

The Cresco City Council met January 16, 2012, at 7:00 pm at City Hall. Council members Carman, Bouska, McGee, McCarville and Loveless were present. No council members were absent.

Bouska moved to approve the consent agenda which included approval of the: agenda; claims; minutes of the 1/4/12 City Council meeting; minutes of the 1/6/12 budget work session; pay request #1 for \$8,624 for Skoda Home Improvement for housing rehab; pay request #2 (final) for \$10,816.01 for S&B Construction and change orders, final acceptance and anti-kickback statement for housing rehab project; special class C liquor license (BW) (beer/wine) with Sunday sales to Mad Cam Inc dba Mages Pizza; application for tax abatement under the Urban Revitalization plan for Drew & Lindsay Zahasky. McGee seconded and it passed all ayes.

Public Works Director Rod Freidhof reported: (a) the lot has been surveyed for the Alliance building with 25 feet on the north side included with the building so the sale should be closed soon; (b) emergency response meeting was held with all department heads to produce a vendor list which will be updated at least annually; (c) planning and zoning public hearing was attended by 55 people with minor changes to the proposal and the public was appreciative of the letters mailed out for notification; (d) Black Hills Energy sent a letter pledging a \$750 grant for trees again this year; (e) water has a 92% accountability which is great considering anything over 85% is considered good. The mayor stated that Kevin Chesmore has returned to Cresco from active duty in Afghanistan and will return to work for the Street Department soon.

Police Chief Tim Ruroden reported that he was a guest speaker at Kiwanis last week and had good interaction with people. He also attended the Fire Department meeting and observed some training and met with the firefighters. He is assembling repair costs for the police vehicles.

City Clerk Michelle Girolamo presented financial statements. Cash balances are still strong and all departments are still on budget halfway through the year. Fire department may have a few more repair expenses than anticipated but still looks to be on budget. She is busy working on the budget for next year.

Dennis Muyskens from Hogan Hansen presented the 2010/2011 Audit Report. An unqualified opinion has been issued which is the best opinion they can give. No material misstatements were noted. Accounting staff has done a good job and there were no adjustments to the year end numbers. No current year instances of noncompliance noted nor any internal control deficiencies were noted. Revenues were about the same as last year except for a million dollar loan received and disbursements were higher mainly due to street projects. GASB 54 required changing some classifications of fund balances to include some trust funds as general fund balances. Reserve funds appear to be healthy but not excessive. Debt is well below the legal limit and interest rates are low. Tax increment financing fund balance was high so that has been corrected with the TIF certification done by staff in December. After applying audit procedures, there are no suggestions for changes to the accounting system.

Bouska moved to award Hotel/Motel Tax tourism grants as recommended by the Tourism Advisory Committee as follows: (a) Driftrunners \$1,500 for a new groomer; (b) Historical Society \$2,500 for restoration of historical player piano; (c) Cresco Theatre Commission \$3,000 for Avenue 2 productions. Loveless seconded and it passed all ayes.

Irv Holub requested Council to waive the nonresident connection to hook up water for his nursery that is outside the City limits. The City had been in the process of passing the Ordinance implementing the connection fee at the time the application was received and the application had been denied unless the connection fee was paid. There were no public comments received during the public hearing nor the three council meetings and readings of the ordinance and it became effective in December. Also, due to the fact that his house is already connected to the City's water and he has access through his existing service line, consensus of Council was that his request for the waiver of the connection fee be denied.

Maria Larsen requested the City to consider getting pedestrian signs in the crosswalks to warn drivers to stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk. Police Chief Ruroden will work with the Retail Committee to explore options.

Freidhof updated Council on the status of the First Avenue project. There is a discrepancy between the contractor and the engineer on the amount of rock used. WHKS has presented Skyline with a proposal to try to get it settled so that proceedings on the assessments can be done in a timely manner.

McCarville made the motion to appoint Barbie Tupy to the Park Board per the recommendation of the Park Board for a term ending December 31, 2013. Loveless seconded and it passed all ayes.

Loveless made the motion to grant a refund of sewer charges to Willow Court Rentals for a water leak that did not enter the sanitary sewer. Bouska seconded and it passed all ayes.

Ruroden explained the NIXLE program which is similar to the red code program. However, this NIXLE program is free for government agencies. This is an alert system that will send out mass messages via email or texts. Advertising will be done to encourage residents to register their cell phone numbers or email addresses.

Bouska made the motion to contract with WHKS for \$5,000 to do a study to analyze options for different water storage options and status of the old waterworks building. McCarville seconded and it passed all ayes.

