

December 2nd, 2019
COUNCIL AGENDA

6:00 – Truth in Taxation

1. Open Meeting
2. Minutes (Need Motion)
3. Police Report
4. Street Dept
5. Open Forum – Nick Klisch (Main Street Email)

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discuss and Adopt 2020 Tax Levy and Budget
- B. Ambulance Service – Amend Bylaws and Power Cot Purchase Request
- C. Utility Commission
- D. Gambling Permit for Lions – April 4th and March 1-31st
- E. Designation of Polling Place for 2020 Election
- F. Other Business
- G. Approval of Bills (Need motion)
- H. Adjournment (Need motion)

December 2nd, 2019
COUNCIL MEETING

The Westbrook City Council met on Monday, December 2nd, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the City Council Room.

Members present: Mayor Dennis Phelps, Manda Jorgenson, Jan Johnson, Kelly Brown and Chadd Wahl.
Others present: Chief Hubin, Carl Conrad, Dan Joel, Joseph and Lillia Schmidt, Darrell Eichner, Van Schenk, Sheila Krick, Adam Krick, Marlowe and Donna Nelsen and Sherri Vind.

Truth in Taxation started at 6:00 with Mayor Dennis Phelps explaining that this meeting is to give residents information regarding the city tax portion of property taxes. Steen discussed how the Mayor and council members arrived at the city levy. Steen informed all in attendance the history of what our levy has been in years past and what the process is on how we arrive at the current year levy. Most of attendees were concerned about the valuation of their homes, which unfortunately there is not much council can do about valuations. However, Steen did say that some of the increases of market value are because of house sales. Krick saw a jump of 88% in taxes. He did mention that the county had just been there to assess the property. Phelps suggested he go down to Windom and discuss why the big increase as the city only has the information on city levy.

Motion by Brown and seconded by Wahl to adjourn the Truth in Taxation meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Johnson and seconded by Wahl to approve the minutes from the November 4th, 2019 council meeting. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Nick Klish with Cottonwood County presented questions regarding the Main Street project. City will get quotes to remove and replace "Welcome to Westbrook Sign." Will be at County's expense, but the City will hire someone to do the work. Pavement marking will be ground-in epoxy if concrete and just paint if asphalt. If asphalt, we will look into grinding in pavement parking after first sealcoat. Street signs were a topic of conversation for additions and removals.

Police report was presented.

Marlowe Nelson was present to ask the council if they would de-annex his farm ground on the north side of town. It amounts to 28.7 acres. Motion by Wahl and seconded by Jorgenson to move forward with the de-annexation of the 28.7 acres. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Steen will have the city attorney draw up the paperwork.

Sherri Vind was present to discuss her alley. The snow plow did not go through her alley this winter yet. Phelps stated that the property owners at the end of her alley told city council that we can no longer push snow from that alley on their empty lot nor can we use the private drive to exit the alley. Phelps stated that if the property owner, who is a relative to Vind, will give the city permission then we can access the alley. Sherri asked if she can get Chad to say the city can push the snow on his lot will we do it. Phelps stated that Chad is the one that told us we don't have access or the right to plow snow on the empty lot. If he comes in and gives it to us in writing that we are allowed to proceed how we have in the past then we will continue. Steen stated that she met with the city attorney and will continue talking with her regarding the issue.

Motion by Brown and seconded by Johnson to approve the 2020 Levy @ 5.62%. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Brown and seconded by Wahl to approve the purchase of 2 power cots for the Ambulance Service with reimbursement from Storden First Responders of \$2,500.00. The cost of the cots will be \$76,275.50 after trade in, however there will be additional \$2,000.00 install fee. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Johnson and seconded by Jorgenson to amend the Ambulance Service Bylaws regarding retirement language if ever the service would fold. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Jorgenson and seconded by Wahl to approve Jim Schmidt as a utility commissioner for a 3 year term. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Brown and seconded by Jorgenson to approve the gambling permit requested by Westbrook Lion's. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Jorgenson and seconded by Wahl to designate the Westbrook Community Center as the 2020 election polling place. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Steen stated that she will need to update her computer system in the office. After December 31st Windows 7 will no longer be supported. Motion by Jorgenson and seconded by Brown to approve the purchase which will be roughly \$1,500.00 and The Computer Man from Marshall will install. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Johnson and seconded by Brown to approve the ATV permit submitted by Gary Phillips. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Steen stated that Mike Trosen from Meadowland stopped in City Hall. He would like to know if the city would be interested in the Hwy 30 grain bin site. The grain bins will be removed this spring and Meadowland will give the land and concrete to the city. Council all agreed that we will take him up on the offer. Steen will email Trosen with our response.

Motion by Johnson and seconded by Wahl to approve bills in the amount of \$67,267.12. Check #53569-53653. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Brown and seconded by Wahl to adjourn. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Katie Steen, City Clerk

Dennis Phelps, Mayor