

COMMITTEE AS A WHOLE MEETING

DECEMBER 5, 2022

Present: Mayor David Velegol and City Clerk Dave Kurcina
Council: Tammy Johnson, Charles McCoy, Alexis Russell, Wendy DeAngelis, John Casinelli and Nick Cekinovich

Also: Police Chief Larry Rea and Public Works Director Steve Meca

Absent: City Manager Joe DiBartolomeo Jr. and City Attorney Mike Gaudio

Place: Council Chamber

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Moment of Silence

The Mayor and Council observed a Moment of Silence for Karla Kafton. Karla was a city employee for the past 28 years. The Mayor noted that Karla was a hard-working dedicated employee to the City. She has gone through serious health issues recently.

Brooke Middle School Cheerleaders

The Mayor presented Medals to the Brooke Middle School Cheerleaders. They won the Large School OVAC Championship for the 5th time and also won the Pac 8 Championship.

Public Request

Natalie Rocchio, resident of Highland Hills addressed Council concerning a proposed medical waste plant being built by Empire Green Generation at the former site of the Koppers Plant. She stated that her neighborhood is in the direct path from the fall out of the proposed plant. She stated that based on her research, this facility would do more harm than good. She also stated that the Citizens of Follansbee need to know the information that was provided to Council.

Christmas in the Park

Bill Secrist, Co-Chairman of the Christmas in the Park, presented a \$2,000.00 check to the Follansbee REACH Program, a \$3,500.00 check to Jilli-Ann Reagan and a \$3,500.00 check to Xaria Utt. Bill stated that he and Co-Chairman Kathy Santoro started this event 20 years ago. Due to recent health issues, Kathy has not been able to help as much as she has in the past. Bill noted that Stacey Williams has taken over for Kathy. Bill thanked his entire Committee, the Mayor, Council for allowing them to use the City Park and the City Crews for their help with the event.

Light Up Night

Alexis stated it was a good turnout with 90 children attending and there were also 18 student volunteers. She noted that there are a lot of items leftover for next year's event.

Financial Software Installation Update

The Mayor stated that there has been great progress made in the last few weeks.

Solar Lights

Charles tested the current Solar Light, that is in front of the City Building. The Light needs just 6 hours of day light each day to run at 100% for 4 hours. The Solar Lights can be purchased now to provide lighting until the Street Light project gets complete. Once the project is complete, the Solar Lights can be used in other parts of the City. It will take 3 to 4 weeks to have the Solar Lights purchased and installed. It could be bid on a unit price to have the flexibility. This item will be on the Agenda for the next Regular Council Meeting.

Street Lights

The RFP will be issued in January with the project starting when the weather breaks. The project will take an estimated 3 months to complete. Only the East side of Main Street will be completed on this project and will included replacing the sidewalk.

Water and Sewer Update

The money has been allocated for the Sewer Project. All that needs done is to complete the paper work. The funding could be available as soon as February to start the project. In relation to the Water Project, the Army Corp will run the Project. The City has no say on the bidding process.

Project Updates

The Mayor and City Manager will be traveling to Charleston to get the funding for the Plaza. Joe Edmiston, is currently working on the Firehouse Grant.

Year End Adjustments

It has been recommended to give each Full Time Employee a \$300.00 take-home year-end adjustment. The Part Time Employees year-end adjustment will be based on the number of hours worked. This item will be on the Agenda for the next Regular Council Meeting.

Fire Incident Reports Update

According to Chief Rea, the Fire Reports are up to date.

Building Enforcement

John stated that they opened bids last month for 8 structures to be torn down. Keith Yost's bid was \$68,900.00 and Pulice Construction placed a bid of \$72,000.00. He also stated that when the FEMA monies comes in, it will go back into their Budget.

Joe Edmiston's Contract

He was at the Meeting to discuss his Contract. His Contract has expired last month and the new Contract is the same exact one as last year's. He was able to secure a \$10.2 million dollar Grant from West Virginia Senator Shelly Moore Capito for the Sewer Project. He also submitted a \$2.7 million dollar Grant for the Firehouse Project. Senator Joe Manchin's Office notified the City that it has been approved. He noted that the City has had a \$1,368.42 return investment on every dollar of his Contract and Thanked the City Administration for their assistance. Alexis would like to see documentation on a regular basis to get a better understanding on what he is working on. He mentioned that he calls the Mayor and the City Manager on a Bi-weekly basis. He will also make sure that information will be available on a monthly basis. And he also said that he is willing to come to a meeting to discuss what is working on. Nick said that Council needs to work on a list of long and short term projects. This item will be on the Agenda for the next Regular Council Meeting.

Market Street Bridge Signs

The Mayor noted that the Office received a quote of \$1,900.00 per sign. The City is looking to purchase 2 signs. This item will be on the Agenda for the next Regular Council Meeting.

Front Office Personnel

There was no information available on this issue.

City Manager Comments

The City Manager was not in attendance.

Information

EPA Public Hearing Notice for December 14th concerning Medical Waste Facility to be held at the Follansbee Community House on Wednesday December 14th beginning at 6:00 p.m.

**Motion by John Casinelli/ 2nd by Tammy Johnson to adjourn at 6:50 p.m.
Motion Carried Unanimous.**

David P. Kurcina, City Clerk