

OTTUMWA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

WORK SESSION NO. 4
Room 8B – Depot Conference Room

January 23, 2024
5:30 O’Clock P.M.

The meeting was called to order 5:30 P.M.

Present were Council Member Caviness, Bossou, Galloway, Hoffman, McAntire and Mayor Johnson.

Staff present City Admin. Rath, Interim Fin. Dir. Kinser, Accountant McGriff, HR Dir. Codjoe, IT Mgr. Wilson, PIO Lawrence, Dir. Airport Oper. Wheaton, Com. Dev. Dir. Simonson, Parks & Rec. Dir. Rathje, PW Dir./City Engineer Burgmeier, Interim Fire Chief Short, Police Chief Farrington, WPCF Supt. Lloyd.

Others in attendance Exec. Dir. BVC Hallgren and John Hunolt representing Cemetery Brd. of Trustees.

Galloway moved, seconded by Bossou to approve agenda as presented. All ayes.

Kristine Stone & Logan Brundage with Ahlers & Cooney, P.C. discussed role of Council Members to establish policies and direction for the city; for all five seats to act together as one body; identify priorities during budget work sessions and focus on these priorities over the next fiscal yr.; Open Mtgs IA Code §21 seeks to assure governmental decisions and mtgs. are easily accessible to the citizens; all actions and discussions are conducted and executed in open session with mins. transcribed; there are twelve possible reasons to go into closed session, but final action must occur in open. Open Records IA Code §22 – “The purpose of the Open Records Act is to open the doors of government to public scrutiny and to prevent government from secreting its decision making activities from the public, on whose behalf it is its duty to act.” Public records requests funneled through lawful custodian (City Clerk) who is responsible for implementing the requirements of the Open Records Law.

Kinser reported Intro/Overview of Budget process; Debt Service and 2024 Borrowing – each dept. request was discussed in length; these items have all been presented as a need for each dept. with everything submitted, we can easily hold the line with where we need to be within the debt service tax levy. Council gets to define the City’s affordability; requests are presented to our financial advisor and I present to you for approval. Total proposed bonding requests \$6,854,450 with issuance costs est. between \$150,000 and \$200,000 for a total bond \$7 Million.

The City’s total tax levy for this year is \$21.20 and we are proposing \$21.00 or a reduction of \$0.20 for every \$1,000 of taxable valuation.

John Hunolt, Chair, Cemetery Brd. of Trustees, read stmt. from the brd. The current cemetery office and maintenance bldg. is not sustainable; not ADA accessible; not able to provide quality service to our customers; records storage is in basement where water is retained; water runs onto the main electrical box every time it rains. Seems like funding for the cemetery is rejected.

Will move the remaining items (Capital Funds discussion) to another Special Work Session next Tues., Jan. 30, to continue the conversation.

There being no further discussion, McAntire moved, seconded by Hoffman that the mtg. adjourn. All ayes.

Adjournment was at 7:52 P.M.

CITY OF OTTUMWA, IOWA

Richard W. Johnson
Richard W. Johnson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Christina Reinhard
Christina Reinhard, IaCMC, City Clerk

Published in the Ottumwa Courier on 2/1/2024.

