

**Committee Of The Whole**  
**Tuesday, April 5, 2022 – Meeting Minutes**

The City of Adel's Committee of the Whole met in the council chambers at Adel City Hall. McAdon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Members present: Christensen, McAdon, Miller, Ockerman, and Selby. Others present: City Administrator Brown, Finance Director Sandquist, Public Works Director Overton, Parks & Recreation Director Schenck, Fire Chief Nemechek, Police Chief Shepherd, Detective Lieutenant Book, and McClure reps. Gary Brons, Scott Port, and Brian Sandberg.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**a) January 4, 2022 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**

Ockerman motioned, seconded by Miller, to approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

**b) Adel Fire Department Truck Committee Recommendation for Two Fire Trucks from Toyne, Inc.**

Nemechek presented three quotes on purchasing two new fire trucks: approximately \$730,000 from Toyne, approximately \$750,000 from Pierce, and approximately \$881,000 from E-One. The trucks that these would replace are over 20 years old. The truck committee is recommending Toyne because of the price and easy service in Carroll, Iowa. The City would make a payment when the two chassis arrive and then another payment when the trucks are finalized. The City would use its American Rescue Plan Act funding to pay for the new fire trucks.

Christensen motioned, seconded by Selby, to recommend purchasing two new fire trucks from Toyne, Inc. to the council. Motion carried unanimously.

**c) Proposed Prospect Pointe Subdivision – Sanitary Sewer & Lift Station Considerations**

Ockerman stated that the City did not allow septic systems for the proposed North 15<sup>th</sup> Street subdivision and that he would prefer not to have septic systems in town. McAdon stated that developers normally pay for infrastructure. Christensen stated that, for the East Annex area, he would prefer to spend City funds on preparing for commercial development. McAdon stated that, for this subdivision to move forward, the City can either amend its ordinance to allow septic systems or fund the proposed sanitary sewer extension.

Ockerman motioned, seconded by Christensen, to recommend not changing the ordinance and not moving forward with the sewer extension to the council. Motion carried unanimously.

**d) Next Steps on Pending Projects: North 15<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge and CIRTPA Trails**

Brown stated that the cost estimates for the bridge and trails projects have increased significantly this year. McAdon stated that the CIRTPA trail grants are small and that she would prefer to focus on Water Tower Park. Ockerman stated that the proposed projects can be phased in to save funds. Port stated that the CIRTPA Board would be receptive to phasing in the trails. Christensen stated that a community placemaking project with other partners may garner additional funding. Port stated that the updated cost estimates are more appropriate and detailed. Schenck suggested starting with the neighborhood trail first and then doing the school trail later. City staff will bring a revised proposal next month.

Port stated that the bridge will require some analysis due to the curve, creek, and nearby Oakdale Cemetery. The committee asked questions about the engineering fees increasing with the cost estimate increasing, making the scopes and cost estimates consistent so that they can be compared, reconciling the scope with the actual work performed, and a report on the number of hours spent on each project. McClure acknowledged these questions and provided explanations on each.

Miller motioned, seconded by Christensen, to recommend the North 15<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge project to the council after City staff reviews the contract further. Motion carried unanimously.

**e) Seasonal Hiring Update**

Schenck stated that, in early March, only 15 lifeguards had been hired for the upcoming pool season. Now, 25 lifeguards have been hired, which is much closer to the average. Nine seasonal parks employees have been hired, which is the highest amount ever for the City.

**f) Police Officer Retention Discussion**

Miller stated that “Corporate America” is now competing with hiring law enforcement in addition to the greater Des Moines metro communities. Shepherd provided an overview of the hiring history for his department and the recent challenges. Many departments are paying more upon hiring or after one or two years. Selby asked whether the City should review its longevity pay program. Ockerman asked about existing officers. Christensen noted that a larger effort could be made on this issue by the Iowa League of Cities, the Iowa Legislator, and the school systems.

**g) Audit RFP**

Brown stated that the City is planning to issue an RFP for audit services soon. Christensen stated that the scoring process should be robust. Sandquist stated that metro-area firms would be targeted.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Nemechek stated that the Madison Court cul-de-sac has six cars parked around it, which could cause an issue during an emergency. Overton stated that new cul-de-sacs are wider. Shepherd stated that no accidents have occurred, and no formal complaints have been filed. Christensen asked how other communities handle this.

Ockerman asked McClure for a proposal to study the Southwest Basin area with the Metcalf properties near the new elementary school.

Miller stated that the City’s insurance agent is planning to move to Omaha but will keep the City as his client.

**ADJOURNMENT – 8:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted: Anthony Brown, City Administrator