

Glyndon City Council
2/23/2022
Regular Council Meeting – 6:00 P.M.
City Hall Council Chambers

1. **Call to Order:** Mayor Tracy Tollefson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. **Roll Call:** Council Members Present: Dave Owings, Justin Schreiber, Patric McCoy, and Kimberly Savageau; Police Chief Justin Vogel; City Clerk Wendy Affield; Water Superintendent Andy Olson.

As Per Sign in Sheet: Jeff Abele; Brock Franke; Fire Chief Bob Cuchna.

Virtual Attendees: Irene Barbosa; Victor Lugo.

3. **Motion to Approve Consent Agenda** – A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Kimberly Savageau, seconded by Patric McCoy. All in favor.
Motion Carried.

- a. **2/9/2022 – Council Meeting Minutes**
- b. **Approve Resolution of Payments**

4. **Any Additions to the Agenda** – None.

5. **Motion to Approve the Agenda** – A motion to approve the agenda was made by Dave Owings, seconded by Justin Schreiber. All in favor.
Motion Carried.

6. **Open Forum – Public Comments/Concerns** – Mayor Tollefson welcomed Irene Barbosa to speak. Barbosa, via Zoom, said she was present to speak on behalf of the Cecilia Lugo family and the property at 202 Eglon Avenue S. She said she is third generation relation to the decedent. Ms. Barbosa said there was a court hearing on February 16th concerning the house on the property, and according to the judgement from the courts its demolition is to happen within ten (10) days. She said considering the recent bitterly cold weather, the family has not had a chance to clean out the house, and would like to formally request an extension from the City prior to it being torn down. Mayor Tollefson thanked Barbosa for her comments.

7. **Department Reports – Committee Reports**

a. **Justin Vogel, Police Chief** – Vogel said his department continues to be busy, and his committee recently met to go over the new parking ordinance updates and also the future nuisance ordinance changes.

b. **Andy Olson, Maintenance Supervisor** – Olson said the speed sign on Parke Avenue is still not operating correctly, and recently he was given a walkthrough on how to reset it but it is still malfunctioning. He said City Engineer Kris Carlson is going to take a look at it and hopefully determine what the issue is, or if the entire sign needs to be replaced. Vogel asked if the sign even belongs to the City? Mayor Tollefson said she always thought it was a County sign, and suggested Olson contact them. He said that the County told him the City owns it, so he will need to contact them again to be sure. Mayor Tollefson said she will forward Olson the contact she was given for the County. Olson then said the new payloader has arrived at the dealership and should be delivered to the City on Monday, March 7th. He is looking forward to using it right away. He said the heavy snow fall continues to keep his department busy,

and should be doing another round of removal next week, especially along Parke Avenue and Southview. Olson said they will also be getting back to maintaining the skating rink, since the weather has been too cold to do anything and there should be warmer temperatures ahead.

c. Bob Cuchna, Fire Chief – Cuchna said his department has also been very busy so far this year, and he has recently met with the members of his committee too. He said the flooring that was approved should be arriving for installation around mid-March.

d. Wendy Affield, City Clerk – Affield said she has no updates at this time.

8. New Business

a. Discuss Increasing the Payout Benefit Amount for the Glyndon Volunteer Fire Department Relief Association for 2022 – Brock Franke – Franke said the Fire Department has a Relief Association, which provides the pension benefit for the department. He said this benefit is state regulated, an audit is conducted each year, and it has a board comprised of two City Council members, the Fire Chief, and other sub-appointees. Franke said this board will at times examine the benefit level and determine the 10-year vest and a 20-year vest period for the firefighters. He explained the Relief Association is only for active members of the fire department, and they do their own fundraising and manage their own pension. Franke said the state does not mandate the benefit level, but does place a cap on it. He said municipalities are required to guarantee the benefit per state statute. He said what this means is if the benefit ever is in a deficit, a city is required to cover the difference. Franke said the rest is funded by fire insurance premiums from the state, which can range anywhere from twenty to twenty-five thousand dollars (\$20,000-\$25,000) annually. He said the board has to approve the amendment to the bi-laws, and then the City has to approve the increase level. The current benefit level sits at nine-hundred dollars (\$900), he said, and there is a spreadsheet that breaks down the benefit level specifics which he can forward on to Council for their review. Franke said the Relief Association benefit level currently is at a surplus equaling their liability level, which is too high. He said in order to raise the surplus further, the board agreed to increase the benefit level to fifteen-hundred dollars (\$1,500) per member, up from nine hundred dollars (\$900). Franke said this will raise the surplus level to where it needs to be, and will need to be reviewed every two years or so. He said the fund is seeing decent returns, as the state requires the association to invest conservatively. Based on annual increases from the state and the fact that we do not have anyone drawing off of it any significant numbers, this fund should grow well, Franke said. McCoy pointed out that any changes in the fund are retroactive, so if the benefit is increased and a member has a 20-year tenure, then the payout goes back the 20 years. Schreiber asked if the only cost to the City is if the fund itself cannot cover the payout? Franke said that is correct, as most fund levels are where they need to be and are being allocated to its members. He said funds such as this benefit are easier to plan for and manage due to members not being able to draw until they are vested and at least age 50. Schreiber then asked how many current members are at a 10-year or 20-year level? Franke said there is currently six (6) members at the 20-year vested level. If a member does not make it to the ten (10) year mark they will not receive any funds. Affield asked how much a member will receive once they retire? Franke said they would receive fifteen-hundred dollars (\$1,500) annually. He said it also serves as a good recruiting tool to get more volunteers to join the department. A motion to approve the bi-law change increasing the Glyndon Fire Department Relief Association's request to increase the benefit level to fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500) per member was made by Kimberly Savageau, seconded by Justin Schreiber. All in favor. Motion Carried.

b. Approve \$2,618 Quote for Spring/Summer Banners from Display Sales – Andy Olson – Mayor Tollefson said this is to update the signage from the current “Happy Holidays” signs. A motion to approve the quote from Display Sales was made by Patric McCoy, seconded by Dave Owings. All in favor.

