

Committee of the Whole
February 9, 2016

Present: Mayor Vulich, Council Members Gassman, Seeley, McGraw, Determann, O'Neill, Connell, Allesee, City Administrator, City Attorney, City Clerk, Press and interested citizens.

1. CVB Quarterly Update – Carrie Donaire

Ms. Carrie Donaire, Clinton Convention and Visitors Bureau, provided the Council with an update of the ongoing marketing initiatives in both materials and media. She stated that upcoming CVB marketing plans include Eagle Point Park Lodge, 25th Avenue North pavilion, and the new addition of the Clinton, Iowa Visitors Guide.

Ms. Donaire reviewed the upcoming events and projects scheduled for 2016; the Women's State Bowling Tournament, the American Queen Visits and Fly Iowa. All events will bring numerous visitors to the area.

2. Riverfront Docking Update – Jason Craft/Carrie Donaire

City Engineer Jason Craft advised the Council that the City would be using the concrete pier which was used by the gambling boat as well as construct a bridge so the gangway can be lowered allowing passengers to disembark. He stated that this would be Phase I of multiple projects. He continued in stating that this project would be completed by July 28th in time for the American Queen's first visit.

Mayor Vulich inquired regarding when the bridge would not work with the water levels. Engineer Craft stated that at normal and low river levels there will be no problems. He continued in stating that McClure Engineering will review the drawings regarding a high water levels. He further stated that if the bridge was further out in the channel there may have been problems with floating debris.

M/S, Determann-O'Neill moved to move the project forward to the next Council meeting to approve the project and put out to bid. On roll call, Gassman, Seeley, McGraw, Determann, O'Neill, Connell - Yes; Allesee – abstain. Motion carried.

3. Retirement Incentive Policy – Ed O'Neill

Councilmember O'Neill advised the Council that the City is still paying for this incentive program which provides department heads with \$500 per year if they retire prior to the age of 65. He stated that this is like paying people to leave. He continued in stating that this program should be cut off. He further stated that the idea was this was a way to save money; however, the City still has to fill the position. To continue this program is not in the City's best interest. He further stated that two options have been provided; Option 1 - It is the policy of the City of Clinton that public funds will not be expended to incentivize individuals to retire early or to resign from employment, except for the routine payout of accrued benefits as is already allowed in the City Personnel Manual, unless said funds are specifically authorized in an individual case by resolution of the City Council. This policy will not apply to persons who have already retired and who are receiving incentive payments from an existing incentive program, or to those who have already requested benefits pursuant to an existing incentive as of the date of enactment of this policy. It is the intent of this policy to rescind all early retirement and/or resignation

incentive policies previously enacted, including but not limited to Council Resolution No. 04-85 dated March 23, 2004. He proceeded to state that this option is too wide open. He advised that Option 2 states that it is the policy of the City of Clinton that public funds will not be expended to incentivize individuals to retire early or to resign from employment, except for the routine payout of accrued benefits as is already allowed in the City Personnel Manual, unless said funds are specifically authorized in an individual case by resolution of the City Council. This policy will not apply to persons hired on or before a certain date who are eligible for early retirement benefits allowed pursuant to Council Resolution No. 04-85. He stated that this should not apply to persons who will meet the qualifications in the next three years. Councilmember Connell stated that the Council which approved the resolution should have known about it ending. He continued in stating that the City should look at Option 2 and set a date. Councilmember O'Neill stated that he was on the Council at that time and it was brought forward as a money savings and was supposed to end in 2005.

Councilmember Seeley stated that there are a lot of people expecting the incentive. He suggested that it be modified whereby it does not force a person to retire when they reach their 88. Councilmember Determann stated that these are taxpayer dollars. He continued in stating that there does need to be a compromise; however, the program must end.

Councilmember O'Neill requested that the City Administrator provide the Council with a three and five year exposure and draw a line at the breaks.

4. Referrals from Planning Commission – Jacob Coupee

a. Final Plat – Aldi Lincoln Highway Subdivision

Planning Intern Jacob Coupee advised the Council that this subdivision allows for a new grocery store between the Harley Davidson Store and Arby's. He stated that the Planning Commission recommends moving this forward.

