

The Dallas City Council held its regular meeting on February 26, 2015, at 6 p.m. Mayor Higgins called the meeting to order with the following commissioners present: Esther Newberry, Harold Northup, Tom Schaefer, and Bob Weese.

Others attending the meeting were Connie Siemens, Doug Erickson, Stephanie Jones, and Eric Icenogle.

A motion was made by Weese, and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Newberry to accept the minutes of the February 12, 2015, meeting. Newberry, Northup, Schaefer, and Weese AYE.

Connie Siemens requested that the council consider making a donation for the Easter Egg Hunt that is going to take place at the Dallas City Elementary School on April 4 at 10 a.m. for the local children. A motion was made by Schaefer, and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Northup to donate \$225 to Connie Siemens for the Easter Egg Hunt. Newberry, Northup, Schaefer, and Weese AYE.

Doug Erickson discussed the bid letting that was held on February 24 for the cleaning and CCTV inspection of the proposed sewer lines. The only bid received was from Hydro-Vision Technology LLC. The amount of the bid was \$53,500, as proposed. Broken down by size, the bid was for \$3 per foot for 8" sewer lines and \$5 per foot for 10", 12", and 15" sewer lines. A motion was made by Newberry, and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Schaefer to accept the bid from Hydro-Vision Technology LLC of \$53,500 for the cleaning and CCTV inspection of the proposed sewer lines. Newberry, Northup, Schaefer, and Weese AYE.

Mr. Erickson requested authorization to do the necessary field work for the proposed sewer line project. This work would include the surveying, popping of manholes, and other necessary planning work. The estimated cost of this field work is \$44,000-\$49,000. This work would not include the costs of financing assistance, bidding assistance, or construction assistance. A motion was made by Schaefer, and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Newberry to grant authorization to Benton & Associates, Inc., to do the necessary field work for the proposed sewer line project for the estimated cost of \$44,000-\$49,000. Newberry, Northup, Schaefer, and Weese AYE.

Mayor Higgins and Mr. Erickson recently met with a representative from the USDA Rural Development regarding possible financing options the city might have to help with the cost of the sewer line project. She informed them that the city would probably have to increase their sewer rates in order to qualify for any type of financing assistance thru the USDA Rural Development.

Western Illinois Regional Council has a couple of necessary surveys ready to be sent out to the residents who will be affected by the proposed sewer line project. These should be sent out next week.

Discussed the project that is being proposed by the CBG Group Elevator and having Benton & Associates, Inc., do the engineering tasks that the city would have to have done. Mr. Erickson recommended doing these engineering tasks in stages. The first stage would involve developing standards for CBG Group Elevator to follow. He is estimating that the cost to do this first stage would be \$7,500-\$8,000. He will draw up a formal proposal for the council to consider.

It was reported that Josh Mercer of Western Illinois Regional Council is working on the necessary paperwork for the city to obtain the \$25,000 Motor Fuel Tax Grant.

Discussed city police personnel. Dennis Hilliard has informed the council that he is planning on retiring May 1, 2015. Discussed raising the wages of part-time police officers. A motion was made by Schaefer, and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Northup to raise the wages of part-time police officers to \$15 per hour, effective immediately. Newberry, Northup, Schaefer, and Weese AYE.

It was reported that Colton Smith has been working for the city as a part-time police officer. He has indicated to Mayor Higgins and Police Commissioner Schaefer that he would be interested in becoming a full-time police officer for the city. He still needs to complete a state police course in order to be a full-time officer, though. He plans on attending the next meeting.

Eric Icenogle discussed the old high school property.

Discussed the cemetery mowing. Commissioner Newberry will contact Charles Huss to see if he is interested in doing the mowing again this year, and if so, how much he would charge.

Discussed benefits for full-time employees. Commissioner Weese will contact some of the other municipalities in the area to see what benefits they provide for their employees.

A motion was made by Northup, and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Newberry to adjourn the meeting. Newberry, Northup, Schaefer, and Weese AYE.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Steven K Vorhies, City Clerk