

The Cresco City Council met December 21, 2015, at 7:00 pm at City Hall. Council Members Carman, Bouska, McGee, McCarville and Loveless were present. No council members were absent.

Carman made the motion to approve the consent agenda which included approval of the agenda; claims; minutes of the December 7th and 16th meetings; Excavator's Licenses for Skyline Construction Inc, Mracek Plumbing, Heating & Electric LLC and Mehmert Tiling Inc; Tree Surgeon's Licenses for Tarzan Tree Service LLC and Walton Tree Service. McCarville seconded and it passed all ayes.

Public Works Director Rod Freidhof reported (a) been out rocking streets and alleys and have cut some trees down; (b) Drew is working on some water reports; (c) Michelle, Amy and I met with Russell Novak and John Nielson from Perry Novak Electric to discuss the solar project. We reevaluated the sites and made some minor adjustments. We both have some homework to do and hopefully will have something to report at a council meeting in January.

City Clerk Girolamo reported (a) busy with budget preparation; (b) working on 1099 forms; (c) Mediacom sent a certified letter notifying the City of a rate increase of \$2.59 from \$5.26 to \$7.85 for the Local Broadcast Channel Surcharge and a \$.13 increase for the Regional Sports Surcharge.

Bouska reported the Library Board is requesting \$2,000 increase from the Howard County Supervisors for next year's budget. The Library is planning some fun events for children in the upcoming months.

Bouska reported on the Housing Task Force meeting. The Lease Purchase Program has not been funded so that is on hold. However, the Northeast Iowa Regional Housing Trust Fund is still accepting applications. The Port-Outs are holding steady. These are people that come here to qualify for Federal benefits because our waiting list is much shorter than big cities like Chicago. After they qualify, then they move back to the big city and we continue to pay for their housing until they qualify there. This is all Federal money funding this program.

Bouska reported the City Energy Action Team had its final meeting as the grant has now expired. The members felt it was helpful so they are going to continue meeting quarterly to share information. After the banquet a few weeks ago, the Legislature is considering expanding the program because the participating cities were able to implement many cost saving projects as a result of the grant program.

Mayor Bohle opened bids for stump grinding for 2016. Four requests were mailed out and two bids were received. Wilson Custom Tree Service bid \$.98 per inch and Walton Tree Service bid \$.87 per inch. Loveless made the motion to accept the low bid from Walton Tree Service. Bouska seconded and it passed all ayes.

Hotel/Motel Tax received this quarter was \$6,671.14. One request for a tourism grant of \$1,000 was received. Carman made the motion to approve the Cresco Tourism Advisory Committee's recommendation to grant \$750 to the Driftrunners for the Charlie's Chili Feed/Dave Carmichael Memorial Ride. Loveless seconded and it passed all ayes.

Mayor asked if there were any comments from the audience. Jason Passmore elaborated on the Port-Outs that is administered by the Housing Authority Board through Upper Explorerland. Jason was appointed by the Council to represent Cresco on that Board and now he is the chairman. This is through the Section VIII Housing and allows people to move here and qualify. They must live here for a year and then they often return to the City and we fund their housing at the higher rates until they qualify in that City. This ties up our local monies as the housing expenses are much higher in the bigger cities. There are about 17 of these Port-Outs but there are about 400 units being served by this program.

The Housing Committee was hoping to work with Northeast Iowa Community Action but it did not get funded for building lease-out properties. The NEIRHT did get funding of \$228,000 from the State of Iowa and also receives \$5,000 from the City of Cresco and \$10,000 from Howard County and \$2,000 from another community. This is reinvesting in our tax base by helping low-to-moderate income families make improvements to their homes. Most of the projects are used on roof repairs. In the past five years, Howard County in total has invested \$75,000 and projects completed in Howard County total \$416,000. Due to the City's contributions, many of these projects are done in Cresco. The Housing Study shows that we need more decent rental properties and senior living properties such as condos.

They are looking at different grant opportunities. We will be applying for some grants especially for the 150th Celebration for next year. They helped in getting about \$14,000 in grants over the past year and will help in applying for grants this year. They had about 25 potential entrepreneurs or new businesses visiting their office for assistance this past year. They can help with business plans and can help with funding options. This last year they loaned out \$204,000 in revolving loan funds providing 11 new jobs and 15 jobs retained. This includes the Chamber revitalization fund which has almost \$700,000 loaned out currently. There is still about \$500,000 available to be loaned out from all the RLF accounts which are usually loaned out for about 4% interest. Two new businesses that just opened were Studio 9 and Outdoors and More. The Wrestling Hall of Fame is working on a grant application to install lights on the mural. He has been working with a potential new business for the old ALCO building which they hope to finalize paperwork in January.

