

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL

July 30, 2018

5:00 P.M.

Members Present: Mayor Dale, Council Members Miller, Bohn, McCann, Lambrecht, Bertsch, Wateland, and McNary.

Staff Present: Huwe, Lies, Miranowski, Thorsteinson, Broadland, DeVries, Cain and Amos.

Also Present: Wanda Seliski of the Wahpeton Breckenridge Chamber of Commerce.

Mayor Dale called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Wahpeton “Downtowners” Request for Fiscal Agent Services ó DeVries said he was approached by a couple of members of downtown businesses that are looking to do a 400 and 500 Block Crazy Days. No streets would be blocked off, they would just be doing sidewalk sales. They have solicited businesses on the 400 and 500 Block of Dakota Avenue asking if they would be interested in participating in the sale and also finically as they want to do some advertising. This is not a specific group or organization, just a couple of business owners that would like to hold a special Crazy Days for their season-end event. They approached the Chamber to be the fiscal agent so one business doesn't have to do it, it would be a neutral party, and they declined so they came to the City. DeVries told them he would look into it as he wanted to help the downtown and felt it was a way to provide a service that isn't being provided right now for them. It would be a short term thing, and the amount of money would be approximately \$500. This would help them to start some activity downtown. DeVries said he was requesting approval to act as the fiscal agent for this short term agreement. Wateland expressed concern with only the 400 and 500 Blocks being included, and he also did not feel it was the City's place to be the treasurer for private businesses. Bertsch agreed and felt it could be setting a precedence. When asked, Seliski explained it is the Wahpeton Breckenridge Chamber so to single out a 2 block area it is more of a downtown private thing, and as far as the monies they do not have the By-Laws to take their monies but noted there is a possibility this could change in the future. It was also noted a Crazy Daze was held in conjunction with Blue Goose Days this year per the Chamber Retail Committee's decision. Miller asked if there were any issues legally or fiscally that would prevent the City from doing this, which Lies did not feel there was. Huwe commented it is up to the elected officials but felt there are legitimate concerns regarding setting a precedence but if the Council chooses to do it for this small scale event it can be made to work. She did not want to be the bookkeeper for every small non-profit collaborative but the City has been encouraging the retailers to master their own destiny and this one time may be a stepping stone to that. **Motion by Miller, seconded by Lambrecht, to approve designating the City of Wahpeton provide the Fiscal Agent Services for Wahpeton “Downtowners” for their Crazy Days Event.** Discussion held. Dale was not opposed to doing this as a one-time thing but was concerned about setting a precedence. Miller felt it would send a message to retailers the City is on their side. DeVries said the hope is it would unite the downtown. **Motion carried with Miller, Bohn, McCann, Lambrecht and McNary voting ‘aye’; and Bertsch and Wateland voting ‘nay’.**

2019 Preliminary Budget Discussion & Certification of Preliminary Tax Levy

The City of Wahpeton 2019 Preliminary Budget was reviewed as presented by Finance Director Huwe. (See booklet) Huwe asked that any questions or suggestions be directed to her. She noted this would be the first year that Wahpeton taxpayers will receive a Notice of Estimated Property Tax/Truth in Taxation Bill and a sample was provided. It will show the proposed tax levy and what it will mean for their specific parcel, it will compare it to last year, and will provide a hearing schedule. Huwe then referred to the Preliminary Certificate of Levy, which is the proposed property tax levy, and it needs to be certified to the County no later than August 10th. She reviewed the proposed amount levied which totaled \$1,761,503 for the operating budget for 2019. It is 5.22% less than the current year. She reported the 2019 Budget Public Hearing is to be scheduled for Monday, September 17th at 5:00 p.m. Discussion held. **Motion by McCann, seconded by Wateland, to approve the Preliminary Certificate of Levy as presented. Motion carried with all voting ‘aye’.**

McNary then announced that Wahpeton will be hosting the Central Plains American Legion Baseball Tournament August 9-12, 2018 with 8 teams from Wisconsin, Minnesota and North Dakota participating.

Motion by McCann, seconded by Bertsch and carried, to adjourn at 6:00 p.m.

ATTEST

Steve Dale, Mayor

Lynelle Amos, Finance Assistant