

City of Carter Lake
City Hall – 950 Locust St.
Special City Council Meeting
Proceedings: Wednesday, December 17, 2014 6:00 PM

Mayor Gerald Waltrip called the Special City Council to order at 6:00 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Present – Council members Ed Aldmeyer, Dave Huey, Ron Cumberledge, Barb Melonis and Barb Hawkins
Also present – City Attorney Joe Thornton and City Clerk Doreen Mowery

1. Resolutions

- A. Moved by council member Huey seconded by council member Cumberledge to approve a resolution placing liens for unpaid utility bills. Ayes: Unanimous.
- B. Moved by council member Hawkins seconded by council member Huey to approve the resolution for an agreement with PVS for storm water maintenance. The Mayor stated that he would like to amend the agreement to allow PVS to put their fence one foot behind the sidewalk. The City owns the property where they would like to put the fence. The Attorney stated they would need an easement to put a fence on city property. Council member Aldmeyer questioned if a variance would be needed. The Attorney suggested that the council approved the document to include the fence, subject to attorney review, and if it does not need to go thru the board of adjustments for a variance. Council member Cumberledge questioned the requirement for the City to inspect and report on the system after a rain event. The inspections are currently being done on the storm water system. Council member Cumberledge stated that he would not support the document the way it is currently written. Council members Hawkins and Huey withdrew their motion and second. This item will be placed on the January agenda for additional consideration and action. At that time the council will also review the fence issue.
- C. Moved by council member Aldmeyer seconded by council member Melonis to approve a resolution fixing the date for a meeting on the authorization of a loan agreement and the issuance of not to exceed \$3,550,000 General Obligation Local Option Sales and Services tax refunding capital loan notes, series 2015B, of the City of Carter Lake, State of Iowa, and providing for publication of notice thereof. Ayes: Unanimous. The public hearing was set for January 19th at 7:00 PM

2. City Clerk

- A. Moved by council member Aldmeyer seconded by council member Cumberledge to move forward with the potential refinancing of the LOST bonds in the amount not to exceed \$3,550,000. Ayes: Unanimous.
- B. Moved by council member Hawkins seconded by council member Melonis to approve the FY2014 Urban Renewal Report that has been placed on file with the State of Iowa. Ayes: Unanimous.

- C. Moved by council member Cumberlandge seconded by council member Aldmeyer to approve Change Order #4 for the Owen Metals Center Public Improvements. Ayes: Unanimous.
 - D. Moved by council member Cumberlandge seconded by council member Melonis to approve Change Order #5 for the Owen Metals Center Public Improvements. Ayes: Unanimous.
3. Council member Aldmeyer
- A. Moved by council member Aldmeyer seconded by council member Hawkins to override the Mayor's veto and approve a 2% pay increase for the City Clerk. Ayes: Unanimous.
 - B. Moved by council member Aldmeyer seconded by council member Hawkins to approve and place on file the Nov. 17, 2014 minutes. Ayes: Unanimous.

Comments

Council member Cumberlandge stated that he doesn't always agree with what was done in the past. On the Clerk's wages he believes she is entitled to what they are giving the other department heads and that is why he supported the resolution. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Council member Hawkins thanked everyone who supported the Angel Tree Christmas baskets and wished everyone happy holidays.

Council member Aldmeyer thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Council member Melonis assured everyone that she has offered her assistance to the Mayor to come up with a method to have more meetings like this one.

Council member Huey wished everyone Happy Holidays and reminded everyone to water their real trees to help avoid fires.

The Mayor stated that the meeting on Monday got a little out of hand. However the one thing he will never yield on is the freedom of the public to speak their mind.

Sharon Paterson stated that it seems very immature when council member walk out of a meeting because of differing points of view. She told the Attorney that since there was a quorum remaining at the last meeting the council should have continued with the meeting, however the Attorney stated that the meeting was over.

Kellie Aldmeyer read a statement stating that all of the employees play a vital role in the community. She believes there are expectations of all of the employees. Citizens also play a role in the community. Her opinion is that Mayor Waltrip has consistently failed when it comes to communication at City Hall and in the manner in which he allows the council meetings to become derailed. He is unable to require proper etiquette and it has become an embarrassment. She stated that running the meetings in the manner he has chosen has proven to be disastrous. The meetings are chaotic, spiteful and unproductive. She wants the City to be respected with respected officials, respected managers and employees and citizens. She requested that the Mayor and his advisors educate themselves on proper proceedings and ethical behaviors. Ms. Aldmeyer stated that there is a Robert's Rules of Order both online and in the Clerk's office. She asked that the citizens stand up and demand that control be kept and people should be more positive and more respectful.

