



# Minutes

City Council Work Session Meeting

Oelwein City Hall, 20 Second Avenue SW, Oelwein, Iowa

February 12, 2024 - 6:30 PM

## Roll Call

**Present:** Seeders, Payne, Weber, Lenz, Garrigus, Ricchio

**Also Present:** Mayor DeVore, City Administrator Mulfinger, Nate Miller, PE Origin Design

**Absent:** NA

## Pledge of Allegiance

## Discussions

1. Discussion with Nate Miller, PE Origin Design, on the 10th St Bridge.

Miller discussed Council had three options. These options included rehabilitation, replacement, and removal. Nate said the city could abandon the bridge, but if they did, they would not be eligible for any type of funding after ten years.

The City Council had several questions about each option and worked with Nate on determining what could be done with the bridge. The City Council was concerned the bridge may not be the highest priority for bridges and did not want another bridge to put the city in a bad position in five years.

Mulfinger advised while this is a large decision for the city council, replacing the bridge is the best option. 10<sup>th</sup> Street is a thoroughfare for Oelwein and is classified as farm to market. The impact from losing this bridge is unknown but would put more pressure on 4<sup>th</sup> street and the viaduct.

Miller informed Council he would be happy to pen out all the options for Council with Mulfinger. Mulfinger let Council know that he will bring back the options to Council soon.

2. Discussion on Utility Rate Proposal.

Mulfinger provided a presentation to the city council on two proposals that would lead to a lot of completed projects for the utility.

Seeders expressed concerns the increases would cause too large of a burden on the rate payers and the city should find other avenues to fund repairs.

Mulfinger advised the utility should pay for itself and that rates should reflect the cost of the repairs.

Payne was concerned staff was not doing enough to save money on the operations side to provide money for projects.

Mulfinger advised even if major cuts were made, not enough funding was available for projects. The major cuts would also make it impossible for the department to function at an efficient level.

Weber stated no one in the community wants to pay more for utilities, but the city council should take a stand and start making repairs. Weber was in favor of the larger increase plan.

Mayor DeVore stated he was in favor of increases as it would result in significant investment in the city's infrastructure.

Garrigus agreed rates would need to increase to keep the current system maintained.

Mulfinger advised he would bring the item to a vote or work session should the city council provide direction.

3. Discussion on Administration Budget.

Mulfinger presented the Administration budget.

4. Discussion on Administration CIP.

Mulfinger presented the CIP for City Hall.

**Adjournment**