

CITY OF BRODHEAD COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
Tuesday, August 20, 2019

Present: Mayor Pinnow, Aldermen Nyman, Bruce, Fox, Menzel and Huffman. City Clerk Withee and City Attorney Faust.

Mayor Pinnow called meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Roll call shows all Aldermen present except Anderson.

Minutes: Motion by Fox to approve minutes from August 12, 2019 as presented. Second by Bruce. Five ayes. Motion carried.

Library Board: Director Noel presented the July numbers – 4,457 Visits, 5,397 items out. 231 items added. Program attendees; Children’s programs – 374, Young Adult programs – 7, other programs – 131. The next Library Board meeting will be Monday, September 16, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

Pearl Island: no report

Water & Light: no report

Personnel: no report

Finance Committee: Huffman made a motion to approve the following checks: BID CK 1480 to 1481 - \$409.27, Sewer Fund CK 8213 to 8232 - \$87,731.75 General CK 78274 to 78403 - \$302,109.48. Second by Menzel. Roll Call 5 ayes. 0 nays. Motion carried.

Motion by Huffman to approve the July 2019 treasurer’s report as presented. Second by Menzel. Five ayes. Motion carried.

Fire District: Fox stated they received an estimate from Baker Tilly for a Financial Analysis. Huffman stated that this was discussed at length today at the finance meeting. Mike Olson was asked to speak on behalf of the finance committee. He stated that seeing the estimate raised some concerns as to why a full audit was not being done. Fox stated that getting a full audit done back that far would be extremely difficult and an analysis will give them the same answers. Aaron Withee stated that all of the information is not available from the Fire District to complete an audit. Olson said that this information should be readily available by the treasurer. Olson read from the estimate the section that stated “we will not audit, review or examine the information” it also states that they are not required to or verify information given to them. “Accordingly, false representations could cause material errors to go undetected”. Olson stated he is also concerned that it does not say “will not exceed”. Olson said he understands that something needs to be done and had not realized that an audit of the fire district had never been done. Every fire district board member should want an audit because they are responsible for public funding. Pinnow stated that we are trying get something done so we have the right figures and the city should not pay this entire amount. Huffman stated finance committee members were concerned about the price and at least two other bids should be obtained. Fox stated that this has taken the last two years and bids were put out for audits and the district has been denied from 6-8 firms because no one wants to touch this. Huffman said that should be a concern to everyone. Olson stated that they qualify in the estimate that they will only analyze the numbers they are given. Pinnow stated that a 3rd party can come in and analyze from both the city side and the rural side. Olson said that at the very least they need to add a “not to exceed”. Fox stated that Attorney Schroeder has reviewed and has a change to the mediation section as well. Aaron Withee stated that when the city ran fire department the books were audited annually with the city and there has been controversy since the district started if it is saving the city money or not. Fox said that an analysis could provide future projected costs to see if it is feasible to move forward with the district. Olson stated that would be the best benefit to come out of the analysis. Huffman stated that the district should try to obtain

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other bids for an analysis. Fox stated that she didn't feel based on the denials they received that they would be able to obtain other bids. Olson asked if this could be a basis for the district to now be audited on an annual basis. Fox said that there should be a stipulation in the contract that the district obtain an annual audit. Fox said this bid has not been discussed at a district meeting and she would like to see the fire district pay for the first 10-15 thousand and the council could pay for the remaining amount. Menzel said should table for more bids. Bruce asked what the timeframe was to have bids returned. Fox said that many of the bids were rejected and it has taken almost a 1 ½ years already. Typically it took 6 weeks to 6 months to return information. Bruce thinks that changing bid request from audit to analysis would make a difference. Fox said a lot of firms are reluctant to take this on because it requires going back several years and would be tedious and time consuming. Olson said that he doesn't know that changing the word from audit to analysis would change much with RFP's. Fox said that they have specialists from Indiana that would work on this as well. Bruce stated that we need to know what the split will be. Clerk Withee stated that currently the city pays approximately 50% of the district levy so a 50/50 split would make sense. Bruce said this should not happen again. Fox stated that the district should pay for the first 10-15 thousand and the city could pick up the rest. Should have been an audit every year and that is on them. Fox stated District stated in a previous meeting that they would have an audit done but realizing the cost has held them back. Nyman stated they should request more bids and table this discussion until the 1st meeting in September. Bruce said that we could address this after the next district meeting. Fox said they most likely couldn't obtain more bids by that time. Bruce stated that council could get feedback from Fox after the next district meeting.

Motion by Fox to advise the fire district to accept the offer from Baker Tilly with changes proposed with the district to pay the first \$15,000 and the city would pay the remaining part of the bill not to exceed a total of \$30,000 the changes to the proposal would be the mediation provision language corrected and not to exceed Included. Second by Bruce. Five ayes. Motion carried.

Mayor Report: Community center discussion, Pinnow stated that no former committee members are interested in serving on a future committee. Menzel and Bruce feel this discussion should be after the next election cycle. Motion by Bruce to table the community center discussion indefinitely. Second by Huffman. Discussion by council. Bruce amended motion until after the first of the year. Huffman approves the amendment. Five ayes. Motion carried.

Future Agendas: fire district analysis, personnel, and agenda revisions. Youth in government orientation will be held on Friday there is one new student and three are returning.

Mayor Pinnow stated that he received a letter of resignation from Clerk Withee on August 19th. Motion by Huffman to accept the resignation of Clerk Treasurer Withee effective September 13, 2019. Second by Menzel. Five ayes. Motion carried.

Special personnel meeting and a special council meeting to be held next week. Fox stated that personnel should meet with finance and it may be time to consider a city administrator. Pinnow stated we are under a strict timeline and budget is coming up.

Attorney Report: no report

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Fox. Second by Nyman. Five ayes. Adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Douglas A. Pinnow, Mayor Approved this 9th day of September 2019.
Teresa Withee, City Clerk