

City of Carter Lake
City Hall – 950 Locust St.
Proceedings: Monday, April 21, 2014
Regular City Council Meeting – 7:00 PM

The Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Gerald Waltrip called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

- I. Roll Call: Present – Mayor Gerald Waltrip
Council members Ed Aldmeyer, Barb Hawkins, Dave Huey, Ron Cumberledge and Barb Melonis.
Also present – City Attorney Joe Thornton and City Clerk Doreen Mowery.
- II. Approval of the Agenda – Mayor Waltrip requested that the 9th St. Project be added to the agenda under his items. Moved by council member Melonis seconded by council member Cumberledge to approve the agenda with the addition. Ayes: Unanimous.
- III. Consent agenda – Moved by council member Huey seconded by council member Hawkins to approve the consent agenda as presented. Ayes: Unanimous.

The Mayor stated that it was nice to have the citizens at the meeting.

IV. New Business

A. Communications from the Public

1. Loren Knauss, County Supervisor was present to discuss a proposal he made to the Board of Supervisors regarding the creation of a committee to develop a countywide crime and safety commission. He would like the commission to address crime issues as a whole and to work on both a consistent and individualized basis for the county. At this time there would be no request for funding. He would also like to start a county wide mapping system to be able to see crime trends. The commission would look at processes. Domestic violence, child abuse, and sexual abuse are three areas that need to be addressed. At this time he wants to start the process. There will be a meeting in the near future to work on setting up the commission and he would like council support for the commission.
2. Moved by council member Cumberledge seconded by council member Hawkins to approve renewal of the liquor license for the Country Inn and Suites. Ayes: Unanimous.
3. Ann Kaiser came before the council to request that the council vacate the portion of Redick Blvd that goes thru her property on Hessman Dr. Mayor Waltrip advised that Redick Blvd., in that area is not a street because it was platted but never dedicated.
4. Jan Bell was present and relayed a story about a time when she was hurt and nobody stopped to assist her. She stated that since the first of the year she now feels included in the meetings. She stated that citizens are now becoming interested and passionate about their city. The citizens would like more active participation in the meetings. She disagrees that neighbors are being pitted

against neighbors. She complimented Ron Rothmeyer for all he did to save money and purchase the new senior buses.

5. Leslie Sanders expressed concern about the recycling bins blowing around with trash and garbage going into the canals. The next time the contract is up she would like the City to consider a company that has a better system. Council member Huey requested that we check with the current contractor to see if they have something. The Mayor feels it is not entirely the contractor's fault that the trash bins are out for such a long time. He also stated he will call the office to check with the contractor to see if they have something to solve this issue. Lee Hudson stated he has had issues with the trash collector dumping trash on the ground and not picking it up. Council member Huey stated if there are problems like that, the citizens should call city hall to notify us so we can address the issue with the contractor.

B. Communications from the Departments

1. Phill Newton was present to update the council on Fire Department matters. The department will hold the annual health fair at the fire station from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM on Saturday, April 26th. The fireworks have been ordered. The department received several large donations from Ponca and other businesses. The fireworks will be on June 7th with a rain date of June 8th. The department is working with Kathy Glathar to have the Bountiful Baskets project at the fire station. The department is still working on the fire truck and building specifications. The department still has free carbon monoxide and fire detectors available to the public.
2. There was not a Planning Board meeting this month, therefore there was no update at this time.
3. Council member Aldmeyer stated that the Storm Water Committee will be putting some pamphlets and information into the newsletter in the near future.
4. Mayor Waltrip
 - a. Mayor Waltrip stated that there have been a lot of water and sewer bill increases over the past 5 years. The City of Carter Lake takes care of our own meters, readings and billings. MUD furnishes meters to the bigger communities. Carter Lake is treated like a commercial customer so we have a different water rate than the larger communities that use MUD. Carter Lake has never treated their own sewage. We dump our sewage into the City of Omaha's system. Whenever there are big projects in Omaha, Carter Lake will pay a portion to cover the cost. Sewer rates have jumped higher than the water and there is nothing we can do about it. Laurie Culjat suggested that the city look at revamping the way they are billing for sewer. Sewer is billed at a flat rate and not based on water usage. The council has scheduled a workshop with PeopleService to review billing practices. Bill Dahlheimer stated that MUD recently raised rates from \$20 to \$25. MUD will be providing the Mayor with rate information.

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b. Mayor Waltrip stated he gets the most complaints on the lake. He stated the river is low and that is the biggest reason the lake is in trouble. He is able to gauge the river level by watching a pier. The lake is currently about 4 foot down. He stated the pump on the north side of the lake has nothing to do with the lake level. The airport pulled water from the aquifer during 2011. It does not look too good for boating on the lake this summer. When the river comes up it takes twice as long for the aquifer under the area to come back up. It takes 2 to 3 weeks for the water table to start affecting the lake. He has a call into the Corp of Engineers about what they are going to do with the outflows at the dams. The DNR will not admit that the things they did to the lake over the last six years were not good. May 22nd, there will be a meeting with DNR and other officials to work on changing the program for working on the lake. The Mayor feels that the more you spray the lake, the worse you are going to make it. The only way to get the lake back in shape is for the people to get together with the DNR and the DEQ to bring it back to what it was 6 or 7 years ago, where everybody gets to use it. The water near his home has been shut down. The lake has a bad problem and nature needs to get involved with special fish. Seaweed is an issue. Iowa's website tells you that grass eating carp can be used in some public lakes and private ponds. However, the state says they can't be used in Carter Lake. The lake is not man-made and it is not a pond. He feels that man has created the problems with the lake. Mrs. Paterson wanted to know, as a community, what can be done. She suggested letters and petitions. The Mayor stated he would get letters and petitions to the Governor. The Mayor will write a petition to be distributed. Rich Patton encourages the council and mayor to listen to the DNR and the biologists and scientist because they are the people that know what they are doing. The Mayor, Mr. Paterson and Ron Rothmeyer met with the DNR a couple of weeks ago. The DNR said that they have done some things that did not work and they are trying to figure out how to fix them.

c. Mayor Waltrip would like to re-appoint Bill Blankenship to the Board of Adjustments. Moved by council member Cumberledge seconded by council member Melonis to approve the reappointment. Ayes: Unanimous.

