

**City of Martensdale
Special Council Meeting
February 9, 2017**

Meeting called to order by Mayor Ralls.

Members present: Scott Henson, Ryan Baker, Nathan Wheeldon, Robert Wetzler and Adam Vandekamp.

Members absent: None.

Attorney Robert Stuyvesant was present.

The 2017 appointment of the Fire Chief was presented R. Wetzler had a question for City Attorney, Robert Stuyvesant. Mr. Wetzler had been told last month vote for the fire chief by 2-1 would have pass. Mr. Stuyvesant said Some cities have that policy depending on their situation, but our city goes by the number of City Council members and the Fire Chief could not vote due to a conflict of interest. Mr. Wetzler asked if the other fireman could vote, the attorney stated he is still on the fire dept. but could probably vote, the League of Iowa also has said the other fireman could vote. Our city ordinance reads that both the City Council and the Mayor approve the Fire Chief appointment.

Robert Seymour, Asst. Fire Chief said the fire dept. has voted to name Scott Henson to Mayor Ralls as the fire departments choice for fire chief. Mayor Ralls said no to that appointment citing conduct.

N. Wheeldon motioned to place petitions in the record to have Scott Henson as the Fire Chief in Martensdale. On a voice vote, Wetzler, Aye; Baker, Aye; Wheeldon, Aye; Vandekamp, Aye. On a voice vote Mayor Ralls declared the motion carried unanimously.

It was stated that the fire department appointment of Scott Henson as Fire Chief will stand but as far as the City's appointment it will not.

The consent agenda was presented. N. Wheeldon had a change to the minutes, he did not vote for the fire chief at the Jan. meeting. The clerk will correct the January minutes. A. Vandekamp made a motion to accept the consent agenda with the change to the minutes; seconded by Wetzler. On a voice vote: Wetzler, Aye; Henson, Nye; Baker, Nye; Wheeldon, Nye; Vandekamp, Aye. On a voice vote Mayor Ralls declared the motion not carried, with a vote of 2 to 3. Motion failed.

N. Wheeldon made a motion to accept the consent agenda excluding the minutes; seconded by Baker. On a voice vote: Wetzler, Aye; Henson, Aye; Baker, Aye; Wheeldon, Aye; Vandekamp, Aye. On a voice vote Mayor Ralls declared the motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 02.01.2017 Bank Depository Naming Regions Bank and City State Bank with a maximum account balance of \$750,000.00. Wheeldon made a motion to accept Res. 02.02.2017; seconded by R. Baker. On a voice vote: Wetzler, Aye; Henson, Aye; Baker, Aye; Wheeldon, Aye; Vandekamp, Aye. On a voice vote Mayor Ralls declared the motion carried unanimously.

The city clerk discussed the 2017-18 budget and asked for the amount of wage increases. Vandekamp made a motion to increase the clerk's and Robert Seymour salary by 4%; seconded by R. Wetzler. On a voice vote: Wetzler, Aye; Henson, Aye; Baker, Aye; Wheeldon, Aye; Vandekamp, Aye. On a voice vote Mayor Ralls declared the motion carried unanimously.

The clerk discussed the water increase of .015 cents from Warren Water effective April 1, 2017 and whether the council wanted to increase the water and sewer rates 3% for three years again since the original ordinance expires this year. Wheeldon made a motion to increase the water by 0.15 effective April 1, 2017 and to increase the water and sewer rates by 3% for the next three years (2017, 2018, 2019); seconded by A. Vandekamp. On a voice vote: Wetzler, Aye; Henson, Aye; Baker, Aye; Wheeldon, Aye; Vandekamp, Aye. On a voice vote Mayor Ralls declared the motion carried unanimously.

Items the city council agreed on for the budget were \$45,000.00 for streets; a generator for sewer lagoon; removal of a tree for around \$3,000.00; installing a sidewalk on Burlington Ave to Olive, cost \$35,000.00; and repairs on the dump truck of \$2,500.00.

Robert Seymour said he needed to purchase 2 new tires for the city pick-up. The council gave their permission.

Robert Seymour, Asst. Fire Chief said there were 3 fire calls and 24 EMS calls.

There was discussion regarding the one fire account and one rescue account that is held at the fire dept. Mayor Ralls proposed to move those accounts to the city; S. Henson stated that the auditor has access to all the accounts, bills and invoices that are held at the fire department. There was discussion about the fire dept. presenting bills to the city council for payment if its possible before a city council meeting and if not presenting them as soon as possible. The city attorney spoke about the accounts and said the city clerk should be listed on those accounts. N. Wheeldon made a motion to add the city clerk, Donna Bahun to both accounts; seconded by S. Henson. On a voice vote: Wetzler, Aye; Henson, Aye; Baker, Aye; Wheeldon, Aye; Vandekamp, Aye. On a voice vote Mayor Ralls declared the motion carried unanimously.

