

AMERY CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

August 2, 2023

The Amery City Council met on August 2, 2023 at the Amery City Center. Acting Mayor, Eric Elkin called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Deputy Clerk-Treasurer, Taylor Larson conducted Roll Call.

Present: Acting Mayor, Eric Elkin; and Alderpersons; Sharon Marks; Rick Van Blaricom; Mykaela Thompson; Mike Manor, and Sarah Flanum.

Staff Present: City Administrator, Patty Bjorklund; Deputy Clerk-Treasurer, Taylor Larson; Fire Chief, Chuck Frohn, and Public Works Director, Jeff Mahoney.

Others present: John Shilts – Police Consultant; April Ziemer – Amery Free Press; and Members of the Public.

Consent Agenda Items:

Minutes – City Council (July 5, 2023); Committee of the Whole (July 19, 2023), Recycling Committee (July 12, 2023).

Motion by Alderperson, Flanum; seconded by Alderperson, Thompson; to approve the minutes as written.

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

Motion Carried.

New Business

- 1. Public Comment** – The 2022-2023 Fall Festival Queens Court were recognized for their service.
- 2. Police Chief Hiring Process** – John Shilts presented to the council that 6 chief applications were received and 4 applicants met all qualifications. He also informed the council that members had been selected for the civilian and law enforcement interview panels. Interviews are scheduled for August 30th. There was some discussion about the individuals on the civilian panel and some believed someone from the school should be included. Administrator, Bjorklund said she would work on that. Rick felt panel selection should have waited until after the council meeting.

Motion by Alderperson, Manor; seconded by Alderperson, Flanum, to approve contracting with John Shilts for the Police Chief hiring process.

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

Motion Carried.

- 3. Approval and Issuance of Liquor License** – Amery Farm Table, Inc, EcoEquity Community Partners, LLC, Amery VFW Post 7929, and Mustang Sally’s Beer & BBQ LLC all applied for the City of Amery one available intoxicating liquor license. Presentations were given by Amery Farm Table, Inc, EcoEquity Community Partners, LLC, and Amery VFW Post 7929 about why they should receive the license. Council then discussed what they felt was important and their feelings about who deserved the license.

Motion by Alderperson, Manor; seconded by Alderperson, Marks; to approve the Class “B” Beer and “Class B” Liquor license for EcoEquity Community Partners, LLC.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes – Marks, Van Blaricom, Manor.

Nays – Thompson, Flanum.

Motion Carried.

4. Police Union PTO Discussion – The Amery Police, the Police Union Stewards, and the City came to an agreement to suspend the PTO cap of 720 hours for 2023. No action was taken.

5. Proposed Sewer Rate Increase – Brian Roemer from Ehlers presented in June about a stepped sewer rate increase that would need to be done to pay for future sewer plant upgrades and cover increasing costs of operation. Formal approval of the increases is required to put the increases into effect. Initial increases will be 33.5% in 2023, 8.5% in 2024, 8.5% in 2025 and 8.5% in 2026.

Motion by Alderperson, Flanum; seconded by Alderperson, Manor; to increase rates as presented.

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

Motion Carried.

6. Possible Decontamination Station at Birch St. Boat Landing – Apple River Protection and Rehabilitation District (ARPRD) would like to put a decontamination station at the Birch St Boat Landing.

Motion by Alderperson, Van Blaricom; seconded by Alderperson, Thompson; to approve allowing ARPRD to install a decontamination station on City property at the Birch St Boat Landing.

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

Motion Carried.

7. Ordinance 03-2023-Ch 14 Boards, Commissions, And Committees – The ordinance will create a Personnel Committee consisting of Council President and two other Council members appointed by the Mayor.

Motion by Alderperson, Flanum; seconded by Alderperson, Manor; to approve Ordinance 03-2023.

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

Motion Carried.

Motion by Alderperson, Manor; seconded by Alderperson, Marks; to adjourn at 6:20 P.M.

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Taylor Larson
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer
August 3, 2023.