

The Anita City Council met in regular session on July 9, 2008 at City Hall. Mayor Mitch Holmes presided and all council members were present. Also present were Gene Andrews, Aaron Holtz, Amber Holtz, Jake Karns, Sheri Karns, Corey Stephenson, Tammy Stephenson, Lynn Stephenson, Sherry Waddell, Dave Winther, Jim Mailander, Jeff Hacker and Eric Steffensen.

Mayor Holmes called the regular meeting to order. Motion by Firebaugh and seconded by Larsen to approve the previous minutes as presented. Motion by Hockenberry and seconded by Firebaugh to approve the clerk's treasurer's report as presented. Motion by Larsen and seconded by Stokley to approve the invoices as presented.

Russ Joyce with CADCO gave an update of recent projects the organization has been involved with in the Anita and surrounding areas. He also discussed programs available through the organization and invited the City of Anita to consider these services for potential development opportunities.

Corey Stephenson inquired as to how the City could help cure the water erosion coming from Cherry Street. The City's Street Department will install curb and gutter along Cherry Street next to the carwash. After the curb and gutter are installed additional discussion will continue regarding approximately 27' of property between the street and the building.

Aaron Holtz presented pictures of the property abutting Shooters Tavern to the East. Mr. Holtz plans to build a retaining wall behind Shooters Tavern; however, is concerned the extremely deteriorating building and bank next to his property will continue to erode and push the wall in. In addition, Mr. Holtz is concerned with the safety and health hazards involved with the brick falling as well as the building harboring rodents or vermin. Mr. Holtz requests the Council address the nuisance with the property owner in accordance with the City Code of Ordinances.

Motion was made by Hockenberry and seconded by Firebaugh to install "No Parking from Here to Corner" signs on the East side of Maple Street between blocks four and five and five and six as well as in the second, third, and fourth blocks of the East side of Locust Street. Ayes: all. In addition, the handicap sign in front of the Lutheran church will be relocated to comply with the "no parking" signs.

Motion by Firebaugh and seconded by Brenton to order reflective street signs needed to meet requirements of the D.O.T. Ayes: all.

Jeff Hacker expressed his concern with four walnut trees located in front of his property at 1106 Main Street. Mr. Hacker stated the walnuts that the trees drop are a nuisance and a hazard to people walking on the sidewalk. Mr. Hacker is also concerned when mowing his lawn the walnuts may be thrown into passing traffic. The trees are located on City property. The Council will observe the proposed nuisance and discuss at the next meeting.

A request was received from Eric Steffensen to allow animals in the pasture located on his property at 409 Pennsylvania Avenue. Mr. Steffensen recently purchased the property zoned as R-1. Mr. Mailander will review the "Grandfather Laws" in relation to property owner and property location.

Motion by Hockenberry and seconded by Larsen to approve the liquor license for Casey's General Store. Ayes: all.

Motion by Stokley and seconded by Brenton to go into closed session at 9:02 p.m. to review status of police officer position per request of applicant. Mayor Holmes re-opened the meeting at 9:20 p.m. Motion by Stokley and seconded by Larsen to re-open the application process to hire a full time police officer. Ayes: all. Motion by Larsen and seconded by Firebaugh to advertise for temporary, part-time law enforcement. Ayes: all.

Motion by Larsen and seconded by Firebaugh to go into closed session at 9:25 p.m. to discuss staff salary per request of employee. Mayor Holmes re-opened the meeting at 9:37 p.m. Pay raise in the amount of \$.25 per hour for David Winther was approved on motion by Hockenberry and seconded by Larsen. (\$15.00 an hour) Ayes: all. Pay raise in the amount of \$.25 per hour for Cecil Denney Jr. was approved on motion by Larsen and seconded by Hockenberry. (\$8.90 per hour) Ayes: all. Pay raise in the amount of \$.75 for Lindsay Jahde was approved on motion by Brenton and seconded by Larsen. (\$14.00 per hour) Ayes: all.

Other items reviewed were properties in town in violation of City Code and an update from the City Clerk advising Huffy's decision to non-renew their cigarette license at this time.

Adjournment

Mayor Mitch Holmes

Attest: Lindsay Jahde, City Clerk

