

**MINUTES OF THE NORWALK CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON 02-18-16**  
(Unabridged)

Mayor Tom Phillips called the City Council meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Present at roll call: David Lester, Erika Isley, Stephanie Riva, Ed Kuhl and Jaki Livingston. (RC = roll call vote)

Staff present included: Marketa Oliver, City Manager; Jodi Eddleman, City Clerk; Tim Hoskins, Public Works Director; Nancy Kuehl, Parks and Recreation Director; Greg Staples, Police Chief; Wade Wagoner, Planning and Economic Development Director; Ryan Coburn, Fire Chief; and Jim Dougherty, City Attorney.

16-07 Motion by Isley, seconded by Riva to approve the **agenda**. Voice vote carried unanimously.

**Presentations**

Hollie Askey of Warren County Economic Development Corporation thanked the council for the opportunity to speak about WCEDC's activities. WCEDC is projecting 15 to 20 new projects that should be issuing building permits within the next year. Within "Subarea 1" WCEDC is working with a group of investors who are interested in building a large market area, this project would be approximately \$40 million. They will begin negotiations next week. WCEDC has also been involved in a hotel project as well as working with local investors on a couple of retail plazas to be built on Sunset Drive. WCEDC has given back 21,615 to Norwalk to help add commercial business. Askey noted that Warren County is the third fastest growing county in the state and is also the third wealthiest.

Kuhl asked Askey to breakdown the funding they receive. Askey said they are public-private partnerships. WCEDC is funded by cities in Warren county and private investors. Kuhl asked what the biggest challenge is in the near future. Askey said that Warren county land prices are expensive and that WCEDC is constantly working to fill in the gaps to attract developers.

Mayor Phillips presented Askey with the Innovation Award that the City received on the Produce Innovations project in honor of all of the assistance WCEDC provided for that project.

Alan Kemp, Executive Director for the Iowa League of Cities spoke to the council about the League. The League represents 870 of the 944 cities in Iowa. The League is governed by a 19-member board. The League relies on dues, service fees and institutional value payments from various organizations. The League advocates on behalf of cities providing technical assistance to members and ensuring services are available. The League also offers a variety of workshops and trainings throughout the year; they publish various publications and special reports and host an annual conference to members that provides resources and networking. Kemp encouraged council to attend Legislative Day on March 1<sup>st</sup> and noted that the League will be hosting a reception at city hall for people to attend and visit with legislators.

**Welcome of Guests and Public Comment**

Mayor Phillips welcomed guests and invited the public to speak to an item that is not on the agenda.

Joseph Best, 1143 Pinehurst Drive had some questions for the council regarding the LOSST tax and tax abatement. Oliver indicated the Council had adopted a resolution that committed the City to spend 25% of the revenue for property tax relief and the rest for public safety and public works operation or maintenance or for any other lawful purpose.

16-028 Motion by Livingston, seconded by Isley to approve the **minutes** of the January 28<sup>th</sup> council study session and the minutes of the February 4<sup>th</sup> regular council meeting. Voice vote carried unanimously.

Consent included **tax abatements, planning and zoning commission appointment**, Elizabeth Thompson, **Resolution No 0218-16-021** related to reimbursement regulations under the Internal Revenue Code Cedar Street Project, Pre levy **Resolution 0218-16-022** for police cars short term loan, set date for **public hearing March 3, 2016 for adoption of the City of Norwalk budget** for fiscal year 2016/2017 and certifying tax levy rate, **approval of submittal for Warren county philanthropic grant for police department** body camera equipment, **approval of submittal for Warren county philanthropic grant for library** information resource center, receive and file monthly department reports for January, receive and file Decembers treasurers report and expenditures.

ADVENTURE LIGHT	FLAG POLES	355.87	MATHESON TRI-GAS	EQUIPMENT	93.90
ALLEGRA	SUPPLIES	134.71	MEGHAN ESLICK	REFUND	5.05
ANDY MOGLE	EVENT	100.00	MENARDS	HEATER PARTS	141.14
BLUE TARP	TOOL BOX	99.99	MENARDS	PARTS	90.06
CARPENTER	EQUIPMENT	28.99	METRO ARTS	METRO ARTS	600.00
CONFLUENCE	PLAN UPDATE	4,515.00	MUNICIPAL SUPPLY	SUPPLIES	153.90
CONSTRUCTION AG	BASKET STRAINER	123.43	MURPHY TRACTOR	PARTS	315.84
CREATIVE PRODUCT	DARE T-SHIRTS	522.74	NANCY KUEHL	EVENT	469.74
DES MOINES IRON	SUPPLIES	867.97	NATL REC AND PARK	MEMBERSHIP	165.00
DSM WW	SERVICES	25,677.30	NWTC PAPER	AD	205.58
FARMERS COOP	K9 SUPPLIE	59.80	NORWALK HARDWARE	SUPPLIES	496.88
FREEDOM TIRE	REPAIR TIRES	188.53	NORWALK HS DANCE	DJ FEES	300.00
GARY WIEDMANN	STOP BOX	900.00	WARRIOR CAFE	EVENT	800.00
GRAINGER INC	BOILER REPAIR	708.03	OREILLY AUTO	#618 PARTS	150.87
GREGG YOUNG	RADIATOR LEAK	433.41	PEEK SALES	PARTS	124.35
HARVEYS AUTO	WIPER BLADE	1,217.90	PEPSI-COLA	WATER	255.06
HAWKEYE TRUCK	BLADE GUIDE	93.00	RUDOLF INVEST	1102 HOLLY DR	120.00
INDOFF INC	SUPPLIES	537.25	SAM'S CLUB	RENEWAL	190.00
INTOXIMETERS	EQUIPMENT	231.00	SPRAYER SPECI	PARTS	8.99
IOWA D.A.R.E.	MEMBERSHIP	100.00	SPRINGER PEST	PEST CONTROL	68.00
IOWA DEPT PUBLIC	ACCESS	1,391.52	TERMINIX	PEST CONTROL	67.00
IA LIVING MAG	SUBSCRIPTION	999.00	GREATER DSM PART	ANNUAL DINNER	250.00
IA ONE CALL	IA ONE CALL	416.80	TIM HILDRETH	BOILER REPAIR	110.00
JAMES OIL	FUEL	4,569.57	VANWALL	CACAP-GAS	36.49
KENDRA CANTELOPE	REFUND	57.50	V&K	BEARDSLEY	5,799.98
KOCH BROTHERS	COPIER REPAIR	305.00	VILLAGIO	WORK SESSION	104.00
LANDS END	CITY SHIRTS	66.95	WARREN CO DARE	DARE GOLF	1,864.80
LASER RESOURCES	COPIER REPAIR	411.14	WASHER SYSTEM IA	PARTS	51.76
MAD SCIENCE	SESSION 2	528.00	WAYNE DENNIS	PARTS	938.01
MANAGER PLUS	SOFTWARE	449.00	ZIEGLER INC.	PARTS	22.65