Public comments: There were several people attending the council meeting who spoke to the Mayor and city council to support keeping Scott Henson as the Fire Chief of Martensdale. They were as follows: Richard Nation (lives outside Martensdale); Jackson Twp. Fire Chief, Doug McCasland; Rich Wheeldon; Terah Henson; J. J. Dudney; Alex Broadbent; Doug Reynolds; James Michaels, Madison County Mutual Aid; Tyrel Herrick; Steve Henson; Natalie Weltner; Ryan Gray and Deb Hutchison. Scott Henson and Nathan Wheeldon thanked everyone for all their support for the fire dept.

There was discussion about the Community Block Grant. The city council will each have around 32 names, the city clerk will make copies of the questionnaires and address within the community for the council.

The Board of Adjustment term was discussed. The board will consist of Dan Black (5 years); Joe Kisgen (4 years); Michael Trotter (3 years); Sharon Loyd (2 years); and Dana Wiegert (1 year). R. Baker made a motion to accept the board of adjustment members and the terms; seconded by R. Wetzler. On a voice vote: Wetzler, Aye; Henson, Aye; Baker, Aye; Wheeldon, Aye; Vandekamp, Aye. On a voice vote Mayor Ralls declared the motion carried unanimously.

The public hearing was open for the rezoning of John Carroll's property facing Iowa Ave. to change it from commercial to residential. The planning and zoning committee has met and approved the rezoning of the property. There have been no written objections received. S. Henson made a motion to close the public hearing; seconded by N. Wheeldon. On a voice vote: Wetzler, Aye; Henson, Aye; Baker, Aye; Wheeldon, Aye; Vandekamp, Aye. On a voice vote Mayor Ralls declared the motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance 02.02.2017 An Ordinance Amending the Zoning Ordinances of the City of Martensdale, Iowa. The official zoning map referred to in Title II, Division 3, Article 2, Section 5 of the City Code is amended by changing from C1 – Business District to R-1 – Residential District to the following property: Lots 9, 10, 11 in Block 3, Original Town Plat of Martensdale, Warren County, Iowa and waive the 2nd and 3rd readings. Vandekamp made a motion to approve Ordinance 02.02.2017 and to waive the 2nd and 3rd readings; seconded by R. Baker. On a voice vote: Wetzler, Nye; Henson, Aye; Baker, Aye; Wheeldon, Aye; Vandekamp, Aye. On a voice vote Mayor Ralls declared the motion carried with the vote 4-1.

The city has received a letter from the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce asking for us to join. After discussion the city council decided against joining the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce.

The Des Moines Metropolitan Planning Organization – Watershed Management Authority has sent a letter asking the City to join their organization. The city council seen no benefit at this time to join.

Open Forum: Terah Henson asked Mayor John Ralls if he would reconsider appointing Scott Henson as the fire chief after listening to resident and others attending the meeting supporting Scott. Mayor Ralls said he would be open to considering Scott Henson for fire chief depending on the results of a meeting with Scott Henson

Rich Wheeldon thanked the city council for listening to the fire department and residents. He asked the Mayor to listen to people and the petitions.

Mr. Stuyvesant said he represents 9 cities and could not be at every meeting but would have someone from his office attend.

The 2017 Fire Chief Appointment was presented again. R. Baker made a motion to accept Scott Henson as the fire chief; seconded by A. Vandekamp. On a voice vote: Wetzler, Nye; Henson, Abstained; Baker, Aye; Wheeldon, Aye; Vandekamp, Aye. The Mayor did not agree. Motion fails.

A special meeting was set for Feb. 16, 2017 at 6:00 to prepare an ordinance for the fire chief appoint to be approved by the city council only.

A. Vandekamp told Mayor Ralls that Scott Henson has agreed to meet with him, the Mayor and Scott Henson have agreed to have a meeting after the city council meeting.

A. Vandekamp made a motion to adjourn; seconded by R. Baker. On a voice vote: Wetzler, Aye; Henson, Aye; Baker, Aye; Wheeldon, Aye; Vandekamp, Aye. On a voice vote Mayor Ralls declared the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor John Ralls

Donna Bahun, City Clerk