

Committee of the Whole
March 22, 2016

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

1. 2016-2019 Humane Society Animal Impoundment Agreement – Chief Gyrion

Captain Tom Bohle addressed the Council regarding the agreement with the Humane Society. Captain Bohle stated the current agreement expires in April of this year; the new agreement will be for three years and the City will pay the same stipend as we are currently paying. The change is there will be no animal control officer as of July 1, 2016. The officers have all been trained by the Humane Society Staff to safely and effectively transport animals to the Humane Society. The vehicle in use now will be the same vehicle used to do the transporting.

M/S, O'Neill-Determann moved to forward the 2016-2019 Humane Society Animal Impoundment Agreement to the next City Council agenda. On roll call, carried unanimously.

In discussion before roll call, Mayor Vulich inquired regarding whether the public had the same procedures to follow as in prior years since there would be no animal control officer after July. Captain Bohle advised the Council that only during the daytime hours for a period of 8 hours did the animal control officer respond, other than those 8 hours it was one of the officers on duty that would respond to any calls. Residents will have no new numbers to call. It is the same only an officer will be responding full time after July 1. Councilmember Determann inquired regarding the basis for the fees. Captain Bohle advised it is a flat annual fee the City pays which is \$105,000 or \$8,750 per month to have any animals picked up to be housed at the Humane Society. City Administrator Jessica Kinser added that prior to the current agreement the City would have to pay a daily fee for each animal that was picked up. This agreement makes it a lot simpler.

2. Disposal of the Trolley – Dennis Hart

Transportation Director Dennis Hart advised the Council he had previously sent them the RFP for the sale of the Trolley for the Council to view and voice an opinion on or move it forward. Councilmember O'Neill inquired regarding whether re-bidding for the 3rd time why the disclaimer was still in the RFP that states the Trolley must remain in the City of Clinton. It seems redundant if no bids are acceptable with that contingency in the agreement; we would only be stuck storing it. Director Hart stated the City would be taking a chance on this since it is currently being stored in building 45. Councilmember Connell advised if a local person is not interested in it, we could always put it on the internet. Councilmember Determann inquired regarding whether there were any grants available to put it back in service or help someone else do it. Councilmember Allesee advised it is not so much the grants but it is more costly for the insurance to operate it and the maintenance to keep it running. She continued if someone local were to come forward there may be a Fund B grant in August; that would mean possible \$2,500 depending on the value of the Trolley. Councilmember Determann inquired regarding whether the City could help a local buyer get started operating it for the first year or two. Councilmember Seeley inquired regarding the cost of the Trolley originally. City Administrator Jessica Kinser advised the original cost to the City was \$192,781. It is fully depreciated at this time.

Councilmember Seeley inquired regarding whether the City could operate the trolley as part of the regular fleet. Director Hart advised the Council five years ago federal regulations changed preventing public transit system providing charter service. Up to that time we were operating through a transit company under their authority. However the rules changed and the City could lose federal operating funds by continuing to operate the trolley by providing charter services. It is not worth the chance of getting a black flag against us. Councilmember Seeley inquired regarding whether there was anything preventing the City from using the trolley on a weekend or special holidays so it is out in the community. Director Hart stated no, he could use a substitution with the Department of Transportation (DOT). Councilmember Seeley felt it would be an image enhancer for the City. He stated he has no problems putting it in the private sector. However the amount we may receive from it is very little compared to what it brings to the community image. The worst thing that can happen to it is to just sit there in storage. He stated people may ride it on the weekend just because it is there. Councilmember Allesee advised it could be used to transport people from the Riverfront docking to the hotels; it could be used during other events such as at Christmas time. Director Hart advised the Council that the City is restricted on routes, unless he were to create a route that runs to Riverfront. It is very restrictive as to what he can do. It must be operated as other buses. City Administrator Jessica Kinser advised the Council one of the reasons the trolley is no longer in service was due to the damage it incurred running on some of the City streets. While there has been improvement in the streets, there is more to it than just creating a new route. There are staffing costs, the route would have to run 100% of the time. You can't just say it is available on this day on not on this day. It has to be available 100% of the time. Councilmember Seeley stated it could just be run on every Saturday. He would like to see it running on the roads rather than sitting in storage. Director Hart advised the Council he could create a route that would run from June through October.

Councilmember O'Neill inquired regarding whether the study from Augustana College regarding a need for transportation to Camanche and Fulton. Administrator Kinser replied there was not enough data gathered from the survey. Those responding were already riders of the bus system, not those that could be engaged in using the bus service. Mayor Vulich inquired regarding whether any other Councilmember wanted to move forward with the RFP for obtaining a bid on the trolley. Administrator Kinser advised the Council they were actually voting on the wording of the RFP itself and Staff was looking for feedback from the Council.

