

City of Dover Meeting Minutes December 2020

December 3, 2020

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Dover City Council was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Roger Ihrke in the City Hall Gym and by electronic zoom meeting as posted.

Present were Mayor Roger Ihrke, Council Members Dave Iseminger (zoom), Jaime Putzier, Cameron Johnson (zoom), Kevin Connor, City Clerk/Treasurer Gary Pedersen, Water Superintendent Marvin Ihrke (zoom) and City Engineer Mark Welch (zoom); absent- none. Others in attendance: Jill Veerkamp-St. Charles Press (zoom), Council Elect Chelsie Kiekbusch (zoom), Joan Flury and Rhiannon Flury.

The January meeting is scheduled for Thursday January 7th.

-In all motions, the voting was conducted on individual basis due to zoom attendees-

Motion by member Putzier and seconded by member Connor to approve the agenda as presented, motion carried.

Guests: No comments were brought forward at this time.

Mayor Ihrke opened the "truth in taxation" public hearing for input in the proposed property tax levy for 2021.

Joan Flury asked why the proposed 15% increase in the general levy was needed. Rhiannon Flury added that the county and school taxes decreased for her tax proposal with the city increasing about \$100 and tied the question of increase levy with the covid concerns and residents who may have had their income adjusted because of the pandemic.

Various council members stated reasons for increased levy: the city is catching up on some expenses like budgeting for the Clerks salary instead of using reserves like in the first two years, refinanced bonds to save money on interest but resulted in higher payments early on, street reconstruction is badly needed and to get that done an increase is necessary (five street area locations are currently under study about reconstruction and repair).

Rhiannon Flury then stated that she would like more information to be put out on the website concerning the finances so residents can understand more about the spending of the city funds.

With no other public input being offered the public hearing part of the levy decision was closed.

Mayor Ihrke then explained that the last three-year cycle for tax levies have gone from 17% in 2018, 3% in 2019, 5% in 2020 and now proposed at 15% for 2021 and again tied the increase to the shape of the streets in Dover and its need to improve them.

Motion by member Johnson and seconded by member Connor to approve the proposed property levy for 2021 as was approved in September as the budgeted amounts which amounts to about a 15% increase in the general fund levy, the motion carried with each member voting in favor of the motion.

Levy amounts as follows: General Fund \$ 273,426; 2018A Bond \$ 75,000; 2014A Bond \$ 23,000; 2008A special assessments \$ 3,920.38 for total amount of \$ 375,346.38.

Motion by member Johnson and seconded by member Putzier to approve last month's meeting minutes as presented, motion carried.

Motion by member Putzier and seconded by member Johnson to approve and pay the bills as included in the financial report by the Clerk, the motion carried.

Guests, Joan and Rhiannon Flury brought up items for discussion: 1. concerning the food trucks that park on main street and where the sales tax would go, 2. Deputies sitting around the city with their lights off after dark, and 3. Joan questioned the lot the city owns next to their property and said at one time they had "first right" to purchase from the school district and wondered if that carried over to the city's ownership? Sales tax goes to state does not stay local, deputies have been asked to monitor county road 142 on west end of the city for speeding and if they had an agreement with the school district, they need to bring the agreement in and we would have our city attorney review it.

Clerk Report Items and updates for the past month.

- HVAC system- up and running
- Liquor license update- applications have been sent to the state
- GFL Environmental bought out Advanced Disposal

Old Business:

Generator Grant update- the money is now available and after we have a signed contract the city can go ahead with the project.

Fitness center/ community center remains closed at least until the Governors' order comes to an end. The council will have on the agenda for consideration again in January.

Street projects- surveying has been under way this past week, the Mayor asked to include two other issues with the project as quotes- the water run off from City Hall and to get it into the stormwater system; a culvert is plugged, needs to be replaced and the ditch re-formed at the corner of Sheek Street N and Elm Street W near the rail road tracks.

City Engineer Mark Welch added that he can incorporate the water run off from city hall in the plan and is putting together data from the surveys and will be able to send out bids for January- then depending on City Council decisions public hearings can start the process after the bids are back.

New Business:

Motion by Mayor Ihrke and seconded by member Iseminger to appoint Eric Tyler to a two-year term on the sanitary board to represent Dover, the motion carried.

Water Superintendent Marvin Ihrke updated the council on the water meter exchange going on this week and our goal of over 40 replacements was going to be met.

Council member updates:

Member Johnson, asked about the garbage pickup and having a city contract for one company- the clerk will be contacting the local companies to get this project started. Second, member Johnson is concerned about some residents putting up stakes along their streets to keep snow from being plowed onto their property. "We cannot allow that" and it was decided to note this on our website and send personal letters to those that have put up the posts indicating the city will use its easement areas to plow and pile snow and if stakes are broke is not the cities responsibility.

Member Iseminger, gate and new sign look great going to the water tower, may need to add more fill to deter violators next spring. Dexter Warehouse owner needs to address the water retention pond to be cleaned and trees that were required to be planted along 6th street.

Member Putzier stated that she would like to thank both member Johnson and Mayor Ihrke for their service to Dover and will be missed!

Mayor Ihrke thanked member Johnson for his service to Dover on the Council and it was his own pleasure to serve Dover for 24 years as Mayor. He feels the City is in good financial standing and has someone to run city hall which was a goal of his.

Motion by member Iseminger and seconded by member Johnson to adjourn at 8:08 PM was made, the motion carried.

Gary Pedersen- Dover City Clerk