

City of Cologne
November 7, 2016

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regularly scheduled council meeting was held on Monday, November 7, 2016 at the Cologne Community Center. Mayor Scott Williams called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmembers Carol Szaroletta, Kyle Evenski, Jeff McInnis and Don Meyer were present. City Administrator Jesse Dickson was present. City Clerk Sue Mueller was absent.

ADOPT AGENDA

Motion by Meyer, seconded by Szaroletta to adopt the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

- a) October 17, 2016 Council Meeting Minutes
- b) October 19, 2016 – November 7, 2016 Expenditures
- c) October 18, 2016 – November 1, 2016 Payroll
- d) Cologne Lions Club – Temporary Liquor License, December 10, 2016 Lions Park
- e) Cologne Lions Club – Temporary Liquor License, January 20, 2017
- f) Cologne Lions Club – Gambling Permit, January 20, 2017

Motion by Szaroletta seconded by Meyer to adopt the consent agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

VISITORS PRESENTATIONS, PETITION AND CORRESPONDENCE

Dave Reif, Planning Commission Chair, appeared to announce his retirement from the Planning Commission effective immediately. Council advised Staff to advertise to fill the position with interviews to take place at the December 5th Planning Commission meeting.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

a. Benton Lake

City Administrator Jesse Dickson explained that the Benton Lake fish kill, to take place this winter, had received approval from all lake property owners and the last step is for the City to sign the application. Councilman McInnis requested an update from the County after the procedure.

Motion by Evenski, seconded by Szaroletta to approve permit application for Benton Lake fish kill. Aye – Williams, Szaroletta, Meyer, Evenski. Abstain – McInnis.

b. Marion Field – Park Equipment

City Administrator Jesse Dickson presented a quote for new park equipment and installation at Marion Field. Old park equipment was removed earlier this year due to safety concerns. Dickson explained that this quote is part of a grant program through MN/WI Playground as well as a national purchasing group which is how the Splashpad was purchased. Councilman Evenski noted that there are many kids around Marion Field that will appreciate

a nice playground to use. Councilman McInnis was comfortable with the purchase because it fit within the budgeted amount for playground equipment. Mayor Williams agreed that it is a budgeted expense. Evenski added that this equipment would be a benefit for the whole City and that the City needs to start looking at the roads in the same way it looks at purchases like this.

Motion by Meyer, seconded by Evenski to proceed with purchase of equipment contingent that it does not exceed the budgeted amount of \$50,000. Motion passed unanimously.

c. Resolution # 16-28 Loan Agreement Water Treatment Facility

City Administrator Dickson presented the loan agreement for the water treatment facility and well #4 project. Councilman Meyer mentioned that residents have inquired why another well is necessary. Mayor Williams explained that it is due to restraints on the amount of gallons per minute that can be pumped per well.

Motion by McInnis, seconded by Szaroletta to approve Resolution #16-28. Motion passed unanimously.

d. PFA Loan – Water Treatment Facility

i. Pay Request #1 Well #4

ii. Pay Request #1 Water Treatment Facility

iii. Pay Request #2 Water Treatment Facility

City Administrator Jesse Dickson presented the loan agreement for the PFA as well as the first pay request for Well #4 and the first two pay requests for the Water Treatment Facility.

Motion by Evenski, Seconded by Szaroletta, to approve loan agreement with PFA. Motion passed unanimously. Motion by McInnis, seconded by Szaroletta, to approve Pay Request #1 for Well #4. Motion passed unanimously. Motion by Meyer, seconded by McInnis, to approve Pay Requests #1 and #2 for Water Treatment Facility. Motion passed unanimously.

e. Fire Contracts

City Administrator Jesse Dickson came to Council requesting follow-up on the approval of the Fire Department Relief Association pension from a split-the-pie pension plan to a defined benefit plan starting at \$1,500.00 per year of service. The motion at the October 3rd meeting reflected the City's decision to fully fund the pension but did not specify the time frame in which this would happen. Dickson explained that the time frame was important as contracts with the townships are currently being negotiated and a "whereas" line in the contract states the City's intention to fully fund the plan.

Mayor Williams suggested fully funding the plan in two years. Councilman McInnis questioned the reason for paying the deficit in two years if the City has 10 years. Williams said that City Counsel had advised to fund the deficit right away. Councilman Meyer noted that the Relief Association pension fund gets better annual returns than the CDs that the City invests in.

Motion by Meyer to pay off the deficit in two years. No second. Motion failed.

Councilman McInnis stated that two years seems arbitrary and does not take the budget into consideration. Councilman Evenski said that paying over two years would be about \$131,000 per year and over five years would be about \$52,000 per year. Evenski wondered if the contracts could be sent and approved with an understanding that the City would pay the deficit. Williams responded that the contracts need to go out in full with this language. McInnis noted that the City has a deficit, and also have several members of the Fire Department near retirement.

Motion by Evenski, seconded by Meyer, to pay off the deficit in the Fire Department Relief Association pension by 2020 in three payments. Motion passed unanimously.

f. Canvass – Elections

City Administrator Dickson stated that two Council members will be needed to canvass the results of the election taking place November 8th. Council members Szaroletta and Evenski volunteered to come in to City offices to Canvass.

g. Compensation Study Review

Councilman Evenski opened the discussion. Evenski stated that Councilwoman Szaroletta and he had sat down to discuss moving each employee onto the scale at the next step above where they were currently. He stated that they had pondered adjusting grades for employees but didn't intend to suggest that. Evenski also stated that they had talked to City Administrator Dickson about an employment contract. Mayor Williams declared that he is in favor of all wage increases except for the part-time employee. Evenski responded that the City would lose an employee if the City doesn't pay equitably. Councilman McInnis mentioned that the compensation plan scales with the amount of hours an employee works. Evenski said that the plan is to pay retroactive to October 1st, McInnis wondered why. Evenski responded that the back pay is to make up for how long discussions have taken place. Councilman Meyer said that the Council had previously promised the back pay to October 1st. McInnis reiterated that reviews must be done to give the compensation plan purpose. Evenski mentioned that contract talks will continue with the City Administrator as he is the only Administrator in the county without a contract. Evenski said that the review process will happen after every employee is on the scale.

Motion by Evenski, seconded by McInnis, to place all employees at the next step on the compensation plan from where they are currently. Employees not on the scale will start on step 1. Motion passed unanimously.

BOARD REPORTS

Councilman McInnis announced that he would like to recognize Jim Effertz for the time he puts into the community. He continued that the City should figure out a way to recognize residents and possibly have some sort of clean-up day in Effertz's honor. Councilman Evenski wondered if the City could present a plaque, possibly one per year to a different resident. McInnis said that minimally the City should send a letter and a

card. Evenski and Meyer said that Glad Days could be a good time to honor a resident but they could be told immediately about the honor. Meyer recommended setting up a committee on honoring residents.

Councilwoman Szaroletta requested staff updates weekly; McInnis followed by requesting that they be more department-oriented.

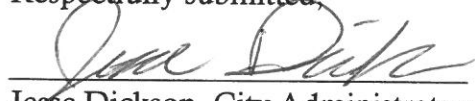
Councilman Evenski requested a budget meeting at 6:00pm on November 21st before the regularly scheduled Council Meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

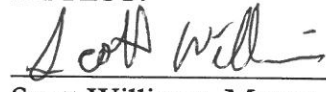
ADJOURN MEETING

Motion by Meyer, seconded by Szaroletta to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,


Jesse Dickson, City Administrator

ATTEST:


Scott Williams, Mayor