

October 15, 2019

The Common Council met with Mayor William McKean for a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall according to the posted notice. Councilmen Gregg Sprunger, Curtis Wurster, Ron Dull, Mark Wynn and Philip Provost were present, along with City Attorney Dave Baumgartner and Clerk-Treasurer Gwen Maller.

Councilman Gregg Sprunger opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance and Mayor McKean gave the invocation.

Minutes

On a motion by Phil Provost and a second by Gregg Sprunger, the minutes of the September 23, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved.

Claims

On a motion by Mark Wynn and a second by Ron Dull, the claims were unanimously approved for payment.

Pre-Adoption Public Hearing for the 2020 Budget

The regular Council meeting was recessed for the public hearing as advertised ~~in~~ on Gateway's website for the following:

A pre-adoption public hearing for the 2020 budget was held at 7:45 p.m. The total of all funds for the budget is \$ 3,294,700. The final adoption of the 2020 budget will be on October 28, 2019, after which it will be uploaded to the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) through the Gateway site within two (2) days after adoption. No objections from the general public were raised.

The public hearing was closed, and the regular council meeting was reconvened.

Storm Water Rates

Ms. Penny Price and Mr. Ross Hagen, of Baker Tilly, City of Berne municipal advisors, came before the council to review the estimated costs and revenue requirements for the upcoming stormwater/sewer separation project. The estimated cost of the project is \$6,230,000 of which \$4,349,100 is for the actual separation work; \$ 352,000 is for the Main Street lift station; \$469,900 is for contingency; and \$1,059,000 for non-construction costs. Estimated project funding comes \$4,571,000 of Stormwater revenue bonds; \$1,403,000 TIF funds on hand; \$ 231,000 stormwater cash on hand; and \$25,000 SRF grant. The advisors stated that if the bid comes in according to the engineer's estimate, there will not be a need to raise the storm water rates as they are generating enough revenue to make the debt service and the operating budget. They did state however, if the project bids come in higher, then the revenue estimates will have to be revisited and maybe more cash on hand will have to be used or the rates will have to be increased a small amount.

Attorney Dave Baumgartner asked if it is normal for a project like this to have a 20-year bond issue. Ross replied that a 20-year bond issue is pretty much standard. The interest rate for the bonds right now are at 2%.

Councilman Mark Wynn asked how much the city had in TIF money and would it be depleting that fund. Gwen Maller stated that it would not deplete the TIF fund as the balance is a little over 2 million dollars.

Mayor McKean informed the Council that Commonwealth Engineers tried to err on the higher side of the estimates to determine if the current rates would cover the project. There are two phases in the separation projects in the LTCP. In talking with our employees who are directly involved in the project, the Mayor said that they are really optimistic that this first project help control the CSO's so there might not be much to do in the next phase.

Clerk-Treasurer Comments

Gwen Maller asked if anyone had questions over the third quarter financial statements that were included in the Councilmen's packets. There were no questions.

Mayor Comments

Mayor McKean announced that Berne received \$611,222.08 in Community Crossings grants. This grant will enable the City to install curbs, gutters and to widen Village Way from Parkway Street to C.R. 700 S. The City will also be able to mill and repave 10 other streets. Mayor McKean thanked Clerk-Treasurer Gwen Maller and Street Superintendent Gary Nussbaum for all their hard work in applying for this grant.

Councilman Comments

Councilman Ron Dull reported that there is an area on Berne Street near the water tower that is buckled up making it feel like a speed bump. He wondered if someone could take a look at it.

There being no other business to come before the Council and upon a motion duly made to adjourn by Ron Dull and seconded by Curtis Wurster, adjournment followed.

William F. McKean, Mayor

ATTEST:

Gwen Maller, Clerk-Treasurer