

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE DAVENPORT CITY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 11, 2023**

ROLL CALL

Mayor Brad Sweet called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Council Members present were Jonathan Chapman, Robert Jenkins, Cory Hollis, Pat Katz, and Chris Ruiz.

Absent: Heath Becker and Lance Strite. John Chapman made a motion to excuse He

Also, attending were David Bingaman, Steve Goemmel, Drew Lawson, Dave Leath, Brandon Rose, and John Stiles.

***The meeting was available by remote access on digital media. The City Council met in person.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

John Chapman made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 27, 2023, meeting. The motion was seconded by Robert Jenkins. The motion carried.

POLICE REPORT

Deputy Brandon Rose reported 114 calls for service in the month of September. He mentioned that traffic offenses have declined a bit. Mayor Sweet asked which deputy was assigned to Davenport. Deputy Rose said he didn't think Davenport had any deputies assigned to the town.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Sweet opened the public hearing for the 2024 preliminary budget, proposed revenue sources for 2024, and the regular tax levy for 2024, at 7:15 p.m. The mayor asked for questions or comments from the city council. Cory Hollis suggested a three percent increase in water rates, a one percent increase in sewer rates, and a five percent increase in garbage rates. Mayor Sweet commented that there doesn't seem to be any changes in the revenue sources for 2024, and he suggested sticking with a one percent increase in the regular tax levy. City Administrator Steve Goemmel told the city council that he budgeted very conservatively for 2024.

The mayor asked for questions or comments from the public. John Stiles suggested dropping the line item for the Chamber of Commerce from the budget because there is no active chamber. He suggested that the city council consider contributing more in 2024 to the Lincoln Historical Society. He said that the city contributed 18.3% of the Lincoln Historical Society's wages. He commented that there have been many changes to the museum and that it draws visitors to the city. The mayor suggested that the museum fill out a tourism fund grant application.

With no further comments, the mayor closed the public hearing at 7:31 p.m.

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

No Changes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

COMMENT / SIGN IN

John Stiles signed in to ask the city council to contribute more tourism fund money to the Lincoln Historical Society in 2024. John told the city council about all the exciting new things that they have done at the Museum. John commented the Museum brings a lot of people to town.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

Cory Hollis reported that the Committee met to discuss the preliminary budget for 2024, the proposed revenue sources for 2024, and the regular tax levy for 2024. Cory said, "the committee recognizes that the revenue sources for the city are static by nature, and they don't change very much, and the committee recommends taking a one percent increase in the Regular Tax Levy for 2024." The committee proposed a three percent increase in water fees, a one percent increase in Sewer Fees, and a five percent increase in garbage charges plus a four percent COLA for city employees.

MAYOR'S ANNUAL BUDGET MESSAGE

Mayor Sweet read his annual budget message. He highlighted the major sources of revenue for the city and his vision of growth for the city. He urged the city council to continue investing in infrastructure, parks, and the swimming pool. He told the city council that the financial status of the city is good. There are no sewer fund loans or water fund loans. The mayor said that he looks forward to working with the city council to come up with a balanced budget that provides the best possible outcomes for the citizens of Davenport.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Sweet told the city council that the Washington State Auditor's Office is working on the City's audit, and they had the official entrance conference today.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Non-Exclusive Telecommunication Franchise with Lincoln County and Other Matters Properly Relating to Thereto. Mayor Sweet asked the city council for questions or comments on Lincoln County's proposed franchise agreement for broadband. City Administrator Steve Goemmel told the city council that the county forwarded "exhibit a" the city council to review. He suggested eliminating areas that are not in the city from the agreement. City Attorney David Bingaman commented that most of the agreement was acceptable from his point of view. Mayor Sweet suggested that some of the more difficult areas could be access on the poles rather than boring the streets to go underground. The mayor asked David Bingaman to contact the county's attorney to work out a solution for the city council to review.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

APPROVAL TO PAY BILLS

Pat Katz made a motion to pay Claims/Vouchers #19809 - #19828 in the Amount of \$90,777.42 and Payroll/Vouchers #19783 - #19808 in the Amount of \$68,990.22. The motion was seconded by Jonathan Chapman. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Jonathan Chapman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Robert Jenkins. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.



David M. Leath - Clerk/Treasurer



Mayor Brad Sweet