

A Regular Meeting of the Otsego City Commission was held on Monday, January 15, 2024.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Withee at 7:00 p.m. with the following Commissioners present: Lauri Krueger, Jason Smith, Chuck Moore, and Wayne Rayburn. Absent: None. Also present: City Manager, Aaron Mitchell; and Police Chief, Brad Misner.

The audience joined the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner Rayburn, the January 3, 2024, Regular Minutes were approved as submitted. CARRIED

## **REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS**

Nick Breedveld, 1101 Barton – he asked if the highlights of the Purchase Agreement that was being considered could be reviewed. City Manager Mitchell stated that the property is located at 113 South Farmer Street, which will be purchased for \$1.00, and the City will be paying the back taxes, and utilities.

### **I. PRESENTATIONS:**

#### **A. COUNTY COMMISSIONER GALE DUGAN**

County Commissioner Dugan gave a report on the County Board's recent activity. He commended City Manager Mitchell for his presentation at the recent Otsego Township Board Meeting, where he explained the changes at the Fire Department.

#### **B. FIRE DEPARTMENT TRANSITION – CITY MANAGER MITCHELL**

At this time, City Manager Mitchell gave an overview of the current status of the Fire Department and the direction moving forward. He reviewed the current needs of the Fire Department and Police Chief Misner's additional responsibilities at the Fire Department. The following items were discussed: need for a new Jaws of Life; possibility of the hiring of a Training Consultant for the Fire Department; and possible titles for Police Chief Misner's new responsibilities - Director of Police & Fire. Police Chief Misner stated that a command structure is needed and applications for the positions of Assistant Chief, Captain, and Lieutenant, will be open until January 26<sup>th</sup>. He stated he would like to expand the four-minute rule and have twenty to twenty-four firefighters on staff, in the future. Police Chief Misner and City Manager Mitchell answered questions of the Commission and the audience.

### **II. PUBLIC HEARING:**

### **III. PLANNING AND ZONING:**

### **IV. ORDINANCES:**

### **V. REQUESTS:**

### **VI. AGREEMENTS:**

#### **A. CONSIDERATION OF EXECUTION OF A PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR REAL PROPERTY**

City Manager Mitchell explained that the purchase agreement was for 113 South Farmer Street, commonly known as the Elk's. He gave an overview of the property and the current condition of the property. He stated that the purchase price is \$1.00, and the payment of all taxes and

outstanding utilities, which will be approximately \$30,000. He stated that the Elk's had reached out to the City twice to purchase the property. He stated that the DPW will secure the building and it will be determined if the building needs to be demolished at some point and/or the City will put out a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the property.

Commissioner Moore moved to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into and execute a purchase agreement for real property, commonly known as 113 South Farmer Street, Otsego, as presented, seconded by Commissioner Smith. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **VII. RESOLUTIONS:**

## **VIII. APPOINTMENTS:**

## **IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

The City Manager commented and gave updates on the following:

- Today is Martin Luther King Day and a great day to reflect the role he had in society.
- Helen Avenue Road Project Meeting – January 29, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., at City Hall.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

### **REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

Robert Alway, 1012 Barton – he asked for the address of the property the City was purchasing. City Manager Mitchell stated – 113 South Farmer Street – the Elks Lodge.

David Fouch, 359 W. Franklin – he asked if the January 29, 2024, Helen Avenue Meeting was open to the public. City Manager Mitchell stated that the meeting is open to the public. He asked if there were any Workshop Meetings scheduled in the future. City Manager Mitchell stated there are no meetings scheduled at this time.

Nick Breedveld, 1101 Barton – he thanked the DPW for their work during this cold weather. He commented that it is nice to keep the community door open at the Fire Department.

At this time, Commissioner Rayburn asked for an update on the HoM Flats Project. City Manager Mitchell stated that he had a meeting with them earlier today. City Manager Mitchell gave an overview on the next steps for the project.

### **COMMISSIONER'S' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Moore – he complimented and thanked City Manager Mitchell and Police Chief Misner for their work on the restructuring and moving the Fire Department forward. He stated that the Lions did a great job winning their game.

Commissioner Krueger – she thanked County Commissioner Dugan and the audience for attending. She commented that she is excited to have Police Chief Misner at the Fire Department. She stated that expanding the roster into the Township and the communication will be great for the Fire Department. She commented that she is looking forward to the Helen Avenue and HoM Flats projects.

Commissioner Smith – he concurred with Commissioner Moore and Commission Krueger’s comments. He thanked Police Chief Misner and City Manager Mitchell for all of their time, work, and quick adjustments regarding the transition of the Fire Department. He commented that this will be beneficial to the City. He thanked City Manager Mitchell for his report and also County Commissioner Dugan for his report.

Commissioner Rayburn – he thanked County Commissioner Dugan, and the audience for attending. He commented that he knows that Police Chief Misner will get everything taken care of at the Fire Department, the right way and move on. He thanked Firefighter Bush for attending and for his service. He thanked Clerk Cronen for all the stuff she does.

Mayor Withee – she commented that she is excited for the new direction of the Fire Department and the Police Department. She commented that she attended a meeting at the Fire Department and everyone seemed comfortable with the changes. She thanked everyone for attending.

**ADJOURN FOR CLOSED SESSION – DISCUSSION REGARDING CITY  
ATTORNEY’S LEGAL OPINION**

Commissioner Moore moved to go into Closed Session for a discussion regarding the City Attorney’s Legal Opinion, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. CARRIED. 8:01 p.m.

**RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING**

Commissioner Smith moved to reconvene the Regular Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Moore. CARRIED 9:15 p.m.

**ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING**

Commissioner Moore moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Smith. CARRIED. 9:16 p.m.

Angela M. Cronen, MMC  
City Clerk