



City of Falmouth
October 3, 2023

City Council Caucus Meeting
Minutes

City Council Convened at 6:30 p.m., Mayor Sebastian Ernst presiding and calling the meeting to order. Present were Councilmembers Darryl Ammerman, Joyce Carson, Sabrina Hazen, Amy Hurst, Bob Pettit, and Luke Price. Also in attendance were City Attorney Brandon Voelker and City Clerk Susan L. Bishop.

Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and observed a moment of invocation presented by Councilmember Amy Hurst.

- Mayor Ernst informed Council that the first reading of the ordinance seeking a franchise for transmission and distribution of electricity would be on the agenda at the October 17 Council Meeting.
- Mayor Ernst reported that repairs had started on the roof of the school center. Also, a state electric inspector had been to the school center and stated that things were in better shape than originally thought.
- **City Hall:** City Clerk Susan Bishop reported that her office had received the 2023 property tax file and that bills would go out sometime next week. She also reported that Utility Clerk Belinda Stevens has been working on collecting prior year property taxes and since July 1, has collected almost \$14,000.00. She has also been working on unclaimed meter deposits. So far, almost \$2800.00 has been refunded, the oldest being from 1965. Overall, for Susan's first quarter as City Clerk, things have gone quite well.
Councilmember Joyce Carson asked Susan for an update on the upstairs window installation at City Hall. She also asked if the upstairs doors could be replaced. Susan informed her that she has not been given a date for installation, and she will look into getting quotes on the doors.
- **Maintenance Department:** Supervisor Gary Lea and his crew will be taking down the bridge lights as time and manpower permits
- **Water and Wastewater Department:** Supervisor Keene Dougherty has been working with Mark Stephens on the water rate study. Also, there has been a delay with the insurance claim at the sewer plant from the power surge due to issues with an invoice and wanting all charges to be inclusive on one bill. Councilmember Luke Price asked about dredging the sewer basins. Mayor Ernst reported that Keene Dougherty was still looking into that.
- **Police Department:** Officer Matt Campbell will be starting the academy next week. Newly hired City police officer Detective Ken Hall will be starting Monday October 9th. New decal markings on cruisers are being applied. Evidence locker is being updated and tracking process improved. Code Enforcement Officer Steve Groh reported six final orders had been issued to different properties in the City.

ORIGINAL

- **Fire Department:** Chief Dave Klaber sent all of his monthly reports to Council.
- Councilmember Darryl Ammerman reported that the flagpoles at Veteran's Park needed to be stabilized. He also asked about fire hydrant replacement. There was discussion on getting bids and outsourcing.
- There was a discussion about an email received by Council from the County and a possible lawsuit regarding Planning and Zoning, Code Enforcement, and Animal Control.

The meeting was adjourned.


Sebastian Ernst, Mayor


Attest: City Clerk