

Falls City Council Approves Union Contract

(KTNC) -- The Falls City Council approved an agreement with the IUOE Union, as recommended by the negotiating committee.

It's a three-year agreement, with a few changes from the previous contract. The agreement includes changes to the funeral leave policy, CTO time, and adds two tiers the vacation policy, for employees who have been with the city for 20 and 25 years.

City Clerk Gary Jorn also said the contract brings the rate-of-pay and health insurance language in line with other union contracts.

In other business Tuesday, the city council approved five requests for special designated liquor licenses at Prichard Auditorium this year. Four were for wedding receptions and were approved on 7-1 votes. The other request was for a Falls City Sacred Heart fundraiser on March 1. That request was approved 5-3, with council members Judy Murphy, Kirby Robidoux and Steve Scholl voting no.

On a related note, the city could schedule more events at Prichard Auditorium where alcohol is served. The council was scheduled to discuss whether to ask the state to allow the city for permission to issue more than 12 designated liquor licenses in one year.

But the council learned that an exemption the city received a couple years ago allowing the city to exceed that limit still applied, so they don't need state permission to schedule more such events at the city-owned Auditorium.

The council unanimously approved the automatic liquor license renewals for 2014.

They also approved a request from the Falls City Chamber of Commerce to provide \$15,000 funding for this year. That's the same amount as last year. Chamber Executive Director David Branch said the Chamber hopes to add more events to the calendar this year.

And City Clerk Gary Jorn provided statistics on the most recent snowstorm. Jorn said it took city crews about 15 hours to remove 8-inches of snow from downtown Falls City and 16 hours to clear city streets. He also said they found 20 vehicles parked on the wrong side of the street while the snow emergency was in effect.