

**COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
CITY OF ATTICA**

10-11-2021

The Common Council for the City of Attica met on October 11th, 2021, at 6:00 P.M.

Those present at the meeting were: Council Members; Mr. Larry Grant, Mrs. Valarie Maus, Mrs. Kaylie Carnahan, and Mr. Scott Voorhees, and Mrs. Patricia Hargan. Also, present were Mayor Duane Roderick, and Clerk-Treasurer Joanne Broadwater.

The Public Hearing was opened for the 2022 Budget. There were no public comments, the public hearing was closed.

Due to storm damage the Council meeting was continued to Monday October 18th, 2021.

Mayor Roderick thanked DPW Director Eric Swank, Fire Chief Mike Little, and Police Chief Garret Miller for all their hard work during the recent storm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

- **Voorhees made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 13th, 2021, council meeting, Maus seconded, all were in favor and the motion passed.**

CITIZENS PETITIONS:

- Patrick Runyon – 201 W. Monroe St. showed pictures on his phone of his front ditch that floods and freezes due to the erosion of the ditch. He is asking for assistance from the city to fix the issue. Roderick and Swank stated there are several problem areas in the city that the engineering firm HWC is going to look at to determine how to fix the issues. Swank stated most problems have been caused by residents tiling in their ditches in the past.

Patrick also stated there is not a speed limit sign on Union Street, and there is a lot of excessive speed from ATV rentals. Roderick stated the city would erect a speed limit sign. Roderick also stated there is a missing one-way sign at the corner of Pike and Union that needs replaced.

Runyon also asked if the yield sign at the corner of Monroe and Union can be replaced with a stop sign. He stated the yield sign is mostly disregarded.

- Leslie Davis – Notified the Council that an official appeal, will be coming by the next meeting, of the vote to not vacate her alley. The grounds the appeal is based on are:
 1. Distinct bias for not having previous relations to some connection of the board when that has been a precedent of the past.

2. Current precedent of people or persons blocking an alley and it being acceptable as a special relation in connection to the board.
3. Discrimination that all other alleys have been vacated in that block or area of town from Main to New Street with the exception of her half alley.
4. Stated there was also a violation of her rights to the Open-Door Policy in that the Council was meeting about this with a quorum outside of a public meeting.

Ms. Davis wants to know what reasonable and viable options are available for the safety of her children while they are playing in their private yard. Roderick replied to Davis that the city attorney would be in touch with her.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- NONE

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Eric Swank Director of Public Works:

- Had nothing to report. Roderick stated the city was issued a burning permit from IDEM and will be burning brush by the airstrip.
- Voorhees asked if there was anything that the team needs to deal with this type of issue in the future. Swank stated the equipment that was brought in was invaluable, but not justifiable to purchase.

Voorhees asked how volunteers were managed. Broadwater explained that the list of volunteers along with the list of people who needed help were provided to the team coordinating the relief efforts. Prior to using the volunteers, they needed to be covered under the city's liability insurance and we needed to make sure all the live power lines were safe.

Swank stated the current need is dump trucks or trailers to haul the brush away. Roderick asked if the city needs a woodchipper, Swank agreed that purchase of one would be helpful.

Police Garret Miller:

- Roderick introduced Garret Miller as the new Police Chief.
- Miller reported he is working with Joe Whitaker on a grant to purchase solar powered 4 way stop lights. This would free up emergency personal to assist in other areas of need. Miller thanked Mr. Swank and Mr. Little for all their teamwork.
- Reported the officers are working on a complete inventory of the police department.

- The department was in the process of ordering Ordinance violation stickers for trash cans, but learned that Trash Kans, the company the city contracts with for trash service, didn't want stickers placed on their totes. Miller stated regular Ordinance violation tickets will be used.

Ordinance violations were being issued until the storm hit and will be a priority once the storm cleanup is finished. Miller explained that when a \$50 ordinance violation is written there are state court costs associated with it of \$135.00 on top of the \$50 making the total cost \$185.00 to the citizen. Miller explained how he plans to implement the ordinance violations for trash cans that are not removed from the street timely.

- Miller stated he is short staffed and is still working rotation so please be patient as the department addresses the Council's concerns.
- Grant mentioned he has seen people driving the wrong way on Mill Street. The Council discussed different changes for this street, but no motions were made.
- Voorhees asked the mayor if he can keep a running list of items that have been tabled so the Council doesn't lose track of them, the mayor agreed.