5. Council member Cumberledge stated that storm water has been a real difficult issue. He believes the council has tried to do the best they possibly can. Moved by council member Cumberledge seconded by council member Melonis to repeal the storm water fee. John Paterson stated he is stunned about Barb Melonis' about face. Mr. Paterson had a list of questions that he had submitted to the clerk. He wanted to know how much had been collected since the inception of the fee. He asked where the fees have been spent. Mr. Paterson stated that the first year of weed harvesting was taken from storm water fund. Council member Melonis stated that storm water has been a very intense issue. She is of the belief that we should not shove down the throat of the people something they do not want. She believes that those that voted for the storm water utility did it with the best intention in mind. She believes in

the utility and the fee. However, to be a good representative of the citizens she has reviewed all of the water, sewer, and storm water fees. She does not believe in charging more than what is needed to operate. Garbage has been reduced in the past. There needs to be an adequate amount of revenue to carry over into the next year. The council tries to keep 25% of the next operating year's expenditures in reserve. The department heads have found funding for storm water projects from grants and other sources. We had originally projected 5 years out for water, sewer, and storm water. We now have an adequate reserve in those funds. Council member Melonis is proposing that we retain the storm water fund. The money that is currently in that account will be used for only storm water expenses for approximately the next three years. She requested a line item be put in the general fund to pay for lake projects. She is also proposing that the July 1st rate increase in water and sewer will not be imposed. The attorney advised that the proper way to repeal the storm water fees is through an ordinance amendment. Council member Melonis withdrew her second and council member Cumberlandge withdrew his motion.

6. City Clerk

- a. The clerk opened three bids that were submitted for towing services. Bids were submitted by Tow Connection, Omaha Towing and Security, and ASC Towing and Recovery.
- b. Moved by council member Cumberlandge seconded by council member Huey to approve the bid proposal submitted by ASC Towing, subject to inspection and approval of the facility by the police chief and finalization of a contract. Ayes: Unanimous. A representative from Omaha Towing was present to provide information to the council regarding his facility and towing response.
- c. The clerk provided the council with two requests to enter into long term lease/purchase agreements for a permanent easement on the cell tower site on Hessman Drive. Moved by council member Huey seconded by council member Aldmeyer to table this item. Ayes: Unanimous. Council member Aldmeyer would like the Attorney to look into the proposal.
- d. One of the department heads had provided a policy regarding the use of electronic cigarettes in the workplace. Moved by council member Aldmeyer seconded by council member Cumberlandge to not implement a similar policy at this time. Ayes: Unanimous.

V. Ordinances.

- A. Moved by council member Hawkins seconded by council member Huey to approve an ordinance amending Chapter 92 – Water Rates on the first consideration. Ayes: Hawkins, Huey and Melonis. Nays: Cumberlandge and Aldmeyer.
- B. Moved by council member Melonis seconded by council member Hawkins to adopt an ordinance amending Chapter 99 – Sewer Service Charges on the first

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consideration.. Ayes: Hawkins, Huey, Melonis, and Aldmeyer. Nays:
Cumberledge.

- C. Moved by council member Cumberledge seconded by council member Melonis to adopt a resolution amending Chapter 110 – Storm Water Utility on the first consideration. Ayes: Unanimous.

VI. Comments

Mayor Waltrip stated that if there is a project that needs to be done, it would be 9th Street from Locust to Ave. J. The cost would be approximately \$300,000 if it is done during the construction of 9th St. from Ave. J to Ave. H. The area is approximately 400 foot long. The Mayor stated that if we are going to bond for a fire truck and other issues, the street trumps those projects. Ray Pauly stated that we should not tack something onto a fire truck issue.

The Mayor also stated that he would like to hire someone to video tape the meetings. The cameras are voice activated. The Mayor has had people express concern that the meeting tapes do not pick up the public/audience.

Barb Melonis appreciates all of the information that was shared in the recent workshops.

Ron Cumberledge thanked the council for their cooperation on the storm water issues. Dave Huey thanked everyone that brought information to the table to assist in making a logical decision regarding storm water fees.

Barb Hawkins thanked the public for coming to the meeting. She also congratulated the Clerk for her appointment to the IMFOA Board.

The Council set a workshop with PeopleService for Tuesday, May 6, 2014 at 4:30 PM. The council will be reviewing their billing practices and the amounts that are charged.

Tim Wickman is running for a County Board of Supervisor's seat. He has previously served on the Council Bluffs School and the Board of Supervisors. He is concerned about the tax increases that the County has imposed over the last few years. He is also concerned about the amount of debt the county has incurred. He has the leadership and vision to move the county forward and slow the spending and minimize the tax burden.

This meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Doreen Mowery, City Clerk

Gerald Waltrip, Mayor