

Special Meeting
August 24, 2011
7:00 p.m.

With due call and notice thereof, the August 24, 2011, Special Meeting of the Eden Valley City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Civic Center Meeting Room. Present were Mayor Korman, Councilors Thielen, Gabrelcik, and Bethel and Clerk Haag. Absent: Councilor Reetz. Also present were Shannon Schroeder, Ernie Junker, Jim Rademacher, Brian Peterka, and Dave Braegelman. Mayor Korman presided.

The purpose of the Special Meeting was to discuss union negotiation issues, 2012 Budget workshop and land issues.

Union Rep Shannon Schroeder reported she had received an email from Mayor Korman since the last negotiation meeting indicating the City had concerns with Article 18 of the contract regarding Vacancies, specifically the section that stated existing employees meeting minimum qualifications for job vacancies would be granted those positions, and proposed to change it. Both city and union agreed the previous meeting had gone quite late and both parties had concerns on the final outcome, and Schroeder explained the union would agree to look at the proposal to change Article 18, if the city would agree to look at wages and discuss where we are with that. Schroeder proposed the Council consider the insurance rebate of over \$18,000 the City had received due to claims experience and the fact that by eliminating the existing sick-leave payout benefit after termination, four current employees with a combination of over 68 years of service to the City had given up over \$9,800 in pay, and proposed the City consider wage increase of 1.5% for 2011 retroactive to July 1, 2011, and 1.5% increase for 2012, instead of the current .75% for 2011 and 1.5% for 2012, with no retro, but to go in effect upon signing of contract. A spreadsheet showing the additional cost to the City over the two-year period for this proposed change would total \$3133.43 for all employees. Article 18, Section 18.2 was proposed to be changed to indicate current employees would be guaranteed an interview for new positions and vacancies, but the City maintains the right to choose who they want to fill the position, and their decision shall not be subject to the grievance procedure. The Council took a brief recess to consider the proposal. Upon return, the Council indicated they would not agree to the wage increase as proposed. The meeting was then recessed again when the Union met to consider a counter proposal. Upon return, the Union proposed 1.5% for 2011, and 1.5% for 2012, with no retro, but increase to take effect upon signing of contract. Another spreadsheet was provided, showing the total additional cost to the City for this proposal would be \$2385.60. Discussion followed, and the Council once again recessed to consider. Upon return, the City agreed to the wage proposal of 1.5%, 1.5%, effective upon signing of contract. Union Rep Schroeder reported the Patrol Unit contract still needed to reviewed, but requested she have a few minutes to meet with Officer Peterka before presenting the proposal, and this request was granted.

The Council moved to item 3 on the agenda, Land Issues. Clerk Haag reported she had been contacted by Lon Peterson and he wished to propose a land transfer deal to the City for consideration. A map of Jack's Addition was provided to the Council, with parcels owned by Peterson highlighted. Mr. Peterson owns a parcel of land in Jack's Addition, located just south

of the water treatment plant, that is 138.16 ft. X 400 ft., approximately 1.27 acres. Peterson proposes to transfer the title of this property to the City in exchange for the value of the outstanding special assessments owed on the other property Peterson owns, Lots 3 & 4, Block 4, Jack's Addition. Haag reported the outstanding balance on the special assessments as of 12/31/11 is \$12,265.66, or \$6132.83 per lot. The special assessment has 7 years remaining, and interest rate is 5.63%, so potential revenue from the special assessments if they are not prepaid is \$15,027.88. Council discussion followed on the location of the property, access to it, lack of water, sewer, and street, and advertised price for other land in the area of \$6000 per acre. After discussion, Council consensus was there was no apparent public benefit to obtain the property, and the Council is not interested in the offer at this time.

