

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a special City Council meeting was duly held in the City Council chambers at 6:00 p.m. on the 3<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2019. The following members were present: Mayor Doug Henke, council members, Dan Rechtzigel, John Mortensen, and Tom Gard. Also present: City Administrator Mark Vahlsing, Administrative Assistant Holli Gudknecht, Fire Chief Lee Skillestad and Assistant Fire Chief Wayne Ehrich.

Citizens: Bob Noah, Rosie Floren, Bonnie Schuster, Marilyn Schaper, and Peggy Halvorson

Township representatives: Jim Donkers, Steve Johnson, Barb St. John, Keith Allen, Larry Madsen, Joyce Anderson, and Sean Bauer.

Mayor Henke called the special meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

### **2020 Fire Contract Meeting with Townships**

City Administrator Vahlsing explained that the purpose of meeting was to review the proposed 2020 contracts for fire protection with the six townships in the Kenyon Fire Department service area. The contracts are based on a breakdown of 51% city and 49% township of the operating budget. Each township's portion of the budget is split based on the number of sections covered by the Fire Department.

Fire Chief Lee Skillestad summarized the Volunteer Fire Department response report with the number of calls to date in 2019. He noted that the 1980 tender tanker will need replacing in the next year or two. The department has had this tanker for 12 years. Also, there are seven new members that will need turnout gear at \$3,500 per person.

Steve Johnson of Richland Township asked about where the special donations show up in the budget. Richland Township made a special donation this year and they want to make sure it is being used for its intended purpose. Administrator Vahlsing stated he would check with Sue Dodds and email the answer to the townships.

### **Public Budget and Levy discussion**

Administrator Vahlsing stated that this meeting was designed for citizens who had questions about the proposed budget and levy for 2020. This meeting would not address property valuation increases. Property valuations are reviewed at the Appeals and Equalization meeting in April. Vahlsing stated that the County had increased property valuations substantially in the City. The present tax increases are unable to be changed for 2020 since those were valued last April. He told the attending citizens that they could appeal proposed assessed valuations for 2021 next April at the Board of Appeals and Equalization. meeting. The budget

Peggy Halvorson of 303 Langford Avenue questioned how set the proposed tax was verses what the actual tax will be. Administrator Vahlsing stated that the City tax may drop slightly, but it will not increase. The budget is usually pretty tight and won't change much.

The final budget and levy will be approved at the regular council meeting on December 12, 2019.

Motion by Mortensen second by Rechtzigel to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Motion carried 4-0-0.