M/S, O'Neill-Determann moved the Council direct City Staff to move forward by issuing the RFP for the Trolley. On roll call, carried unanimously.

3. Review of the Contingency Policy – Jessica Kinser/Anita Dalton

City Administrator Jessica Kinser stated this item was on the last meeting and brought back to this Committee of the Whole since there seemed to be a lot of misunderstanding on where it originated back in 2012. While there are not a lot of changes that can be done to this policy, there was a suggestion to change the word from account to reserve throughout the policy, and making clarifications that if it is not used during the fiscal year the balance rolls over to the following fiscal year's general fund balance. She further stated her recommendation is because this is tied to the fund balance policy and references the fund balance policy; it is recommended that this go back to the Finance Committee for further discussion in terms of how those two are tied together with notes from the City Council with regards to what other changes Council would like to see in the policy. Councilmember Seeley advised that the policy is there to set aside funds in case there should be an emergency and the City is not scrambling to find funds to pay for something. Currently the City is capped at 2% to be set aside. He

continued every year is different, some years Council may be able to set the amount at 2% or at 5% depending on the year. He would like to see it go back to the Finance Committee for further discussion. Councilmember Determann stated the 2% used to be zero. Mayor Vulich advised the Council could set a minimum of 2% and then each year the Council could determine if they want to raise that minimum to a higher level. Finance Director Anita Dalton advised the Council that everyone refers to this as a contingency fund and part of sending this back to the Finance Committee would be to change the wording which is what the Committee does is to set policy. Councilmember O'Neill stated the contingency fund is not like a cookie jar to take the top off and take money out of when we need it. He would like to see three million in it in the next five years. It should go back to the Finance Committee so they can make it into a separate fund. Councilmember Connell inquired regarding whether if the Contingency Fund were separated out wouldn't that make it a restrictive fund. Administrator Kinser responded yes, that is why the Finance Committee who has the draft fund balance policy needs to discuss this because they are related. If you are moving items out of the general fund you have depleted your general fund; that is where the Finance Committee would need to set that fund balance at zero. That is where these two policies come together and need to be discussed. If the Finance Committee wants to recommend another savings policy or the way the Contingency Policy is written. There is some misunderstanding of what the policy is and the importance to the General Fund fund balance and what it means to our overall credit rating and financial health of the City. The Finance Committee has the fund balance policy as a draft, it is the best place for this discussion because the two do relate to each other.

M/S, Determann-Connell moved the Review of the Contingency Policy be forwarded to the Finance Committee for further discussion. On roll call, carried unanimously.

4. Donation of 655 6th Avenue South – Jessica Kinser

City Administrator Jessica Kinser advised the Council the City Attorney had someone contact him to see if the City would be interested in obtaining this property through donation. The City already owns 657 6th Avenue South and there is an adjacent property owner interested in both properties. She further stated her recommendation to the Council is for the City to acquire this lot at no charge and move forward with a disposal process. This would be through obtaining sealed bids for both parcels either separately or together. This would require a resolution to accept the property. Mayor Vulich inquired regarding whether if no one bid on these properties the City would be stuck with another property. This goes against a resolution passed previously that the City is to accept no property by donation. Administrator Kinser advised the Council the City cannot sell what they don't own and by accepting this donation of a lot; it makes our property a buildable lot and this is beneficial to the City. This would give us 60 feet of frontage on 6th Avenue South.

M/S, Seeley-Allesee moved the Council accept the donation and move it forward to the next City Council agenda. On roll call, carried unanimously.

5. Mayor and Council Member Updates

Mayor Vulich advised during the severe weather last Tuesday night he was very appreciative of the City staff who had a training exercise earlier in the day for this type of event. He thanked the first responders, MTA bus drivers and all who helped out in any way during this tragedy. He has asked Jeff Chapman of the Building and Neighborhood Services Department to look into a building code regarding trailers.

Councilmember Determann stated April 4, 2016 is US Hwy. 30 day in the Capital; they will meet at 10:00 in the rotunda and then have meetings all day with the Governor. If anyone can make it or needs a ride to call him.

Councilmember O'Neill stated he normally holds a radio talk show on Thursday from 11:00 to noon, however the radio is having another program during that time so it will not be held this Thursday.

Councilmember Connell thanked everyone who went out and voted, and to all of the opponents for running.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa Lindstrom
Deputy City Clerk