

The Anita City Council met in regular session on July 8, 2009, at 7:30 p.m., at City Hall. Mayor Holmes presided and all council members were present. Also present were Rose Watson, Duane Murphy, Barb Petersen, Ruth Tibben, Gene Andrews, Cale McClain, Joe Nelsen, Clint Fichter, and Mike Kennon.

Mayor Holmes called the regular meeting to order. Consent agenda was approved on motion by Karns and seconded by Hockenberry. Ayes: All.

Citizens presented concerns with dogs running loose. Chief McClain advised identifying who the dog belongs to is many times an issue, but indicated ordinances regarding licensing as well as dogs found running at large will be enforced and citations will be issued to habitual offenders. Chief McClain advised the new video camera will be installed by RACOM. Area thefts and burglaries have been reported and are being investigated by Chief McClain with assistance from Cass County.

Duane Murphy stated he would like to trade the City some black dirt for clay to be used for the mud bogs. The council stated Winther will be advised to contact Murphy to switch out the dirt.

Joe Nelsen advised a permit will need to be obtained from the DNR for the installation of a manhole and the connection of sewer line to more than one dwelling for the project proposed by Herb Waddell.

The city clerk requested input from the council and or community boards regarding grant monies available through I-Jobs. After discussion, it was determined the city clerk will call the agency contacts to get more information on qualifications. Projects discussed were sewer updates and safe route to school trail. A copy of the I-Jobs information will be given to Duane Murphy to review for the fire department and Merlin Scarf to review for the utilities.

Motion by Brenton and seconded by Stokely to approve the tax abatement presented on Larry Phillip's commercial building. Ayes: All. Motion carried.

The liquor license for BJ's Hometown Bar & Grill was approved on motion by Hockenberry and seconded by Karns. Ayes: All. Motion carried.

Motion by Firebaugh and seconded by Hockenberry to increase the sewer wages as presented by Anita Municipal Utilities for maintenance and repair of the City sewer. It was the consensus of the council to invite Cecil Denney Jr. to the next meeting to discuss job responsibilities and qualifications involved with sewer testing and certification.

Clint Fichter shared his experience and expertise as city manager in the City of Avoca.

He indicated his authority to make day to day decisions and research items to present to the council has made a big impact on the ability to get things accomplished. He commented on strategic planning and the importance of communication between staff, council, and citizens. Mr. Fichter offered to get together with the city clerk to review the budget and look at the cost effectiveness of a city manager position.

Committee members will get together with city staff to conduct employee evaluations prior to the August council meeting. Employee reviews and wage increases, if any, will be discussed and determined at the August meeting.

Additional discussion included a request from members of the Friends of the Lake committee to use old City decorations for the Christmas in July held at the state park on July 18th. It was the consensus of the council to let the park use the decorations. Stokely advised he went to a meeting held by the county regarding flood plain maps. He advised new City flood plain maps will be available soon.

Motion by Hockenberry and seconded by Brenton to adjourn.

Mayor, Mitch Holmes

Attest:

Lindsay Jahde, City Clerk