16-029 Motion by Livingston, seconded by Riva to approve the **consent** agenda passed unanimously, RC.

## **Parks and Recreation Fees**

Kuehl is proposing an increase to the rental fee for baseball tournaments to \$40 per game and an increase to the rental fee for softball tournaments to \$35 per game.

John Chapman addressed the council regarding his concern of the rise in cost. He is requesting council stay at the reduced rate for this season because he has already collected the money for the tournaments he has scheduled.

Livingston asked if he held tournaments the entire season and he said he did two.

Lester asked Chapman what happens to the fees that are collected. He said that the money goes into his team to subsidize fees. Lester asked what percentage of kids live in Norwalk. Chapman responded 65%.

Kuehl said that Bob Eggers thinks the fee increase is reasonable.

Livingston stated that because Mr. Chapman booked the tournaments based on the old rates that he should be grandfathered in for this year.

The Mayor asked Kuehl if she knew if Eggers had filled any of his tournaments at the lower rate, if so, then he would also need to be included. Kuehl did not know whether he had or not.

Oliver suggested making the effective date of the rate increase May 5<sup>th</sup> 2016.

16-030 Motion by Kuhl, seconded by Livingston to pass the first reading of an ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Norwalk, Iowa Chapter 177 – Rates and Fees, by amending existing section 177.01 2. Chapter 24 – Parks and Recreation Fees with the effective date of May 5, 2016.

Passed 3 to 2 with Riva and Lester voting nay, RC.

## **Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement set-aside**

Dougherty drafted an ordinance to establish a mandatory capital improvement set aside from certain revenues received by the City of Norwalk. Eligible revenues would include all rental income received from the rental of baseball/softball fields, soccer fields, or other fields or grounds within Norwalk Parks.

16-031 Motion by Livingston, seconded by Isley to pass the first reading of an ordinance providing for Park and Recreation Capital Improvement Set-Aside passed unanimously, RC.

16-032 Motion by Livingston to waive the second and the third readings and adopt Ordinance 16-03 providing for Park and Recreation Capital Improvement Set-aside passed unanimously, RC.

## **Discussion of speed limit on Echo Valley Drive and East 27<sup>th</sup>/80<sup>th</sup> Street**

Chief Staples received a request from a concerned resident who lives off of Echo Valley Drive. There are several inconsistent speeds along Echo Valley Drive. Chief Staples has spoken to some of the residents along Echo Valley Drive

and they are in support of lowering the speed limit. Staples has reached out to the City of Des Moines and they told him to submit a letter making the request and then the City of Des Moines would hire an engineer to study their portion of the road.

Livingston has no interest in changing the speed limit along Echo Valley Drive. Staples is asking for direction from the council on what the next step would be. It was the consensus of the council that Staples speak to the homeowners association in that development and find out if any other residents are concerned, if they are not then the speed limit should be left as is.

Livingston is not in favor of lowering the speed limit for a quarter of a mile on 80<sup>th</sup> Street.

Kuhl asked what the county's thought is. Staples had not approached the county.

### **Discussion regarding bond in an amount of \$750,000 to renovate the pool**

Debbie Jorgensen, 1326 East 17<sup>th</sup> Street read emails from Sara Coburn supporting the bond issue to revitalize the pool. Hank Norem, 1922 Dorchester St., Norwalk, believes the pool decision should be made after a return on investment scenario is made. Jorgensen feels that the pool adds value to the community that it is a social interaction, helps reduce stress. She is concerned that spending the \$750,000 is just putting a band aid on the pool.

Nate Tagtow, 2840 Georgetown Avenue, Norwalk, commission member said that repairs have been made in the past but it seems to be a recurring issue.

Kuehl raised the issue of a possible leak underneath the pool. Livingston believes that spending the \$750,000 would be a waste if there is an issue underneath the pool that needs to be addressed before the city invests money to refurbish the pool.

The mayor asked Kuehl to provide a report from the leak detection company who conducted the test.

Isley asked if there was water loss while the pool is full. Kuehl did not know what because it is not metered.

Hoskins stated that he will bring an estimate back from an engineer to determine what it would take to bring the pool to a state where it can be here for 10 years at the March 3<sup>rd</sup> council meeting.

16-03 Motion by Lester, seconded by Riva to **adjourn** at 8:06 p.m. passed unanimously on a voice vote.

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Tom Phillips, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Jodi Eddleman, City Clerk