

A Special Workshop Meeting of the Otsego City Commission was held Monday, June 21, 2021.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Trobeck at 5:30 p.m. with the following Commissioners present: Stacey Withee, Brent Milhiem, Lauri Krueger and Dustin McNees. Absent: None. Also present: Fire Chief Weber.

A. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. POTENTIAL BALLOT PROPOSAL

A discussion took place regarding the type of millage that would be most beneficial for the citizens and would also address the budget concerns . Various options were discussed such as raising the regular millage, rescinding the current Public Safety Millage and asking for permanent Public Safety millage. The possibility of a Fire Authority was briefly discussed. After a lengthy discussion it was the consensus to focus on a permanent Public Safety Millage for 4.5 mills. Mayor Trobeck commented that all of the Commissioners need to be in support of the millage and need to talk about it with the public. It was the consensus to put the request on the ballot in May 2022. Mayor Trobeck stated that preparations will begin in the fall. Mayor Trobeck will discuss the millage language with City Manager Mitchell.

2. CHICKEN ORDINANCE

Hannah Reed, who initially brought the Chicken Ordinance to the Commission, gave an overview of the reasons a Chicken Ordinance should be allowed. Commissioner Krueger commented that with the proper regulations she would be in support. A lengthy discussion took place regarding enforcement, barking dogs, lot sizes, roosters, permit process, complaint process, size of yards, other farm animals, and other various details of the potential ordinance. Ms. Reed commented that she currently has chickens at her residence. A discussion took place regarding slaughtering of the chickens and the possibility of others wanting other animals for a food source. Commissioners Krueger and Withee stated that they were supportive of the Chicken Ordinance and Commissioners Milhiem and McNees were not in favor of the Chicken Ordinance. Mayor Trobeck commented that the Chicken Ordinance will be tabled for now.

3. FRONT YARD PARKING – BOATS

Mayor Trobeck explained what currently can and can't be enforced regarding front yard parking of boats. A lengthy discussion took place regarding: parking in the front yard versus parking behind the setbacks of the house; storage in the winter vs. the summer; adding language to the junk car ordinance; operable vs. inoperable; condition of the boat (or RV); and parking in a driveway. Mayor Trobeck will discuss with City Manager Mitchell to find out what other communities are doing.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Hannah Reed, Dix Street -she asked Commissioner Milhiem what is the difference in having a dog versus having a chicken. Commission Milhiem replied that a dog is a domesticated animal, and he is still not on board. She gave various reasons why chicken should be allowed in the City. Commissioner Milhiem stated that he has spoken to residents and they are not in favor of having farm animals in the City. Continued discussion took place regarding the pros and cons of

allowing chickens in the City. Ms. Reed stated that she will continue her research to answer questions brought up by the Commission.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Mayor Trobeck asked for the Commissioner's comment regarding the idea of naming the Commission Chambers. A brief discussion took place and it was the consensus of the Commission to name the Commission Chambers in an upcoming ceremony.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner McNees, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. CARRIED – 6:45 p.m.

Angela M. Cronen, MMC
City Clerk