Official Greensburg City Council Minutes 11.6.17

Greensburg City Council
November 6, 2017
City Hall

A) CALL TO ORDER
Mayor Robert Dixson called the November 6, 2017 meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

B) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & INVOCATION
The Pledge of Allegiance was said, and the invocation was given by Dixson.

C) ROLL CALL & APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
Council Present: Matt Christenson, Haley Kern, Mark Trummel, Sandy Jungemann, and Rick Schaffer. Jungemann made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Trummel seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

D) CITIZEN COMMENTS
Dixson welcomed those in attendance and opened the floor for citizen comments, of which there were none.

E) CONSENT AGENDA
Kern made a motion, seconded by Jungemann, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion passed 5-0.

F) ITEMS OF BUSINESS
   1. 903 N. Sycamore Discussion
As requested by Council at its previous meeting, City Administrator Kyler Ludwig opened discussion on property located at 903 N. Sycamore. The owner of the property was not present, but was aware of the discussion was to take place. Since the last Council Meeting, the structure has been placed on a foundation (deadline was October 7th); however, no other deadlines set by the owner have been met. At this time, the property owner had planned to have shingles removed, the walls and roof wrapped, doors and windows installed by October 31st. A porch was also planned to be built prior to the first freeze, which took place October 31st. A “hard freeze” has not occurred yet. At the last Council meeting, Arrow Zanghi, the owner of the property, stated that he would not have trouble meeting the deadlines.

Kern and Jungemann each voiced concern over what to do about the project. Kern stated that Council needed to either commit to allowing the project to happen on Zanghi’s timeline or put their foot down. Christenson pointed out that the timeline presented was created by Zanghi. Trummel voiced that he believes that Zanghi understands that he has until February to complete the exterior of the structure. Christenson said that he felt his previous motion on the project was clear. Zanghi has until the end of February to complete the exterior of the structure, but he must also meet the milestone dates that he presented to Council. Trummel noted that the house mover delayed Zanghi having the structure set. Kern voiced that she was not sure Council was doing Zanghi any favors by continuing to delay abatement. Christenson reviewed the work plan, noting how many days Zanghi had planned to complete each step. Based on the number of days in the plan, Christenson recommended Council give Zanghi until the next meeting to complete items on his list or move forward with abatement. Christenson stated that he was very fast losing his patience. Kern concurred. The item will be placed on the next Council Agenda.

   2. Health Insurance Approval
Ludwig provided a quote for 2018 employee health insurance coverage through Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas (BCBS), noting a 13% increase in premium overall. The increase is not evenly applied to all employees. Those with children will see a more dramatic rate increase, especially those with children...
over the age of 21. The only change to coverage is the out of pocket and deductibles for out-of-network expenses. A table depicting the cost estimate, 2018 budget per department, and the remaining budget authority was provided. All departments are adequately funded for the cost increase in 2018. Ludwig noted that, at the end of 2018, the city will have been with BCBS for 5 years. Ludwig recommended going out to bid for 2019 coverage.

Christenson made a motion, seconded by Schaffer, to approve BCBS as the City’s Health Insurance provider in 2018. The motion passed 5-0.

3. Cost of Living Adjustment
The City Council annually reviews changes to the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners (CPI-W) and considers a cost of living (COLA) increase in salaries. Since this time last year the CPI-W has experienced 2.3% inflation. Ludwig provided a copy of the Pay Tables for the City as they would appear with a 2.3% increase. A resolution to amend the Pay Tables was provided for Council’s consideration. If approved, the Resolution would take effect January 1, 2018. A 2.3% COLA increase could be given within the current Pay Tables; however, at least one employee is at the maximum of his pay range. A change in the Pay Tables, would allow all employees to benefit from a COLA. Christenson noted that 2016 was the first time the Pay Tables had been adjusted and a COLA given. There had been a significant increase in the CPI-W since the last COLA. Christenson explained reviewing the CPI-W and making small adjustments on a yearly basis is much easier to manage than a large gap created over the course of several years. Ludwig advised that the current budget projected a 1% COLA, but a 2% increase can be handled within the current 2018 budget.

Christenson made a motion to approve a 2% COLA to take effect in January 2018. Kern seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Jungemann made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-04, amending the pay scale to reflect the 2% COLA. Christenson seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

G) CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT
City Attorney Clayton Kerbs was not present at the meeting.

H) CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT
   Airport Groundbreaking: The airport groundbreaking event was a success, and staff is looking to set up a pre-construction meeting at the end of November.
   Annexation – Airport Property: City Staff will be working with the City Attorney to determine the process and requirements to annex the airport property into the city limits.
   Municipal Election: The municipal election is scheduled for tomorrow November 7th. The polling location for Greensburg residents is the Community Center, which will be open from 7a.m.-7 p.m.. There are 5 names on the ballot with the top 3 candidates taking office on January 8th, 2018. (There will need to be a special meeting on January 8th to accommodate this change).
   KPP 2018 Rates: On November 2nd KPP held a rate forum to discuss the current rate projections. KPP anticipates that the average cost of electricity will not change from 2017 to 2018. The rate will be approved at the December 15th annual meeting.
   Veteran’s Day: City Hall will be closed November 10th in observance of Veteran’s Day.
   Holiday Open House: Greensburg Businesses are hosting a Holiday Open House on November 10th and 11th. Businesses will have extended hours, and the Tourism Board will be sponsoring a free movie, “The Goonies”, at 2:30 p.m. on the 11th to help bring more visitors to our downtown.
I) GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS
Dixson announced that the V.O.L.T. leadership program will be back in town December 3rd – 5th. The group has requested no local discounts and will have a good economic impact on local businesses.

Jungemann stated that she had seen an article about the cabins being put in by the Ellers and wondered when they planned to be open. Ludwig reported that there is no official opening scheduled.

J) ADJOURNMENT
Dixson declared the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Robert A. Dixson, Mayor

Christy Pyatt, City Clerk