Official Greensburg City Council Minutes 6.2.14

Greensburg City Council
June 2, 2014
City Hall

Item 1: Opening Session
Call to Order; Pledge of Allegiance; Invocation; Oath of Office; Roll Call
Mayor Robert Dixson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on June 2, 2014. The Pledge of Allegiance was said, and the invocation given by Pastor Terry Mayhew. Council present: Matt Christenson, Mark Trummel, Sandra Jungemann, Haley Kern, and Rick Schaffer.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda
Trummel made a motion, seconded by Jungemann, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed 5-0.

Mayor’s Report
There was no report from the Mayor.

Council Member’s Report
There was no report from Council.

City Administrator Comments
City Administrator Ed Truelove briefed Council on the following topics:
- The Land Bank initiative discussed with Council at the last meeting should be on the agenda for June 16th. Staff is completing work on the documents required for the initial establishment of the Land Bank.
- Staff has received a funding agreement from KDOT, for the relocation of the pool. Staff anticipates having the agreement on the June 16th Agenda.

Item 2: Public Comment
Dixson welcomed those in attendance and opened the meeting to public comment.

Matt Deighton stated that he feels the new City Pool could be an economic engine if the design included swim lanes. He estimates that Greensburg could host 2-3 swim meets each year, with Rec. Commission involvement, and that Greensburg having a swim team would not be necessary for this to occur.

Ruth Ann Wedel advised Council that there are no longer trash dumpsters at the State Fishing Lake and that the area has a lot of trash on the ground. She asked whose responsibility for handling trash at the lake. Wedel was reminded that the lake is State owned. Dixson recommended that she visit with the City Administrator.

Item 3: Consent Agenda
Kern made a motion, seconded by Christenson, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion passed 5-0.

Item 4: Items of Business
A. Receive John Haas, Ranson Financial, and consider Resolution 2014-04, requesting the City of Greensburg Public Building Commission issue Revenue Bonds for the purpose of paying the costs of certain public buildings or facilities (i.e. swimming pool). The Public Building Commission will convene a meeting during this time, to consider a Resolution declaring it necessary to issue such bonds.
John Haas, Ranson Financial, was present to provide information to Council on the options available for financing additional dollars for the pool, and to request Council consider Resolution 2014-04, requesting the Public Building Commission (PBC) issue Revenue Bonds. Haas presented Council with updated financing numbers for PBC Revenue Bonds, as well as an updated calendar of events. Haas discussed updated Tables 1-4 in detail. Primary funds for financing the project will come from KDOT and City reserves (total project cost $2.3 million). Council is considering options for additional funding, should it become necessary. Haas also discussed ways in which the City could pay back the PBC bonds, including additional City reserves or with a sales tax. The Resolution before Council this evening requested that the PBC issue bonds. The PBC met in conjunction with this evening’s Council meeting to consider a Resolution to give the authority to issue bonds, if and when they are needed.

Christensen clarified that Council was considering additional funding for unforeseen overages, should they occur, not additional amenities that would exceed the $2.3 million budget. He asked how much of the Costs of Issuance would be absorbed if the PBC did NOT exercise their right to issue bonds and if there was a sunset on their authority to issue the specified bonds. Haas stated that there would be no sunset to remove authority, that bonds for construction of a pool could be issued at any point following the protest period, assuming there was no protest to the sale of bonds. Costs of Issuance are contingent on bonds being issued. If Council chooses not to exercise that authority, there will be no additional costs for preliminary work.

Dixson asked how bonds could be repaid if the cost could not be built into the budget. Options of an increase in mil levy or a ½ cent sales tax were discussed. These options would need to go before voters for approval. If the sale of the bonds themselves is protested, the sale of bonds would need to go to voters as well. Truelove clarified that 1 mil is approximates $8,000. Dixson felt that Council should have a good idea of costs by mid July. Haas clarified that the calendar presented represents the quickest that bonds could be issued. The process can always be slowed down, should Council desire.

Schaffer expressed concern over concrete buried on the old hospital site, which is under evaluation as a potential location for the pool. Truelove has been in contact with PEC regarding the issue. As of today, a surface survey of the site has been conducted. PEC will commence with core drilling and provide an Engineer’s best estimate on the cost to remediate the concrete and prepare the site for construction.

Christenson made a motion to approve Resolution 2014-04. Kern seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Council recessed to allow the PBC to call their meeting to order and consider a Resolution declaring it necessary to issue bonds on the project. Council was back in session at 6:44 p.m.

B. Receive Donna Meier Pfeifer, Cannonball Trail American Red Cross, requesting a contribution of $1,000 from the City of Greensburg.

Council welcomed Donna Meier Pfeifer, Cannonball Trail American Red Cross, to give an update on the Chapter and it’s activity in the last year. Last year, approximately $10,000 in disaster relief was distributed through the Chapter. Nearly $12,000 has been distributed already this year. The Red Cross assists with costs not covered by a victim’s insurance, and has seen a decrease in the amount of insurance purchased by victims. The Chapter continues to provide assistance to fire fighters during events and to offer CPR, first aid, and disaster training. Last year they assisted with 23 military calls. This year they have already done 27 calls, showing an active participation in the Military Family Assistance Program. The Cannonball Trail Chapter covers 7 counties and has an operating budget of $92,000, Meier Pfeifer being the only paid employee in the chapter. Meier Pfeifer requested Council
consider a $1,000 contribution when setting their 2015 budget. Council will receive a formal letter requesting funds.

