



*ROBINS CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2019 MEETING*

*Mayor Hinz called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Robins City Hall on Monday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019. After the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, roll call was taken with Mayor Hinz present along with Councilors Brad Sevcik, Dick Pilcher, Roger Overbeck and Marilyn Cook along with Planning and Zoning Administrator Dean Helander, Attorney Ryan Tang, Engineer Dax Suntken, Building Official/Public Works Superintendent Vince Bading, Fire Chief Brian Boots, City Clerk/Treasurer Lori Pickart and around 20 guests. Absent was Councilor Don Norton.*

*Overbeck moved to approve the agenda, Pilcher seconded and all voted aye.*

*COUNCIL REPORTS*

- Mayor Hinz deferred to the Councilors for their reports.*
- Streets Coordinator Brad Sevcik noted Singer Hill Lane and North Troy Road are pretty much completed along with Quass Road.*
- Public Safety Coordinator Dick Pilcher noted Quass Road is very nice as he travels it daily. He added he attended the Linn County Emergency Management meeting adding they purchased a Hazardous Materials ID which is a unit that can identify spills, drugs, etc.*
- Public Works Coordinator Roger Overbeck noted with the lack of rain there are no drainage issues. He added there are items following on the agenda.*
- Finance Coordinator Marilyn Cook noted the city is in the new Fiscal Year, adding the Road Use fund had an additional carry over of \$128K which should be added to this year's budget to pay for the street upgrades.*
- Engineer Dax Suntken noted Snyder and Associates did not recommend the crosswalk at Main and Second Streets and were reviewing other options when the crosswalk was completed.*

*CITIZEN COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS*

*None*

*CITIZEN COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS*

- Preston Moore of the Humane Society of the United States voiced his concerns relating to the Robins Animal Control Ordinance, specifically the breed specific legislation offering his help to the Council to rewrite the ordinance. Overbeck asked how you determine a dog is dangerous unless it bites? Mr. Moore noted you have to look at each dog individually. He noted if a dog barks and is snarling unprovoked it is most likely a dangerous dog.*
- Donna Penny of the Cedar Rapids Pitbull Association noted the dogs leave their facility fixed and chipped.*

- *Amanda Knefley, Director of Operations of the Cedar Valley Humane Society noted they offer programs to check out the dogs adding a lot of pit bulls are therapy dogs and asked the city to re-assess the city ordinance.*
- *Michelle Sacora, 385 White Pine Street provided a Chinese lantern to the City Council. She noted this firework was set off on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July noting it landed in the horse pasture near her house scaring the horses. She noted it was still on fire when it landed which could have started a fire, especially if it had landed on someone's rooftop. She asked the council to please ban these items.*
- *Sonya Brandly of Cedar Ridge Pet Boarding says she has a doggie daycare along with dog training and boarding. She noted she has over 7,000 clients and evaluates the dogs when they come to her facility, adding she had 63 dogs today with 14 of them being pit bull types. She asked the council to reconsider the ordinance.*

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

*Sevcik moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Cook seconded and all voted aye. Items approved were the Minutes of the July 1, 2019 meeting; the Financial Report, the List of Bills Submitted and added to; Resolution No. 0819-2 approving a Class "C" Liquor License for the Epic Event Center; Resolution No. 0819-4 approving Pay Request No. 1 to Peak Construction in the amount of \$22,246.15 for work completed on the 2019 S. Troy Park Restroom; and Setting September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. as the date of the September Council meeting.*

#### **OLD BUSINESS - None**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **Prospect Meadows** – *Jack Roeder along with Dan and Tim Strellner provided the Council with information relating to Prospect Meadows. They noted the development lies on 121 acres of land in Linn County with an agreement from the county for a 95 year lease at \$1 per year. They noted the groundbreaking was held in May of 2018 with the ribbon cutting and grand opening in May of 2019. They added there are 8 fields along with one "Miracle field" with a rubberized playing surface for disabled players. They noted there are currently two 2-story combined concession stands and press boxes with restrooms, parking and seating, along with a lake, wetlands, walking trail and two acres of gardens throughout the complex. They noted Phase 1 of the project is completed with some tweaking to do, adding they are hoping to begin construction of Phase 2 in the fall of 2021 for completion in 2023 and will include eight more fields, four with lighting, two additional 2-story concession stands and press boxes with restrooms, pavilions and seating and extended walking trails, gardens and a play area. They noted on weekends they have tournaments (with 9 tournaments to date) and have had*

