

Dixon City Commission  
Regular Session  
Monday, May 10, 2021, 6pm

Dixon City Commission met in session Monday, May 10, 2021, 6 p.m. Attending were Mayor Carolyn Townsend, Commissioners Terry Webb, Randy Norman, and James Poe, City Attorney Ben Leonard, and City Clerk Barbara Goff.

Minutes were approved on a motion by Commissioner Webb, seconded by Commissioner Norman, all ayes.

Bills were approved on a motion by Commissioner Norman, seconded by Commissioner Poe, all ayes.

Water loss is continuing to stay down, currently at -16%.

Commissioner Webb expressed concern over trash problems at Baker Park. Visitors are not using the trash receptacles, which is resulting in trash scattered across the park, especially in the playground area. Mayor Townsend noted there are security cameras at the park and if the problem continues, the City may look into an ordinance to set fines for those who litter.

Mayor Townsend informed the commission of an accident that had occurred at Baker Park. An unsupervised child had been laying on the merry-go-round with his fingers running between the bottom of the equipment and the wall where the merry-go-round is set in the ground. His finger got caught in a tight space, which resulted in the loss of part of his finger. Mayor Townsend has followed up on the boy's condition, and he is not expected to need treatment beyond initial repair the day of the accident. The City will purchase and post a sign near the merry-go-round to warn not to lay down while using the equipment.

The spray park is nearing completion, with an expected date of May 28 to open to the public. Daily hours are scheduled at 10am-8pm.

A tree that had grown under the road at Woodland Acres has been removed. The area is ready for a culvert replacement, which will need to be followed by resurfacing.

A tree was also removed at Baker Park to create an additional parking area. The current parking lot is scheduled to be sealed and striped later this month. The job will be done by Crowley's Asphalt and Sealing Co from Henderson, and will cost almost \$6,000.

The City's fire department participated in a mock disaster training last week, hosted by Webster County Schools.

Mayor Townsend reported the Code Enforcement Board had met with the property owner of 247 St Rt 132W. The owner has paid the initial \$125 fine but the trash problem has not been cleaned up yet, which is resulting in a \$50 daily fine to the owner, a rate set by the Code Enforcement Board.

City Attorney Leonard is currently drawing up an inter-local agreement with the County so that the City will again be able to utilize inmates for labor purposes. Due to Covid restrictions, a guard is required to supervise inmates, and the guard's salary of \$13.00 hourly will be charged to the City.

United Community Bank has approached the City regarding funding new Welcome signs into the City. Commissioner Webb made a motion to allow United Community Bank to add their logo to the signs, seconded by Commissioner Poe, all ayes.

Mayor Townsend addressed a potential sewer handling fee ordinance. The original sewer ordinance was made by the County and same was adopted by the City in December 1994. The City of Dixon pays the County a rate based on water usage, and the County pays the City of Providence a rate based on meter readings of sewer usage Providence reviews. The rate the City is currently paying the County is higher than the rate the County is paying Providence. Dixon currently has 304 sewer customers; Mayor Townsend proposed a fee of \$1.00 to be added to billing for sewer customers to cover costs of labor associated with meter readings, billing handling, and postage costs. City Attorney Leonard will draft an ordinance for the proposed rate increase to be read at the next regular meeting.

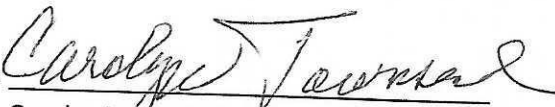
A salary increase was suggested for Fire Chief Jeff Yates. Chief Yates has served the City for over 30 years and the City would like to show appreciation for his service. Commissioner Webb made a motion to increase the Fire Chief's salary from \$100.00 to \$200.00 monthly, seconded by Commissioner Poe. After a question was raised concerning the need for an ordinance to take such action, it was decided City Attorney Leonard would draft an ordinance for the salary increase. Current ordinance only creates the office of Fire Chief and does not address salary.


Mayor Townsend reviewed calculations for the next fiscal year's budget. No coal severance is expected, and mineral severance is low. Expenses will rise for the trustee program this coming year due to having to pay attending guard's salary as well. Total estimated revenues are \$1,076,318.78. The first reading of the budget for fiscal year 2021-22 was approved on a motion by Commissioner Norman, seconded by Commissioner Webb, all ayes.

The second reading of the budget amendment for fiscal year 2020-21 due to receipt of CARES funds was approved on a motion by Commissioner Poe, seconded by Commissioner Norman, all ayes. This raised total revenues to \$1,099,409.87.

Mayor Townsend announced a soft opening for the spray park, scheduled for May 21, 3:30pm, and invited all City officials to attend. The dedication is set honor Gabe Oakley, whose family has donated great efforts towards improving City parks.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Webb, seconded by Commissioner Norman, all ayes.

Signed:   
Carolyn Townsend, Mayor, City of Dixon

  
Barbara Goff, City Clerk, City of Dixon