M/S, Gassman-Seeley moved to forward the Final Plat – Aldi Lincoln Highway Subdivision to the next City Council agenda. On roll call, carried unanimously.

b. Final Plat – The Landing

Planning Intern Jacob Coupee advised that the developer is responsible for the infrastructure. He stated that the Planning Commission recommends moving this forward.

M/S, Determann-O'Neill moved to forward the Final Plat of The Landing to the next City Council agenda. On roll call, carried unanimously.

c. Review of Subdivision Regulations

Planning Intern Jacob Coupee stated that the idea is to streamline the application process and clarify preliminary and final plat requirements. He stated that this was forwarded out of the Planning Commission with recommended approval pending a change for the consideration of roundabouts as part of the platting process should traffic counts warrant such a feature. City Administrator Kinser stated that this does not take away Council authority but provides for flexibility.

Councilmember Determann inquired regarding whether the City could require money in reserve. City Administrator Kinser stated that a performance Bond is required and an appeal can be made to the Council regarding installation of sidewalks. She continued in stating that deed restrictions can be placed on a property.

Mayor Vulich stated that the Subdivision Regulations should have a definition of sidewalks.

Councilmember Connell stated that this should be looked into further and to be brought back before making a decision. the definition of sidewalks should be added. Mayor Vulich stated that the Council needs more information

5. Disposal of City-Owned Properties – Jessica Kinser

City Administrator Kinser stated that she reached out to other cities; however, Nevada is the only city to respond. She continued in stating that there is no one criteria. Many reach out to adjoining neighbors. She further stated that she was not able to find the cost for demolition. She proceeded to state that she is requesting Council approval to amend the ordinance.

M/S, Gassman-Seeley moved to forward amending the ordinance for the Disposal of City-Owned Properties to the next City Council agenda. On roll call, carried unanimously.

6. Fiscal Year 2016 Audit – Anita Dalton

Finance Director Dalton advised the Council that she is requesting that the Council direct her to seek a quote from the State of Iowa for the FY16 audit.

M/S, Determann-O'Neill moved to direct the City Finance Director to get a proposal from the State of Iowa for the FY 16 Audit. On roll call, carried unanimously.

7. Update on SRO Meeting with School- Mayor Vulich

Mayor Vulich advised the Council that on February 2nd he along with the City Administrator, Captain Greenwalt, and Captain Bohle met with the School Board. Discussion was held to keep the SRO Program as is or for the School to pay 55% and the City pay 45% and extend the program for 5 years.

Councilmember O'Neill stated that he had talked with a teacher who had shed a whole new light on this. He continued in stating that the Council must look at what is good for the City. The 5% is a good gesture. He further stated that he is happy with the five year proposal. It adds to the City's General Fund and we owe it to the Police Chief since he said he could handle this.

Councilmember Gassman stated that thought a yearly contract is good with the shape the City is in. Councilmember O'Neill stated that the essence of any agreement is good faith. We need to move forward and five years will not be restrictive. Councilmember Determann stated that he agreed with Councilmember Gassman. The City has some unique circumstances coming up in the future with the PAAB Appeals. Councilmember O'Neill stated that the School has offered a compromise and this will reduce our deficit in the General Fund.

Councilmember Seeley stated that the program has been in place for 20 years. The City still has to take \$114,000 out of the General Fund. If the City's finances get worse we can go back and talk with the School Board.

M/S, O'Neill-Connell moved to forward the five year 55% payment by the School Board and 45% payment by the City to the next City Council agenda. On roll call, Gassman, Seeley, McGraw, O'Neill, Connell, Allesee – Yes; Determann – No. Motion carried.

8. Mayor & Council Member Updates

Mayor Vulich advised that Clinton County Day at the Capital is Thursday, February 11, 2016.

Councilmember O'Neill stated that he would hold his public forum at the Ericksen Center on Saturday from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM.

M/S, Determann-O'Neill moved to adjourn. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Van Loo
City Clerk