C. Receive Jennifer Kookan, PowerUp Greensburg, to request a City contribution of $1,200 toward a community July 4th fireworks display, and to request a street closure for family oriented activities in the 300 block of S. Main St. on July 5th.

Jennifer Kookan, representing PowerUp Greensburg, advised Council that the City of Mullinville no longer wishes to host the County July 4th Fireworks. Kiowa County Chamber is not able to host this year either. Kookan and Julie Keeton, both of PowerUp, are taking the lead and teaming with other members to organize events for that weekend. Kookan has secured a bid of $2,480 from Wald & Co., Inc., the company that supplied Mullinville with fireworks in the past. The show would be the same as those done in recent years. PowerUp has raised $600 and has another fundraiser set for June 14th. Ki and Kim Gamble have donated an additional $600. Kookan requested Council consider a contribution of $1,200 and the street closure of the 300 block of South Main, along with Wisconsin from Sycamore to the alley behind City Hall.

On July 4th, PowerUp is planning fireworks, to be shot off at the lake, and cake and ice cream for the community. July 5th will have sidewalk sales and family oriented activities downtown from 10 am – 2 pm; a Senior Center fundraiser dinner that evening; and a Karaoke Contest to cap off the evening. Family activities will take place on City property on the west side of the 300 block of South Main. Various organizations are being asked to contribute activities such as games, bouncy houses, or donations to support the event. The Fire Department is being asked to provide a fire truck to create a water area for the kids. Clarence Banzet, Mullinville Fire Chief, has sent in for the renewal of his license to shoot fireworks and is willing to handle that portion of events. County Fire Chief Jay Koehn has also been involved in discussions. Fireworks are contingent on the current burn ban being lifted. Should fireworks be prohibited, Wald & Co. will store the display for PowerUp for up to 5 years.

Discussion on previous year’s events and sponsorships ensued. Kookan clarified that insurance for the firework display was included in the Wald & Co. quote. Other weekend events will require individual event insurance.

Following confirmation from Truelove that the City’s general fund could support the group’s financial request, Trummel made a motion to approve a City contribution of $1,200 and the requested street closure. Schaffer seconded the motion. Kern, being a member of PowerUp, abstained. Motion passed 4-0.

D. Receive Sue Greenleaf-Taylor to present an Economic Development report.

Economic Development Director, Sue Greenleaf-Taylor, appreciated the support of Council, the Mayor, and City Administration. Greenleaf-Taylor gave an overview of her position and Economic Development activity through the past year. Specific activities included: the possibility of working with Jason VanSickle to create mid-level, affordable housing through various partnerships; working with the City, its partner, the Center For Innovation, and local citizens to create an Economic Strategic Plan; and requesting the assistance of Senators Moran and Roberts to encourage the United States Postal Service to establish a permanent facility for the Greensburg Post Office. Greenleaf-Taylor reported communicating with every business owner in the county and working to improve communication between the various entities affected by economic development in Kiowa County.

E. Conduct an advertised public hearing regarding the City’s pre-application with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, for financial assistance to purchase a street sweeper.
Dixson opened the advertised public hearing regarding the City’s pre-application with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, for financial assistance to purchase a street sweeper. The EII grant requested is a 60/40 grant (the City paying 40% of the total project cost). If awarded, 2014 funds will be combined with EII funds awarded to the City in 2013. Dixson described the City’s current equipment, which is beyond repair. He then opened the hearing for public discussion.

Truelove confirmed that the proposal is to cover the cost of equipment up to $200,000. The City’s contribution would be proportionate to 40% of the total cost. If a unit is purchased at $200,000, the city would pay $80,000. If a unit is purchased below the maximum amount, the city’s contribution would be proportionate. If the total project cost exceeds $200,000, the City would be responsible for $80,000, plus any costs over and above $200,000. The Equipment Capital Reserve Fund currently has $50,000 in it. Staff would seek to repopulate the Equipment Reserve Fund as soon as possible and feels that this piece of equipment is critical in the maintenance of city infrastructure.

Adam Wagner asked for information regarding the effectiveness of a sweeper in such a high wind area. The sweeper would assist in removing debris from the streets, help improve air quality, and assist with the maintenance of City infrastructure (sewer system and storm drains). Keeping debris from collecting in streets and along curbing will assist with rain runoff and drainage.

RuthAnn Wedel expressed her concern over excessive dirt running into the gutter near the trailer park located on County property on South Grove Street. She feels that issues such as this must be addressed in order to help equipment such as a street sweeper last longer.

Dixson closed the hearing to the public. Trummel made a motion to approve Staff to pursue the EII Grant. Kern seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

F. Consider setting a date, time and location for a 2015 budget work session.
Truelove requested Council consider calling a budget work session July 8th, 6:00 p.m., at City Hall. After a brief discussion regarding the date, Jungemann made a motion to call a 2015 budget work session on July 10th, 6:00 p.m., at City Hall. Kern seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Item 5: City Attorney’s Report
There was no report from the City Attorney.

Item 6: Executive Session
Truelove requested a 5 minute executive session for non-elected personnel. Christenson made a motion to go into executive session for non-elected personnel until 7:40 p.m. Kern seconded. Motion passed 5-0. Council returned to open session at 7:40 p.m.

City Attorney Gordon Stull requested executive session for attorney/client for an additional 5 minutes. Christensen made a motion to go into executive session until 7:45 p.m. Trummel seconded. Motion passed 5-0. Council returned to open session at 7:45 p.m.

Item 7: Adjournment
Dixson declared the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.