John “Pat” Paterson stated he is amazed that people can come up and badmouth the Mayor and the council does not object. When his supporters come up and discuss a difference they have with city employees they are considered clowns, disrespectful, and ignorant and he finds that very offensive. He has never once said that someone with a different opinion than his, shouldn't express it. Everyone has a right to express their own opinion. He has never called anyone an idiot or uneducated or ignorant. Mr. Paterson firmly believes that the council is responsible for the problems we have, not the Mayor. He stated the four council, the clerk and the attorney have shown the Mayor no respect what so ever and he feels it is very unprofessional. He ask council member Melonis why she can express an opinion but he can't. Council member Melonis stated that she does not object to him expressing an opinion but she objects to the method and tone in which they are spoken. Mr. Paterson stated that when he came to his first council meeting several months ago he thought the council was rude. He thinks Jerry can be a jerk and has told him that and had pleaded with him to calm down. He stated that the four council members have done as much to cause the friction as the Mayor has. Mr. Paterson said he would be happy to talk with any of the council to talk about how they can get along better. He said the whole thing started when the City Clerk wrote the memo about the Mayor. He stated that is the crux of the latest problem and that if she worked for him he would fire her and the council did not go to the Mayor's defense. Mr. Paterson stated that until the council gives the Mayor some respect, he is going to have a great deal of difficulty showing the four incumbent council members any respect either.

The Mayor stated that he has come to admire John Paterson's intelligence and wisdom, but he is also a critic of the Mayor's. He listens to John when he tries to tell him how to react. The Mayor will never sacrifice anything that would cause the public their freedom and right to stand up and say what they think. If that has caused friction in the last year, there is three years left.

Kitty Buchanan keeps abreast of what is going on in the city by watching Channel 22. In the past ten years the City has gotten the respect they deserve. She does not want to lose that respect for the City. She applauds the city council for the work that they have done. She admires anyone who can adjourn a meeting when it is being uncivilized or unproductive.

Bill Dahlheimer came to the meeting because he was informed of what had happened at the last meeting. He had called the Mayor to ask why the meeting was not on Channel 22 and the Mayor told him he would get it on before noon. When it was not done, he called Lisa and was told the clerk would get it on before the end of the day. This morning it was still not on the television at 9:00 AM so he came to City Hall to talk with the Mayor to see why it was not on. Bill stated that he saw the clerk in the council chambers for approximately half an hour talking with two employees who should have been working at the Resource Center. Bill was embarrassed because he was prepared to come to the council to present a gold painted shovel that was used at the dedication of the meal site. He told council member Huey that he wished he would not sit on the fence, he would like to see a 3 to 2 vote once in a while. He stated that council members Aldmeyer, Hawkins and Melonis vote as a block. He feels that council member Cumberledge stands up. He hopes that the tape from this meeting will be on within 24 hours. He wants it shown on all of the cable stations.

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Bill stated he is thankful that there is a Sgt. of Arms at the meeting. He would like the clerk included at all department head meetings to avoid a lawsuit. Bill proceeded to accuse council member Aldmeyer of sexually harassing the clerk. Bill stated that the Mayor and the Clerk need to be more cooperative. Bill admonished the department heads for not providing monthly reports to the council. He has watched the council meetings for 12 months and he is tired of the stuff going on. He ordered the Mayor and Clerk to get along. He also volunteered to teach a workshop on bullying. He stated the clerk is a passive aggressive bully and the Mayor is an aggressive bully and so is the council sometime. Bill stated that a coach fires his team up and that is what he is trying to do. He instructed the council to look at the views in a more objective manner. Bill Dahlheimer submitted Lori Poldberg's name to be considered as citizen of the year.

The Mayor stated he didn't dump any fish on the parking lot.

Diane Perkins stated she is not proud of Carter Lake. She stated she feels the council talks down to the Mayor.

This special city council meeting was adjourned at 6:40 PM.

Doreen Mowery, City Clerk

Gerald Waltrip, Mayor