

**CITY OF EUHARLEE  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 2, 2018**

Mayor Steve Worthington called the meeting to order followed by a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Clerk Carolyn Banks called the roll and the following were present: Mayor Steve Worthington, Council Members Craig Guyton, Tracy Queen, David Duncan, Joe Turner and City Manager James Stephens. City Attorney Boyd Pettit was not present.

**Approval of Minutes**

Council Member Craig Guyton motioned to approve the minutes for the City Council meeting 12.05.17. Council Member Tracy Queen seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Council Members Guyton, Queen, Duncan, Turner and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

**Public Comments**

No public comments.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Mayor Pro Tem – Mayor Steve Worthington**

Council Member Tracy Queen nominated Craig Guyton as Mayor Pro Tem. Council Member Joe Turner seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Council Members Queen, Duncan, Turner and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor. Council Member Craig Guyton accepted.

**Probation Contract- James Stephens**

City Manager James Stephens provided a copy of the contract from the office of probation. It is due to a state law that went into effect in 2017. It does not obligate the city to any financial obligations. The people that are charged by our police officers and are on probation will cover the cost of the fees. It is a predominantly house cleaning the city needs to do so the probation office meets their audit if state auditors come in and audit their records.

Council Member Joe Turner motioned to accept the contract as presented. Council Member David Duncan seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Council Members Guyton, Queen, Duncan, Turner and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

**Continuing Budget Resolution – James Stephens**

City Manager James Stephens reminded council at the December 2017 meeting, a continuing budget resolution was passed to continue the 2017 budget into 2018. He asked the council to consider extending the budget resolution to February 28, 2018. In conjunction with that, he had a proposed advertisement schedule to present that would put the council in position to adopt a budget at the February 20, 2018 work session which will include a special called meeting and advertised for the 20<sup>th</sup>. If they continued on that schedule they will need the continuing resolution to legally pay bills on February 1, 2018.

Council Member Joe Turner motioned to extend the continuing budget resolution until February 28, 2018. Council Member David Duncan seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Council Members Guyton, Queen, Duncan, Turner and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

**2018 Budget Schedule for Advertising – James Stephens**

City Manager James Stephens stated he continued to work on budget options for council consideration and can have each line item detailed along with the actual budget numbers for 2018 for the council review. He could have that to them by Thursday, probably by Wednesday at lunch. Based on the availability and with the intent that it would be heavily scrutinized between now and the January work session. He recommended to advertise the budget to include: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 for the 1<sup>st</sup> reading, and Tuesday, February 13, 2018, for a Public Hearing. They can make that at 5:30 pm or 6:00 pm or 4:00 pm. He said, they scheduled at 4:00 pm last year and it was kind of an odd time. He would recommend 5:00 pm or 5:30 pm so people that work 1<sup>st</sup> shift and 2<sup>nd</sup> shift would have a chance to come to one of the public hearings. Also, to advertise Tuesday, February 20, for a special called meeting. The budget readings must be advertised in the paper 7 days prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the budget. Mr. Stephens said to Mayor Worthington, based on the conversation they had that day, they could get to a point to approve a budget. Mayor Worthington said it is going to take some buckling down to get to this point but he believed they could. Mr. Stephens stated to run the advertisement they would need a motion.

Council Member David Duncan motioned to approve the budget schedules to be advertised as presented. Council Member Tracy Queen seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Council Members Guyton, Queen, Duncan, Turner and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

Council Member Tracy Queen requested the City Manager James Stephens to prepare an audit for the outside maintenance as a helper to reconcile some of the city's budget when they do the budget in the future. He would like a list of what they are spending on general maintenance, labor, capital expenses, purchases, maintenance equipment, staff cost to include insurance, 401k built into one itemized list so they will know what they are spending. Then they can probably later on, get quotes for out sourcing the maintenance. He thinks, maybe, they will have a pretty good savings. Council Member Queen said, if they can get the quotes they can probably come up with a \$40,000.00 to \$50,000.00 savings. He said, it is just a suggestion. City Manager James Stephens, said he thinks the term audit he used, he is requesting a detailed list. Council Member Queen said, he meant a detailed list so we can get quotes, come back and say we can save \$40,000.00 here. Mayor Worthington and Mr. Stephens said he is asking for detailed items instead of a lump sum total. Council Member Queen said, this way they can say they are spending x amount of dollars for the maintenance cost. Mr. Stephens said he can have completed by the January work session. If he gets it prior to that he will send it out to all the council. Mr. Stephens said if any other council member come up with anything that would help them with deliberation and consideration of the budget don't be shy.