*teams/guests from 15 states; 145 tournament teams; 105 out of town hotel stay teams; 1168 hotel rooms with 4586 persons staying. They noted this is only going to grow in the next years. They added this will certainly be an economic boom for the area in motels, restaurants, gas stations, etc. They asked the City of Robins to invest in the facility in the amount of \$20,000 along with a \$20,000 investment from the Robins Economic Development Initiative (REDI) which will provide bullpen and dugout signage to provide clear visibility for the city and REDI. After additional discussion, Pilcher moved to invest city monies in the amount of \$20,000 to Prospect Meadows, Sevcik seconded and all voted aye.*

- b. **Market Study.** Mayor Hinz noted he and Helander have had discussions with Mike Lipsman of the Strategic Economics Group relating to a very detailed market study to include a city wide survey. Mayor Hinz noted this would be more detailed than the 2013 survey adding it would provide a wealth of information for both the city and for REDI to assist in development of the city. He noted a study such as this was cited several times in the recently adopted Strategic Future Growth Outline. He also noted REDI has agreed to pay the cost of the study with hopes of it being completed in October of this year.*
- c. **Water Request Petition.** The Council reviewed the petition received from the residents in the D&M Addition which include 28 households located along Leslie Court, Quass Road and Beverly Street. They noted there was no response from two of the households along with 22 desiring water and 4 not wanting the service. Bruce Lyon of 435 Beverly Street noted the well is testing alright but the pressure tank has failed and DNR requirements no longer allow the pressure tank to be located underground. He noted the distribution is aging and in unknown shape. He noted there have been some problems with leakage which then requires repairs and the need to boil the water for human consumption. He noted the development is not in dire straits yet, but will be soon. Overbeck asked Suntken how long it would take to get water to the residents who stated it would take 3-4 months to design and 3-4 months to get the bidding process completed; so anticipates beginning the project in the spring of 2020. Cook asked if the system could be looped between Beverly and Quass and was told easements would need to be obtained. Cook moved to direct engineering to provide a cost estimate and a contract for services at the September 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, Sevcik seconded and all voted aye.*
- d. **Dog Request.** Bryce Paulsen of 110 Coach Circle noted his two children ages 10 and 7 have wanted a pet, adding they have found a Dogo Argentino dog that was born with a cleft pallet at the Cedar Valley Pit Bull Rescue Association. He noted their son was also born with a cleft pallet and feel connection with the dog. He noted he researched the Robins Code and noted the restrictions relating to varieties of dogs in the exotic code section. Donna Penny of the Cedar Rapids Pit Bull Rescue Association noted the dog had been taken care of by an 18 year old*

*who went away to college. She noted the dog has had surgery to correct its pallet and is a very nice dog, good with cats and with other dogs and is not aggressive. It was noted the Paulsen's have a privacy fence along the back of their property adding the yard is not fully enclosed. Overbeck noted he has researched the breed, adding it has been banned in over 40 countries and in New York. Mr. Paulsen noted in a lot of countries that are banned because they are trained to fight. Attorney Tang noted he is not sure this breed is considered to be an exotic animal. Sevcik moved to approve the request and allow the dog, Pilcher seconded. On the vote Pilcher and Sevcik voted aye, Cook and Overbeck voted nay. The motion failed to carry.*

- e. **Notice of Hearing, Plans and Specifications.** The plans and specifications relating to the sewer extension from I-380 to Burd Lane were supplied by Suntken to the City Council. It was noted the taking of bids and bid opening would occur on August 28<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. and the public hearing to hear comments and concerns would be held at the Robins City Hall on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00 p.m. Pilcher moved to approve Resolution No. 0819-3 to provide for a notice of hearing on proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimate of cost for the Sanitary Sewer Extension from I-380 to Burd Lane and the taking of bids. Sevcik seconded and all voted aye.*
- f. **FY'19 Street Finance Report.** Pickart noted this is an annual report to show the DOT all monies spent on streets. Sevcik moved to approve Resolution No. 0819-1, approving the report, Cook seconded and all voted aye.*
- g. **FY '20 Bond Sale.** Pickart supplied the Council with a list of capital projects listed on the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan along with the funding source for each project. She noted she and Cook have reviewed the impact to the municipal budget and recommend the city sell around \$2M with \$1M to be spent on the Indian Creek Sewer Upgrade, the other \$1M to extend utilities to two commercial developments. She noted the city may be asked to consider re-financing the 2011 GO Bonds. Sevcik moved to move forward with the bond sale and the updating of the Urban Renewal Plan; Overbeck seconded. On the vote, all voted aye.*

*Sevcik moved to adjourn at 8:59 p.m., Overbeck seconded and all voted aye.*

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*Chuck Hinz, Mayor*

*ATTEST:*

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*Lori Pickart, City Clerk/Treasurer*