

TO BE PUBLISHED

Minutes for the Woodburn City Council Meeting on May 16th, 2022:

The meeting began at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance was Mayor Kelsey, Clerk-Treasurer Cummins, Superintendent Walls, Chief Parker as well as Councilmen Voirol, Martin, Gerig, and Watts. Councilman Thompson was not present.

Chief's Report: Nothing to report.

Superintendent's Report: The Superintendent will plant grass seed at several locations as weather allows, but currently it is too wet to proceed.

Mayor's Report: The bids came back for the Stellar Sidewalk/Trail project but due to the low bid being much higher than the engineer estimate, INDOT has thrown out that proposal. INDOT was to pay 80% of the construction cost with the remaining 20% to be paid by the City. A representative from INDOT has proposed that the City take another letting out October 13th in an effort to receive new bids. If, at that time, bids are still not acceptable, it was recommended that the City combine projects with another local agency to encourage a contractor to bid on both projects simultaneously. After discussion, Councilman Watts asked that, with the assistance of A & Z, language be put in the bid proposal that the project reflect options of 50%, 75%, and 100% of expected cost and then relet for October 13th. This would allow the City to scale down the project based on what bids are received. The Clerk-Treasurer will work with the Mayor and the representative from INDOT to determine what options are available. Earlier this evening, the Board of Works moved to accept the base bid with no alternates from Underground in the amount of \$530,100.00, contingent upon receipt of funds from Allen County, for the high school lift station upgrades project. The Mayor explained that the City needs to eliminate a tax that is paid to the state of Indiana for water sales, due to a change in state law. While discovering how best to approach this situation, the possibility of the City pursuing a rate study of the water utility was discussed. The Board of Works approved a proposal earlier this evening from Bakey Tilly to perform a rate study analysis, pending Council approval. After discussion, Councilman Watts moved to proceed as described, second by Councilman Voirol, all present in favor. The Mayor mentioned that due to inflation being as prevalent as it is, he wishes to incorporate cost-of-living adjustments to salaries. The Clerk-Treasurer asked that this consideration be incorporated into the 2023 calendar year budget discussion. The Mayor mentioned that a business owner on Main Street would like to see a tree removed out in front near the road. After discussion, it was determined that the Council would like to keep the trees as they are currently.

Clerk-Treasurer's Report: The meeting minutes were presented from the May 2nd meeting. After discussion, Councilman Thompson moved to accept the minutes from the May 2nd meeting as presented, second by Councilman Gerig, all present in favor, except for Councilman Watts, who abstains. The warrants were presented. After discussion, Councilman Voirol moved to pay the warrants as presented, second by Councilman Watts, all present in favor. Councilman Voirol moved to read Ordinance 22-1406 by title only, second by Councilman Gerig, all present in favor. Councilman Voirol moved to accept the second reading of Ordinance 22-1406, second by Councilman Martin, all present in favor. Councilman Voirol moved to adopt Ordinance 22-1406 as presented, second by Councilman Gerig, all present in favor. Ordinance 22-1406 is ratified as presented. The Clerk-Treasurer mentioned that the Woodlan Band Boosters have requested a sponsorship for the 2022-2023 season. After discussion, Councilman Gerig moved to make a \$100 sponsorship, second by Councilman Martin, all present in favor.

Councilmen's Report: Councilman Martin mentioned that there are several residents who are blowing grass into the street. The Clerk-Treasurer will put a notice in the local free distribution papers asking residents to not blow grass into the streets.

Audience: A resident wanted to see the Council's opinion on rezoning his property for a different purpose. Council provided input for the resident to consider as he takes next steps to formally rezone this site. A resident would like to see a more dramatic, intentional effort to take care of the midges out at Homestead Addition.

Councilman Watts moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Councilman Voirol, all present in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 8:41pm.

Go to www.cityofwoodburn.org to see previously approved minutes and recent community news.