof. Motion carried.

   Councilor Wiens moved and Councilor Schultz seconded the motion to appoint Councilor Gengler to the Economic Development Authority. All present voted in favor thereof. Motion carried.

J. Consider employment of volunteer firefighters:
   Councilor Cooper moved and Councilor Gengler seconded the motion to appoint the following individuals to the Lake Crystal Fire Department: Tyler Eckert, Chad Volk, and Danny Grimes. All present voted in favor thereof. Motion carried.

Information/Discussion Items:

A. Tree City application
B. Upcoming meetings and events:
   - City Offices Closed – Tuesday, December 24 at Noon and Wednesday, December 25 in observance of the Christmas holiday
   - City Offices Closed – Tuesday, December 31 at Noon and Wednesday, January 1 – in observance of the New Year’s holiday
   - Planning and Zoning Commission regular meeting – Monday, January 6 – 6:30 p.m.
   - City Council regular meeting – Monday, January 6 – 7:30 p.m.
Council Comments and Observations:
  • No report.

Adjournment:
  Councilor Schultz moved and Mayor Ahrenstorff seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. All present voted in favor thereof. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

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Brad Ahrenstorff, Mayor

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Taylor Gronau, City Administrator