

The Cresco City Council met September 20, 2010, at 7:00 pm at City Hall. Council members Blake, Bouska, Loveless, and Moore were present with McCarville arriving at 7:04. No Council members were absent.

It was moved by Blake to approve the consent agenda, which included approval of: the agenda; claims; the minutes of the September 9, 2010, City Council meeting; a resolution in support of the city's local comprehensive planning grant application; a Class C (BC) Beer Permit with carryout native wine and Sunday sales to Casey's Marketing Company d/b/a Casey's General Stores #2511; a Class C (BC) Beer Permit for a change of ownership for Casey's Marketing Company d/b/a Casey's General Stores #2511; and a Class C Beer Permit (BC) with carryout wine and Sunday sales to SHIV 2 INC. d/b/a Cresco Mart. The motion was seconded by Loveless and passed all ayes.

Public Works Director Denny Cauwels reported on: (a) the southside sewer odor: The odologgers are in for routine maintenance, so there is nothing new to report; (b) nuisance houses: The problem house at 214 2<sup>ND</sup> St SW has been taken down, but since City Attorney Braun is out of town, no information is available on the status of the other nuisance houses. When asked by Council Member Bouska about the pile of 55-gallon drums behind the house that was taken down, he said that he would look into it; (c) the sewer project near the Granger Road: The construction between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Streets West is complete, with only some cleanup left, while construction in Pine Place started today. Director Cauwels also asked for the Council's agreement to put a loader bucket and the red Water Department pickup out for bid, since the loader bucket does not fit any current equipment and the new pickup is here. The Council agreed.

Police Chief Mark Kissinger reported that: (a) most of the work at the dog pound has been completed, although some finish work and concrete sealing still remains; and (b) the heater will be installed in the new police building this month.

City Administrator John Lloyd reported on: (a) the nuisance house at 309 7<sup>th</sup> St W: Abatement of current nuisances at this address is expected to be finished by September 27th and a permit to erect a tin fence was denied; (b) Highway 9 re-striping: The Iowa DOT sent a letter saying that eleven crashes have occurred in the re-striped area in the year since the work was completed compared to an average of seventeen per year before the re-striping; (c) sinkhole by the County Shop: The NEI RC&D reported that the results of the dye testing are not yet back; (d) leaking water well: The DNR has indicated that they will get back to us; and (e) DNR tree survey: The city received a letter from Richard Kittelson of the DNR reporting on the recently completed survey of the city's trees. Of the 2,929 public trees on the boulevards, 590 are white or green ash.

Deputy Clerk Michelle Girolamo reported on the current status of the city's budget as follows: (a) fund balances: There are no unusual fund balances other than the emergency fund, which currently has a negative balance only because the fall property tax amounts have not yet been received; (b) certificate of deposit: A CD matured but was put into the city's money market account because CD interest rates are so low; (c) expenses: City expenses are at or below expected levels.

Mayor Bohle opened a public hearing on a proposed amendment to the city's fiscal year 2010/2011 budget. There were no comments, and Mayor Bohle closed the public hearing. Deputy Clerk Girolamo stated that the amendment was necessary because of increased revenues due to (1) increases in water, sewer and recycling rates, (2) sale of the street sweeper, (3) donations for Fitness Center, and (4) transfers for interfund loans. In addition, there were increased expenses due to (1) interfund loans, (2) projects not completed last year and therefore paid for this year, such as the 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue project, street shop, and water controls, (3) unexpected repairs to the Fitness Center boiler and pool compressor, (4) replacing the camera in a police car, (5) payment of the city's share of the architect's fee for the Law Enforcement Center, (6) Fitness Center equipment not originally budgeted, and (7) increase and reallocation of personnel expenses for Public Works. Blake moved approval of the proposed budget amendment; the motion was seconded by Loveless and passed all ayes.

Jason Passmore, Executive Director of Howard County Business and Tourism returned as a followup to his presentation at the City Council meeting of September 9, 2010, regarding possible city funding for the Northeast Iowa Regional Housing Trust Fund. Blake moved that the city donate \$1000 to the Fund; the motion was seconded by Bouska and passed all ayes.

Norm Helmke attended the Council meeting to discuss airport zoning changes necessary to comply with current state and federal regulations. Existing structures are not affected by the changes, and it is not necessary to make the changes immediately. The changes were considered to be a matter for the Planning and Zoning Commission during the upcoming comprehensive planning process. No action was taken.

