

City of Stewart Council Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2024

7:00 pm Call to Order the Regular Council Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call; Mayor: Jason Peirce-here
 Council Member: Carol Altrichter -here
 Council Member: James Eitel-here
 Council Member: Thomas Moon -here
 Council Member: Daniel Broucek -absent

Approval of Minutes;

Motion to approve August 12, 2024 meeting minutes, Eitel/Moon, all in favor, motion carries

Consent of Agenda;

Kevin would like to add in the IGA building

Orville would like to add in Yellowstone Trail

Mayor Peirce would like to move the 2025 budget to the end of the meeting

Motion to approve agenda, Altrichter/Eitel, Altrichter/Eitel, all in favor, motion carries

Approval of Payments (Claims);

Motion to approve payments, Moon/Eitel, all in favor, motion carries

Approval of Utility Billing Information;

Motion to approve utility billing information, Moon/Eitel, all in favor, motion carries

Approval of Bank Reconciliation;

Motion to approve Bank reconciliation, Moon/Altrichter, all in favor motion carries

Maturation of Harrington Cemetery CD on 9/17/24

-Mayor Peirce stated that we need to decide if we reinvest the money in a new CD or cash it out into the savings account

-Council member Altrichter says we should make a motion to reinvest the money into a new 6-month to 8-month, high-interest CD

Motion to reinvest into a new 6-month CD, Altrichter/Moon, all in favor, motion carries

Petitions, requests, and communications

Commissioning a mural in 2025

There is no interest from the council in pursuing a mural because we are very limited on space to hang it

Cannabis ordinance and regulation

Motion to delegate the management of cannabis regulation over to the county,

Eitel/Altrichter, all in favor, motion carries

BLHS Softball -Transportation

There was a miscommunication on why the athletic director asked for this to be put on the agenda. Laura will reach out and find out the plan for softball transportation.

Call for Public Hearing – West Central Sanitation

Motion to have a public hearing to discuss delinquent bills at 7:00pm on October 14, 2024,

Altrichter/Moon, all in favor, motion carries

RS Fiber

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-Council member Altrichter said that RS Fiber does not have enough money to last until the end of the year. HBC said they would buy out RS Fiber, and after the buyout, there will only be 1 million dollars left. From the 1 million dollars, they will decide who will get paid out first. Ten towns need to be paid out. They will keep all of the fiber in the ground and continue operating everything as it has been run. Council member Altrichter is asking for permission to vote to sell RS Fiber to HBC to even have a chance of getting paid out. Mayor Peirce stated that we cannot vote on this without more information on the financials.

IGA building

-The building has been inspected and determined that it needs to be demolished

-A letter has been sent to the owner. If it is not addressed, we will turn it over to our city attorney

Yellowstone Trail

-Orville is asking about getting put on the list for Yellowstone Trail

-Mayor Peirce stated that we need more information before we can make a motion

Ordinances and Resolutions;

Resolution 2024-72 Wage increase for election judges

Council member Altrichter does not believe it should be retro-active and should only be applied going forward

Motion to approve Resolution 2024-72 to raise election judge wages to \$20 per hour going forward, Moon/Peirce, Eitel-abstains, Moon-yea, Altrichter-yea, Peirce-yeah, motion carries

Resolution 2024-73 Donation to Stewart Fire Department

Motion to approve Resolution 2024-74, Altrichter/Moon, all in favor, Eitel-yea, Moon-yea, Altrichter-yea, Peirce-yea, motion carries

Resolution 2024-74 Redistribution of Donation to Relief Association

Motion to approve Resolution 2024-75, Altrichter/Moon, all in favor, Eitel-yea, Moon-yea, Altrichter-yea, Peirce-yea, motion carries

Resolution 2024-75 Designation of ARPA funds

-Mayor Peirce stated that these funds were deposited in the General Fund but the documentation for their use has not been found

Motion to approve Resolution 2024-75, Altrichter/Eitel, all in favor, Eitel-yea, Moon-yea, Altrichter-yea, Peirce-yea, motion carries

Reports of Officers, Boards and Committees;

1. Police Department Report

Motion to approve Police Department Report, Altrichter/Eitel, all in favor, motion carries

Agreement to provide Law Enforcement Services

2. Emergency Services Report

A. Fire Department

-1 fire run in August

-The new turnouts came in and they are very nice

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-Pumper 2 needs to get finished

Motion to approve Fire Department Report, Eitel/Altrichter, all in favor, motion carries

B. EMR Department

-8 medicals in August

-Allina has better medical training compared to Ridgewater

-Allina training will streamline them with the surrounding towns allowing them to help each other and also restock each other's supplies

-Allina training is easier to make up because all the surrounding towns use it

-The budget accounts for the increased cost

Resolution 2024-77 Change of training program

Motion to approve Resolution 2024-77, Altrichter/Moon, all in favor, motion carries

Motion to approve EMR Department Report, Altrichter/Moon, all in favor, motion carries

3. Public Works Reports

A. Maintenance Report

-Bargen will be coming this week to look at Prior Street to repair mini rod damage

-Bargen is also looking at other options instead of crack sealing

-The StewartFest money went to the benches for the ball field and they will also pay for the cement

Resolution 2024-78- Approval for Attendance at Maintenance Expo

Motion to approve Resolution 2024-78, Eitel/Moon, all in favor, Eitel-yea, Moon-yea, Altrichter-yea, Peirce-yea, motion carries

Motion to approve Maintenance Report, Altrichter/Eitel, all in favor, motion carries

B. Water/Waste Water Report

-The MPCA director came out and inspected everything and all looked really well

Resolution 2024-76 – Online Class

Motion to approve Resolution 2024-76, Eitel/Altrichter, all in favor, Eitel-yea, Moon-yea, Altrichter-yea, Peirce-yea, motion carries

Motion to approve Water/Waste Water Report, Eitel/Altrichter, all in favor, motion carries

2025 Budget

Motion to approve Resolution 2024-79 for the preliminary 2025 budget with a preliminary tax levy increase of 15% for a total of \$518,970, Moon/Eitel, all in favor, Eitel-yea, Moon-yea, Altrichter-yea, Peirce-yea, motion carries

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Building & Planning & Zoning Permits

Approved Building Permits;

Unfinished business;

Employee Review,

Laura Ranieri -6 month review

Motion to remove the probationary period, Altrichter/Moon, all in favor, motion carries

Miscellaneous;

ADJOURN

Motion to Adjourn, Eitel/Altrichter, all in favor, motion carries

By:

Jason Peirce – Mayor

ATTESTS:

By:_____

Laura Ranieri, City Clerk - Treasurer