Chief Little, Fire Chief:

- Thanked all the city workers for their cooperation during and after the storm.
- Little stated the city building lost power and does not have a generator. The city building needs to be a safe place for residents who are at risk, on oxygen etc. Little stated a new generator needs to be a priority. Chief Miller agreed and stated the whole building needs to have back up power because the council room is where the emergency management team was set up.
- Voorhees stated a phone is needed for the council room, Miller stated a new dedicated line needs to be installed, the one they were using was the police line.
- Little stated the 2022 budget was expanded to increase the number of volunteer firefighters from 21 to 30 and asked the Council if they would approve the increase in volunteer numbers. Little stated the number of fire runs continues to increase and is much higher than departments in surrounding areas. **Voorhees made a motion to increase the number of volunteer firefighters from 21 to 30, Maus seconded, all were in favor, motion passed.**
- Voorhees asked how many officers are on the police force, Miller stated there are 7 total including the chief. Miller explained how the schedule works when the department is at full staff and agreed an additional officer would be beneficial.
- Little provided an update on the fire territory and stated soon the city will need to consider full time firefighters due to the number of runs that the department makes.

Police Chief Miller explained that our fire department goes out on all ambulance runs and that our ambulance coverage can be limited based on the number and length of runs.

- Voorhees asked Chief Miller if an additional officer is hired could the department operate without purchasing an additional vehicle. Chief Miller stated he thought they could and that he is looking into a grant to purchase a new police cruiser, if a grant is used for this purchase, the city could keep one of the vehicles for an additional officer instead of trading it in. Miller estimated the total cost of a new officer is roughly \$80,000. Voorhees asked the Council to keep an open mind about this. Broadwater reported the 2022 budget will not support an additional officer; new revenue would need to be generated.

The Council continued to discuss revenue options for the police and fire departments.

Mr. Pycke, Building Commissioner:

- Was not present.

Rod Bannon, Economic Development Director:

- Was not present.

Joanne Broadwater, Clerk-Treasurer:

- Broadwater reported the City's new website is now live. There are still updates that will be made, and additional information added.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Trash can stickers were previously discussed by Police Chief Miller.
- Roderick stated he does not have an update on the annexation of the Badlands. Voorhees stated he spoke to Kyle Knosp, and it isn't going to happen because there is not a financial benefit to him (Knosp).
- Roderick reported that he didn't believe we would receive the money owed the city by C & D battery. Broadwater stated Attorney Barce was still pursuing the balance. Voorhees stated it was his understanding that that C & D wasn't going to pay because there had been a change in water meters.
- Roderick handed out the proposed Salary Ordinance for council review. Broadwater stated the proposed budget allows for a maximum pay increase of 4% for all employees.

Broadwater stated all department heads provided their budget needs, and the increases in funding are included in the proposed budget if the Council chooses to approve the spending requests.

The Council discussed the proposed salary increases but did not vote on the salary ordinance.

Roderick stated the Council will meet on October 28th at 6:00 pm in a public meeting to approve the 2022 Budget Ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Roderick stated trick or treat is on October 30th. Business' will trick or treat from 5-6 pm and community from 6-8 pm.
- Voorhees confirmed that the official Attica City Facebook page is "Attica City Hall" and not the "Attica Community Bulletin Board page".
- Carnahan reported she received a complaint from a concerned citizen about speeding cars on the west side of Ravine Park and asked if speed bumps could be added or a crosswalk painted. Police Chief Miller stated speed bumps are a liability to the city.

Roderick asked DPW Director Swank to paint a crosswalk in that park area when time permits.

- Grant asked about a citizen who is getting water in their basement. Swank stated he is familiar with the situation and this individual needs a water remediation solution around their property and in their basement. The cities engineering firm stated the city could add curbs and gutters in this area that would help with the problem, but wouldn't fix it.

MISCELANOUS:

- None

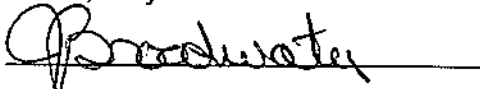
ADJORNMENT:

Roderick stated he had no further business and requested a motion to adjourn. The next regular Council meeting will be held Thursday, October 28th, 2021, at 6:00pm.

Voorhees made the motion to adjourn, Grant seconded, all were in favor, motion passed, meeting adjourned.



Duane Roderick, Mayor

ATTEST: 

Joanne Broadwater, Clerk-Treasurer