Bouska made the motion to authorize WHKS to proceed on a project to loop two deadend water mains. Loveless seconded and it passed all ayes.

Mayor Bohle read a resolution proclaiming February 7 – 14 as Congenital Heart Defect Awareness week. McGee moved to approve the resolution. Carman seconded and it passed all ayes.

Mayor asked if there were any comments from the audience. Matt Miner thanked the Council for the tourism grants for the Driftrunner's new maps and for the new groomer. They are hoping for snow for Snowfest next week. Jason Passmore invited the public to a "Meet & Greet" on 1/19/12. Revolving loan fund programs are being adjusted so they are all consistent in increasing the caps. Council will vote on the recommendation at the next meeting. The Northeast Iowa Regional Housing Trust Fund is requesting a \$5,000 match from the City for the housing trust fund for next year. Currently the City has contributed \$6,000 and Cresco has received \$62,522.49 of direct benefits. Alliant Energy donated \$2,500 to the Theatre projector. Training sessions for customer service will be held February 22, 2012 from 10-12 or from 2-4 with a cost of \$25 for the two hour session. The new Chamber president is Brian Midthus.

Freidhof discussed 1.13 acres of land owned by the City called Steamboat Rock that is currently being used and maintained by the Boy Scouts. This was donated to the City probably in the early 1990's. This has been added to our insurance policy. There have been several people looking at the Tuchek house so hopefully we will have some bidders on February 6th.

McGee moved to adjourn at 8:18 pm. Carman seconded and it passed all ayes. The next regular Cresco City Council meeting will be February 6, 2012, at 7:00 pm at Cresco City Hall.

Mayor Mark Bohle

City Clerk Michelle Girolamo

Following is a list of claims approved for payment:

Advanced Systems	maintenance	56.20
Baker & Taylor	books	662.19
Bob's Electric	supplies	2,912.61
Bruening Recycling	service	40.00
Bruening Rock Products	rock	608.13
C & S Woodworks	services	3,535.00
Caffrey, Mike	fee	75.00
Cardmember Services	supplies	157.59
Carquest	repairs	1,161.28
City of Cresco	utililites	80.14
Creamer, Samantha	refunds	59.44
Cresco Chamber	tourism	1,402.00
Cresco Heating	service	62.50
Cresco Shopper	advertising	62.50
Driftrunners	tourism	1,000.00
Evans Printing	advertising	16.89
Fareway	supplies	27.89
Fenco Products	repairs	1,513.68
H & S Motors	repairs	65.27
Hanson Tire	supplies	154.64
Hawkeye REC	electricity	5,106.96
Hawkeye Sanitation	services	98.61
IA League of Cities	fee	25.00
Iowa Pottery	books	9.00
John Deere Financial	supplies	407.79
Kerian, Wayne	repairs	95.10
Kraft, Dan & Kim	refunds	74.18
Louie Balk Ready Mix	service	5,505.96
Marco	service	946.05
McMaster-CARR	supplies	44.62
Merchant Srvcs	fees	95.74
MVTL	analysis	124.80
Northeast IA Srvc	repairs	30.49
OMB	supplies	619.00
Payroll		82,034.55
Petty Cash	postage	13.26
Post Office	postage	75.00
Postmaster	fee	190.00
Rileys	service	162.67
Rupert's Inc	supplies	311.16
S & B Construction	rehab housing	10,816.01
Skoda Home Imprv	rehab housing	8,624.00
Spahn & Rose	supplies	38.28
State Hygienic Lab	water analysis	274.00
Storey Kenworthy	supplies	435.99
Theatre Project	tourism	418.00
Times Plain Dealer	advertising	670.23
Tupy Construction	service	1,050.00
U.S. Cellular	phone	333.11
U.S. Postmaster	postage	519.40
ULINE	supplies	84.92
Weber Paper Co.	supplies	128.89
Westcott, Emory	mileage	40.25
Winkie, David	uniform	138.99

General Fund	64,236.61
Road Use Tax	9,620.44
Employee Benefits	8,227.82
Local Option Tax	597.12
Cresco Telecom	249.60
Rehab/Housing	19,440.01
Library Trust	4,623.28
Street Project 2007	1,852.24
Smart Planning	16.89
Water Utility Fund	9,041.10
Water Deposits	160.00
MSSU Operations	14,941.57
Capital Improvement	94.14
Yard Waste Fund	94.14
GRAND TOTAL OF FUNDS	\$133,194.96
Revenue Total from 01/05/12 thru 01/16/12	\$121,930.77