Union Rep Schroeder and Officer Peterka returned to the meeting. Schroeder reported the issue on the contract over pro-rated benefits has been resolved, and Peterka is satisfied with pro-rated benefits for sick leave, vacation, and holidays, and will not be asking for pro-rated insurance. Schroeder did report when the Council cut the Patrol Officer position it was to be 20 hours per week, and Peterka has been having problems with getting a work schedule early enough for him to make plans with his part-time position in Cold Spring. Schroeder reported Peterka's primary responsibility is Eden Valley, but when Cold Spring puts out their schedule of when they will need help Peterka does not know if he will be scheduled in Eden Valley and loses the opportunity to pick up shifts in Cold Spring. Schroeder provided an example that the current Eden Valley schedule ends August 27th, and it is August 24th today. The union proposes the Patrol Unit contract include language ensuring a schedule in a 6-month block at a time, which Schroeder suggested would also benefit the City, to allow them to be aware of Peterka's vacation scheduling in advance as well. Peterka reported Cold Spring provides schedules 6 months to 1 year out, and Grove City used to have schedules 11 months out when they had their own department. Councilor Thielen questioned the need to have the language in the contract, noting this was an issue that can be taken care of with Chief Junker, by just having the Council give direction to have it completed, since they are his boss. Peterka had concerns with not having the contract language. Discussion followed, with concerns raised over a 6-month schedule, emergency situations that may arise, and the suggestion to set a goal of 2 to 3 months. It was suggested a 3-month schedule be required, with Peterka reporting he would still be open to making schedule switches in emergency situations or if possible, and the Council also noting that if the schedule needed to be changed and Peterka had commitments elsewhere, the second part-time officer could be contacted to cover the shifts Peterka was not available for. Schroeder reaffirmed the status of Peterka as an employee hired for 1040 hours in the calendar year, and referenced the Council minutes where the full-time officer position was cut to 20 hours per week. The position is to be budgeted for 1040 hours for the calendar year, and benefits pro-rated based on 1040 hours as well. Schroeder reported she would complete the contracts with the current negotiated changes on Article 18 and wages for all Units and 3-month schedule language for the Patrol Unit while the Council completed their special meeting, and the contracts should be ready for signatures tonight.

The next item on the agenda was 2012 budget review. Haag reported LGA amounts were projected to remain at 2011 level, and other revenues should be consistent with previous years. Expenses in the general fund were reviewed, with most anticipated to remain close to 2011 levels

as well. Elections will be occurring in 2012, so that will again be an additional cost. Fire & Rescue was discussed briefly, and Haag will contact Chiefs Thielen and Covert to see about any major changes for 2012. A request has been received from Jerry Vossen, of River Lakes Fire District, to borrow some of Eden Valley's extra fire uniforms that aren't being used since the grant funds received purchased some new uniforms. Council consensus was the City was not interested in borrowing the uniforms, but if the Fire District wished to purchase them, Chief Joe Thielen could negotiate a price and sell the uniforms that were no longer needed by Eden Valley. Chief Junker reported he may need some equipment for the Police Department, but he may be able to use some of the forfeiture funds to help defray some of the cost. Public Works Director Rademacher reported Church Street North and Rose Avenue from Stearns Avenue West to State Street should be overlaid in 2012, and estimated \$15,000 would need to be added to the street budget in order to complete this work. Rademacher also reported the mower is 5 years old now, and should be replaced, plus he is looking at replacing the one-ton truck. Equipment escrow in both street and parks may need to be utilized to consider these purchases. Councilor Thielen asked Rademacher to check into the price of contracting for mowing services versus the city continuing to complete the mowing needed. The remaining general fund budget was reviewed, with Haag requesting the Council contact her before the September meeting if they had any concerns or additions that should be addressed. Haag reported enterprise budgets would need to be reviewed at a future time, and as discussed a year ago, rate increases in water and sewer would be anticipated.

The Labor Agreement between City of Eden Valley and AFSCME Council 65, AFL-CIO for Police Chief Unit, Essential Supervisory Unit, Patrol Unit, and Base Unit for 2011-2012 were unanimously approved on a motion by Bethel, seconded by Thielen.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Bethel, seconded by Gabrelcik.

Attest:

Mona Haag, Clerk

Peter Korman, Mayor