

**Minutes
City of Griswold
Regular Council Meeting
Council Chambers, February 2, 2009, 6:00 p.m.**

The Griswold City Council met in regular session at City Hall. Mayor Putnam called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Council present: Rink, Bergstrom, Wyman, Carlisle. Absent: Shields and City Clerk Ridlen.

Motion by Carlisle to approve the agenda; second by Rink. Approved 4-0.

Motion by Rink to approve the following items under the Consent Agenda:

- a. Minutes of the January 5 & 19 regular meetings, January 15 & 26 special meetings.
- b. Claims.
- c. Employees overtime report.

Second by Bergstrom. Approved 4-0.

Reports:

Community Building. Written report submitted by Manager Shiona Putnam.

Public Works. Report given by Kevin Jipsen. Landon started with the city last week.

City Hall. No report given.

Library. Library Board President, Robin Drake handed out the Library's proposed budget and explained that what the council saw at the work session was much higher than this one. The current proposal shows an increase in gas/electric utilities due to the larger building, increases in salaries and expanding hours for the Librarian to 32 and assistant to 15 per week. The Library Board would like to keep the Library open an additional 2 hours per week. Rink stated he is opposed to increasing expenses and also to the fact that increasing Library hours by 2 per week does not explain why staff hours should be increased by 7 hours per week. Carlisle commented that the additional hours for the assistant could be put on hold. Both Rink and Carlisle expressed concern about not spending more than what we are anticipating to come in. Wyman suggested doing a pilot program in the evenings to see if it is something that is needed. Drake stated the Board would take out the additional hours for the assistant and discuss other options.

Committee Reports:

City Administrator/Clerk position. Mayor Putnam asked Wyman and Rink to look over the information that has been compiled and meet at 5:00 p.m. on February 9th to discuss the need for the position.

Set date for public hearing on proposed budget for FY2009-10. Council set the public hearing for Monday, March 2nd at 6:00 p.m.

Website Policy. Motion by Rink to adopt the website policy; second by Carlisle. Approved 4-0.

Budget review. Rink stated he would like to have the estimated expenses be the same or less than the anticipated revenues. Wyman questioned the increase in employee health insurance when the amount was set previously by the council. Matter was tabled to the next meeting so the City Clerk could be present to answer questions.

Engineering Proposals. Motion by Carlisle to accept the proposal from MSA Professional Services in the amount of \$2,450.00; second by Bergstrom. Approved 4-0.

Review sealed bids for sale of City Property. No bids were submitted for the property at 907 2nd St. Rink said he would like to advertise for bids again with the minimum bid being \$6,600. Matter was tabled to the next meeting.

Chaz Hendrix re: City yard waste site. Mayor Putnam said he met with Mr. Hendrix and that Mr. Hendrix is not happy with how things are at the site. Options for the city may be to rent or purchase land next to the lagoons; move the site west of town out by the cemetery or contract with someone to grind.

Public Comments. Randy Main, owner of Fulton Steamer informed the council that he is interested in purchasing the Chuckwagon property. He explained that he would basically keep the structure but make improvements to suit the needs of his business. He is willing to purchase the tax certificates and understands there would be a process to follow. Matter will be placed on the next agenda.

Messages and Papers from the Mayor. Mayor Putnam passed around an invitation from SWIPCO regarding the Southwest Iowa Comprehensive Economic Development Planning meetings on February 12 and 19.

Propositions and Remarks from Council Members. Rink stated that he is on the committee to find a new city attorney since the current city attorney has resigned. He will contact an attorney he knows in Shenandoah who can give him names of attorney's to contact. Mayor Putnam said he would like to look into having someone on a retainer rather than an hourly rate.

Wyman asked the employees to look into GEO on demand, which is a training site. The cost is only \$5 a month per employee.

Carlisle asked about the sanitary sewer line by the phone company. Jipsen commented that repairs are needed.

Motion by Carlisle to adjourn; second by Rink. Approved 4-0; 7:03 p.m.

Jerry Putnam
Mayor

Marylynne Dickinson
Deputy City Clerk