**Words from Mayor Steve Worthington**

Mayor Steve Worthington said he would like to thank the people of the city of Euharlee for electing him as Mayor again. When he ran this time he wanted unity in the community, work force, council and everybody else involved with the city and that is what he is going to strive for. The spending, everyone in there would like to have a brand new ford F250 king ranch in the garage. The new stuff and fancy stuff is nice but first you have to afford it. He said, his first vehicle he had to pay maintenance on it. His father said you can have the vehicle if you pay the garage bill and that is what he started off with. You build up and that's what he is wanting to do with the city. It is going to be tough and we are going to look at

some stuff pretty hard. He said, he and the City Manager had some conversations and they are going to have some more. He also will have conversations with each council member at different times. He said, 30 years being in this city, he has grown to love this city. When first ran for city elections and got elected he took office in 1991. One of the things then was the preservation of historic value of the cities. He said, they have some historic buildings that need some attention. We have stuff we already got in place that need some attention. We know we got the sewer project and it is going to need some attention. But with that, he would like for them to start a moratorium with no new programs what so ever until July. He wants to catch up where we need to be and find out where we are. Then we can take another look at it. He would also in July, get together every project that we have started and not finished and in limbo. For instance, the Euharlee Five Forks Covered Bridge project which has been going on for ten years and still not complete. He would like for them to get a hold of them and they are going to put them on their plate. We are going to start cleaning up some of this stuff we got hanging out here before we add something new. If you do not build a firm foundation when you start building anything, the scriptures tells us if you do not build your house on a firm foundation it will not stand. And if we are not careful and we do not build a firm foundation for the city of Euharlee it is not going to stand. It is going to be in the situation like Kingston was a few years ago, when they had to sell the city hall to the county in order to pay their bill. Just so happen the county would not want this one. He said the fire station was in the city hall so they sold the whole building to the county to pay their expenses. We do not want to go that way. He ask for your patience, your understanding and your input. Starting now as far as he is concerned, he is going to start with the work session. This signup sheet where you have to sign up to speak it is out, it's gone. If you are a citizen of this town, what you think is very important to him. Whether it is to anyone else or not he is there for them not himself. He stated, a wise man once said it is amazing what you can get done when you don't care who gets the credit. He said, some of the buildings need some attention. He said thank you to residents Fred Werner and Marshall Aiken who personally got up under the old granary and strengthen the floor and took that upon themselves. He said, there are some issues they need to address. If they don't they are going to fall down around there ears with no doubt in his mind. He asked for everyone's patience. He said, you may agree with him and you may not, but he will love you just as much either way because they all here to serve the community and not ourselves. If you are here to gain for yourself, you are here for the wrong reason. He does not care who you are. The reason he took this job is to serve the public and hear what they say. During his campaign he said he gave his number to a citizen at home, cell and email address. Someone asked him, you do that. He said, she is a citizen of Euharlee and has a complaint and he is there for her. If he gets elected the city of Euharlee elected him and he is their servant and there for them. He wanted to share, if he can help you or you know something he needs to know, call him. He lets his wife answer the phone. He appreciates the opportunity and looks forward to where the city is going. They have a bright future in front of them if they manage it right. He appreciates James and the job he is doing. He came after he left office last time and look forward to working with him.

Council Member Craig Guyton said, because the sign in sheet is a policy that was voted on by the council, the Mayor will need a motion and a second to change it from a signup sheet to one is able to speak whenever they are recognized by the Mayor. Council Member Tracy Queen motioned for no sign up sheet. Council Member David Duncan seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Council Members Guyton, Queen, Duncan, Turner and Mayor Worthington all voting in favor.

With no further discussion the meeting was adjourned.