Motion Carried.

c. Approve Having Two Full-time Students for Seasonal Positions in the Maintenance Department – Andy Olson – Mayor Tollefson said the Maintenance Committee met and through their discussion felt the addition of two (2) full-timers for summer work would be a good start. Schreiber asked if the wage would be consistent with what it was last year? Affield said fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per hour is what is set for any seasonal worker. A motion to approve the hiring of two full-time seasonal summer positions was made by Dave Owings, seconded by Kimberly Savageau. All in favor.
Motion Carried.

d. Approve Resolution 2022-3 – A Resolution to Accept the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Established Under the American Rescue Plan Act – A motion to approve Resolution 2022-3 was made by Patric McCoy, seconded by Kimberly Savageau. All in favor.
Motion Carried.

Schreiber wanted to ask one question regarding the funds, and if there is a separate account in which these particular funds go into? Affield said she transfers these funds to the escrow account. He asked if this is a five-year deal? She said the first seventy plus thousand dollars (\$70,000) came already, and the City received a smaller payment for those cities/townships that did not request their funds. Affield informed Council at the next meeting she will put the discussion on the agenda as she needs to start reporting on the funds received.

e. Approve Resolution 2022-4 – A Resolution Supporting Housing and Local Decision-Making Authority – McCoy asked if this is just a standard policy of some kind? Affield said the League of MN Cities need support in drafting legislation to help ensure city councils are still able to make land use decisions for their communities. A motion to approve Resolution 2022-4 was made by Kimberly Savageau, seconded by Justin Schreiber. All in favor.
Motion Carried.

f. Discuss Having an Advertisement in Gateway to the Lakes 2022 Magazine – Mayor Tollefson says she likes the advertisement, but would like to see something different this year. Savageau said at previous discussions the Council wanted to support the sale of any open lots as much as they could. Affield said last year the Council approved a half-page ad which totaled around six hundred dollars (\$600), but this year the price has gone up and would cost seven hundred twenty-five dollars (\$725). Savageau said if all other towns along Hwy 10 have an ad in this publication, then the City should also take advantage of the readership over the summer. A motion to approve a half-page advertisement in the Gateway to the Lakes 2022 Magazine was made by Kimberly Savageau, seconded by Patric McCoy. All in favor.
Motion Carried.

9. Time to Discuss Additions to the Agenda – None.

10. Old Business/Unfinished Business Updates –

a. Update/Discussion on 202 Eglon Avenue S – Mayor Tollefson acknowledged Ms. Barbosa's previous statements during the open forum, but said she feels the City has given ample time to the family to remove any household items despite weather conditions. She wants the City to now follow the court order and timeline determined by the judge, but is open to hearing other thoughts. Owings said he agrees on following the court order. Schreiber agreed. McCoy said he agrees with the court order too, otherwise the Council would be altering the timeline set forth by the judge and therefore opening the door to further delays. Savageau also agreed with the other members. Via Zoom, Lugo family member Victor Lugo

joined the meeting and introduced himself. He stated the family is trying to comply with the City and is also attempting to clean out the house. He said the task of removing items has been difficult due to the sheer number of items inside, as well as the cold weather. Lugo said they are fine with the razing of the house, but would like to get as many items out as possible before that happens. He is requesting the City provide family members with additional time, and noted they do have a roll-off dumpster on the property already. Lugo said they are all just trying to comply with both the City and the State to ensure that the razing goes as smoothly as possible. Mayor Tollefson thanked Lugo for his comments but said Council is firm in their decision to follow the court's ten-day (10) timeframe for removal of property and razing. Lugo thanked Council for their time.

b. Update/Discussion on 418 2nd Street SE – Vogel said the previous owners of the property were officially served final notice on March 19th, 2022, which began the thirty (30) day timeline for them to remove any property from inside the house. He said if the previous owners do wish to enter the property, they will have to provide the City with a forty-eight-hour (48 hr.) notice. Mayor Tollefson asked if in mid-March the Council should start brainstorming any future plans for the property? Affield said she has emailed County Health Inspector Kent Severson to inquire what the asbestos inspection guidelines are, and she will update Council once she hears back from him. She also suggests the Council get a few estimates for the razing of the property, just so the City has more than one to compare. Mayor Tollefson said the school used Dirt Dynamics to remove a house for their construction project, and the total cost was no more than twenty-thousand dollars (\$20,000). She also suggested Comstock Construction as a possible estimate provider, too. She feels Council should have a few estimates to look over in order to be ready with a plan come spring.

11. Miscellaneous Announcements & Recognitions – Mayor Tollefson thanked the Maintenance Department for all of their hard work with snow removal, and also the Police Department and City Hall as they have been quite busy too.

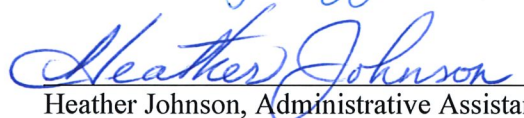
12. Adjournment – A motion was made by Dave Owings to adjourn at 6:36 p.m., seconded by Justin Schreiber. All in favor.
Motion Carried.



Tracy Tollefson, Mayor



Wendy Affield, City Clerk



Heather Johnson, Administrative Assistant

February 23, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes