

CITY COUNCIL

January 6, 2025

The January 6, 2025 City Council meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers by Kate Niederkohr, President. A moment of silence was observed followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. City Council members present were Scott Moore, Kate Niederkohr, John Walker, Kenneth Wessler, Tom Karcher, Aaron Korte, and Julia Lemire.

Others present included: Kyle McColly, Mayor; Ben Buckland, Law Director; Dale Rowe, Service Committee; Andy Voorheis, Service Committee; Brad Taylor, Street and Sanitation Supervisor; Jim Stauffer; Brian Hemminger, Daily Chief Union; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The minutes of the December 16, 2024 City Council meeting, having been mailed to each City Council member, were approved as received.

The minutes of the December 16, 2024 Service Committee meeting, having been mailed to each City Council member, were reviewed.

The minutes of the December 18, 2024 special Services Committee meeting, having been mailed to each City Council member, were reviewed.

Considerable discussion was held regarding the lease/purchase of a new automated garbage truck and toter carts as addressed in Ordinance No. 3-14. Mr. Karcher stated that he thinks moving to automation is good, but the timing of this purchase is bad as the City is not financially ready to proceed with this purchase. Mr. Karcher indicated that the cost to finance this purchase will be \$600,000.00; he proposed waiting two years, building the fund to pay for the automated truck/toter carts, and then purchasing the original automated truck selected for purchase, which is less expensive, without having to finance it. Mr. Karcher suggested replacing the Sanitation employee retiring in February and then remove the position in two years when the City can afford to purchase the automated truck/toter carts outright. Mayor McColly and Mr. Moore both stated that the price of the truck will not come down in two years due to inflation. Mr. Korte indicated that the automated truck will make for a more efficient department. Mr. Walker stated that he has reviewed the Treasurer's Reports for October and November 2024 showing a loss of \$40,000.00, and he expressed concerns about the City's finances to support this purchase. Mrs. Niederkohr inquired as to what would happen if there were any service related issues with the truck. Mr. Taylor indicated that the truck could be repaired in house or there would be access to a loaner truck if needed.

A motion was made by Mr. Korte, seconded by Mrs. Lemire, to place Ordinance No. 3-14 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE THREE YEAR LEASE/PURCHASE OF A LABRIE AUTOMIZER GARBAGE TRUCK ON A 2023 CHASSIS AND TOTER CARTS THROUGH THE STATE PURCHASING PROGRAM, AND DECLARING THIS ACT AN EMERGENCY.", on its first reading by title only. Upon Roll Call, all members voted as follows:

Mr. Moore	-	Yes
Mrs. Niederkohr	-	Yes
Mr. Walker	-	Yes
Mr. Wessler	-	Yes
Mr. Karcher	-	No
Mr. Korte	-	Yes
Mrs. Lemire	-	Yes

The President declared the motion carried by a 6-1 vote. The Clerk read Ordinance No. 3-14 for the first time by title only.

A motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Korte, to suspend the rules of the Municipal Charter calling for separate readings on different days. Upon Roll Call, all members voted as follows:

Mr. Moore	-	Yes
Mrs. Niederkohr	-	Yes
Mr. Walker	-	Yes
Mr. Wessler	-	Yes
Mr. Karcher	-	No
Mr. Korte	-	Yes
Mrs. Lemire	-	Yes

The President declared the motion carried by a 6-1 vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mrs. Lemire, to place Ordinance No. 3-14 on its second reading by title only. Upon Roll Call, all members voted as follows:

Mr. Moore	-	Yes
Mrs. Niederkohr	-	Yes
Mr. Walker	-	Yes
Mr. Wessler	-	Yes
Mr. Karcher	-	No
Mr. Korte	-	Yes
Mrs. Lemire	-	Yes

The President declared the motion carried by a 6-1 vote. The Clerk read Ordinance No. 3-14 for the second time by title only.

A motion was made by Mr. Korte, seconded by Mr. Moore, for the adoption of Ordinance No. 3-14. Upon Roll Call, all members voted as follows:

Mr. Moore	-	Yes
Mrs. Niederkohr	-	Yes
Mr. Walker	-	Yes
Mr. Wessler	-	Yes
Mr. Karcher	-	No
Mr. Korte	-	Yes
Mrs. Lemire	-	Yes

The President declared the motion carried by a 6-1 vote and Ordinance No. 3-14 was duly adopted.

Mr. Walker inquired as to if there are any plans to promote the proposed ½% income tax increase to be voted on at the May 6, 2025 Primary Election Ballot. Mayor McColly indicated that he and Mr. Keith Niederkohr, Parks Manager, are scheduled to speak at the March 19, 2025 Mens’ Lenten Luncheon and he plans to bring up the issue. Mayor McColly noted that he would also like to hold a public meeting at the library before the election to inform voters about the issue.

It was noted that due to the upcoming Martin Luther King Day holiday on Monday, January 20, 2025, the next City Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 21, 2025.

Mayor McColly presented his appointment/reappointments to standing committees as follows: Tree Commission (3 year term) – Jason Lemire and John Walker; and Park Board (5 year term) – Jon Blackburn and Erin Smith.

A motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mrs. Niederkohr, to approve the Mayor’s appointment/reappointments to standing committees as presented. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The President declared the motion carried.

Mr. Tom Karcher stated that the City is providing dumpsters and picking up cardboard from businesses at no cost and he would like to see the City cover its cost for this service being provided. Mr. Korte indicated that there are opportunities for the City to recover costs for this service by setting a price point to the customer. Mr. Korte will present this matter to the Service Committee at their next meeting for further discussion.

It was noted that City Council members received the Income Tax Collections and Transient Guest Tax Collections reports as of December 31, 2024.

Mayor McColly reported that Mr. Bob Snavely, Palmer Energy, will be in attendance at the next City Council meeting to discuss the electric and natural gas aggregation programs.

Mr. Buckland reported that he will present his Law Director Report for 2024 at the next City Council meeting.

Mayor McColly also reported that he will present the State of the City for 2024 at the next City Council meeting.

There being no further business, the President declared the meeting adjourned.

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

Kate Niederkohr, President