At the request of Council Member Bouska, parts of a May, 2009, report by WHKS & Company, the city's engineering firm, regarding the city wastewater treatment plant were presented to the Council by Administrator Lloyd. WHKS prepared a plant maintenance plan including high priority items and other improvements. Assistant Public Works Director Rod Freidhof worked with Sewer Superintendent Ron Hyberger to make a list of priorities. Freidhof commented on the high priority items as follows:

1. Digester building replacement (\$140,000 in 2009 dollars, excluding engineering, administrative, and contingency costs): The building has areas of significant corrosion but parts could be sandblasted and repainted, which should help to extend its life.
2. Aeration blowers (replace three at a total cost of \$90,000):
3. Digester blowers (replace two at a total cost of \$70,000)
4. Digester diffuser (\$70,000): The heads are OK but parts are no longer available so replacement will be necessary sometime.
5. New screening bypass (\$20,000): This part is currently not working, which means that personnel need to get into the pits to do cleaning. This would be his #2 project.
6. Flow chart recorder replacement (\$2,000): This is not working and should be replaced as soon as possible. This would be his #1 project.
7. Clarifier equipment (replace three at a total cost of \$420,000): It should be possible to just replace the weirs and baffles and sandblast other parts; however, the arm transmission (which costs approximately \$170,000) is beyond its expected life. This would be his #3 project.

APWD Freidhof commented on the other improvements as follows:

1. Clarifier covers (\$320,000): These are not necessary since steps have been taken to resolve problems caused by lack of covers in other ways.
2. Non-potable water field hydrants (replace ten at a total cost of \$10,000): No comment.
3. SCADA and electrical systems (\$55,000): Two more alarms were installed last week.
4. Control building and garage roofs (replace garage roof at a cost of \$10,000): The control building roof has already been replaced but the garage roof is leaking.
5. Sludge transfer pumps (replace two at a total cost of \$40,000): This has been completed.
6. Scum pit insulation (\$3,000): Freezing does cause a problem but the department prefers to try using straw bales as an insulator before using more expensive alternatives.
7. UV building (\$20,000): This would be nice some day since it is not possible to do any winter maintenance now, but it is not necessary immediately.
8. Fill in chlorine tank cell (\$7,000): This is not being used but rain builds up in it and it should be filled in, but it would be a job to get sand into it.
9. Aeration mixing (\$50,000): The department intends to drain the aerators this winter and replace the diffuser heads. The Council asked Mr. Freidhof how much this was expected to cost and he said he would provide that information as soon as possible.
10. Digester floor sloping (\$60,000): This is not necessary.

The WHKS report also provided information on the costs of installing an “industry reserve” that would allow increased organic loading (\$540,000) and Council asked some questions about this. No action was taken on the WHKS report other than to note that this information, along with APWD Freidhof’s comments should be considered during the upcoming strategic planning process.

Mayor Bohle reported that there had been a meeting at the Street Shop on Wednesday regarding the insulation problems. The contractor has a plan to repair the problems, and we have to allow the planned repairs to go forward in order to see if they work. However, the city intends to notify the performance bond insurer that there are issues and there may be a claim.

On behalf of the Personnel Committee, Council Member Bouska recommended that the Council approve the performance review forms prepared by the committee for use during performance reviews of non-supervisory personnel. She noted that the department heads and City Administrator had reviewed the proposed forms and their comments had been incorporated. Forms for the review of supervisory personnel will be prepared. Some changes to the Employee Handbook will be necessary in order to provide procedures for the use of the forms. It was moved by Loveless to accept the forms for use in the performance reviews of city non-supervisory personnel; the motion was seconded by McCarville and passed all ayes.

Public comments were made by Jason Passmore to thank the City and City employees for working with volunteers from Black Hills Energy to work on various community projects around the City. He thanked them for use of tools, equipment and personnel. It was a very productive day and all of the help was appreciated.

It was moved by Moore to adjourn at 7:45 pm. The motion was seconded by Loveless and passed all ayes. The next Cresco City Council meeting will be October 4, 2010, at 7:00 pm at Cresco City Hall.

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Mayor Mark Bohle

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Deputy Clerk Michelle Girolamo