Mayor Bohle and the Council thanked John Loveless for his 27 years of service on the City Council. Loveless reported it had been really good and he enjoyed working with all the different people during that time.

Carman moved to adjourn at 7:19 pm. McGee seconded and it passed all ayes. The next regular Cresco City Council meeting will be January 4, 2016 at 7:00 pm at Cresco City Hall.

Mayor Mark Bohle

City Clerk Michelle Girolamo

Following is a list of claims approved for payment:

21st CENT FOX	Movie rent	444.79
ADVANCED SYS	Maint	88.42
ALLIANT	Elect	545.98
ANDERLIK, KEITH	Park Bd	500.00
BAKER&TAYLOR	Lib bks,audio	815.58
BARTLETT ELECT	Rprs	840.16
BECKER, RYAN	Srvc	150.00
BILLMYER FURN	Supp	25.00
BC/BS	Insur	32,147.25
BLYTHE, JEFF	Park Bd	550.00
BROWN SUPP	Rprs	4,638.44
BUSS, CARMEN	Reimb	71.64
CARDMEMBER SERVICE	Supp	194.55
CITY OF CRESCO	Insur, util	2,755.51
CITY OF CRESCO	Equip replc	1,000.00
CPU	Supp	19.98
COURTNEY SRVCS	Srvc	90.00
CREATIVE PROD	Supp	217.58
CRESCO CHAMBER	Tourism grant	500.00
CIA	Srvc	1,278.00
CRESCO SHOPPER	Move ads	507.20
CRESCO TPD	Advert	95.63
CRESCO VET	K9 Supp	96.53
DATA TECH	Supp	166.25
DELUXE ECHOSTAR	Srvc	319.60
FAREWAY	Supp	40.31
FENCO	Supp	117.07
GALLS	Equip replc	562.16
H&S MOTORS	Supp	62.67
HACH	Supp	45.56
HAWKEYE REC	Elect	5,423.89
HAWKEYE SAN	Grbg/Rcyl	48,530.47
HOLSTROM JEWELERS	Supp	60.00
HYDRITE	Supp	3,928.10
IA ONE CALL	Srvc	28.80
KUBIK	Rprs	345.68
MEDIACOM	Phone	205.34
MEYER, CHARLIE	150thBandDep	600.00
MUNICIPAL PIPE	Equip	635.21
O'BRIEN, HOLLY	Park Bd	50.00
PAYROLL		66,059.93
PEPSI-COLA	Concessions	415.35
PETTY CASH	Supp	6.04
POSTMASTER	150thStamps	173.00
PUSH PEDAL PULL	Srvc	360.60
RILEY'S	Supp	72.46
ROGNE, MARSHALL	Park Bd	550.00
SKYLINE CONST	Pay#6GrangerRd	136,802.60
SONY	Movie rent	717.40
SPORTSMITH	Supp	193.71
STOREY KEN	supp	160.06
TECH	Trng	1,500.00
TREAS, ST OF IA	Sales tax	5,930.00
TUCHEK, MICHELE	Park Bd	600.00
TUPY, BARBARA	Park Bd	400.00
UNITYPOINT	Srvc	37.00
USA BLUE BOOK	Equip	787.59

WALTON, TIM	Srvc	1,452.48
WARNER BROS	Movie rent	147.75
WEBER PAPER	Supp	226.20
WHKS	EngrSrvc	226.56
WILLIAMSON, MITCH	Reimb	15.93
WILSON, MIKE	MovieSrvcFee	450.00
	GENERAL	116,081.18
	HOTEL/MOTEL	500.00
	NUISANCE HSE	175.00
	MEDIACOM	779.28
	DRUG DOG	96.53
	CRESCO COMM FIRE	5,514.44
	ROAD USE	12,025.25
	EMPLOYEE BEN	8,800.41
	FC TRUST	60.00
	STREET ASSESS	136,911.23
	150TH CELEBRAT	698.00
	WATER	21,017.10
	SEWER	21,153.75
	SEWER SINKING	1,500.00
	CAP IMPROVE	226.56
	YARDWASTE	439.28
	EXPENDITURES	325,978.01
	Revenues 12/08 to 12/21/15	343,579.26