

IDA GROVE
City Council Meeting
6:00pm, August 21, 2017
City Hall

Call to Order by Mayor Whiteing at 6:00pm.

Roll Call: Scott Tomlinson, Gregor Ernst, Ryan Goodman, Paul Cates. Doug Clough is absent.
Others in attendance: Parks Superintendent Bob Lorenzen, Streets Superintendent Gerrod Sholty, Justin Georg of Ida County Sanitation, Recreation Center Chelsea Gross, Deputy Administrator Heather Sweeden.

Motion to approve the agenda by Council Member Tomlinson, second by Council Member Cates.

Motion carries 4-0.

Appearances, petitions and communications:

Justin Georg of Ida County Sanitation talked to equipment sales people regarding rigs that could be leaf pickup vehicles. He checked into leasing vehicles. Justin put together a rough pricing per household. Council Member Goodman asking if the City did a leaf pickup two or three times a year for five years, what would that do to the pricing? Justin replying the pricing could be per hour, but it would be tough to calculate. Council Member Goodman asking if any other communities have shown any interest? Justin replying no, no other community has shown any interest. Justin Georg showing a video of operation of the leaf pickup rig to the City Council members. Justin stating that a pull behind costs \$26,000. Justin offering he could ask other communities if they would like to participate. Council Member Goodman discussing possible costs to citizens. Discussion of a compost route to pick up grass clippings and other yard waste. Justin is open to suggestions from the council. The City Council is not interested in the leaf vacuum plan. The council will discuss the issue over the winter. Justin commenting the new garbage can system is working well, just finished putting out small cans.

Motion by Council Member Goodman, second by Council Member Ernst to approve the consent agenda.

Motion carries 4-0.

Old Business

Discussion of the Downtown Revitalization Project. The Council will not approve a final payment to RDG of \$3,684.72 until the participants have been contacted by the City Administrator and their concerns at least heard or addressed.

Discussion of the King Theater. The soil borings are completed and will put in the wall 2 feet above the alley grade. The frame of the wall will be wood and steel. The concrete part of the wall will be foam core and 12" poured concrete.

The Pleasant Valley Trail Grant proposal will be announced on October 11, 2017.

Discussion of the proposals for the Ordinance/Code book for the city. Talking about which proposals the City Council likes.

Discussion of the timelines to complete the project. Council member Goodman would like to see a hard deadline and keep some money back if the deadline was not met.

Motion by Council Member Goodman, second by Council member Tomlinson to accept the proposal from Code Publishing Company and to receive a contract request.

Motion carries 4-0

Discussion of the airport lease charges and airport lease policy. Council member Tomlinson and Council member Ernst looking to hold off on a decision and to get aircraft storage rates.

Discussion regarding future sludge hauling sites. Talking about the floodplain map for the area near the airport. Debating of whether Mr. Schau would accept the sludge. It is a real challenge to get rid of. Discussion of costs and hassle for this issue for farmers and the city. Talking about the cost to dry the sludge.

Discussion of sending out a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a city engineering firm. Talking about the RFQ format.

Motion by Council member Goodman, second by Council member Cates to send out the RFQ for a City engineering firm.

Motion carries 4-0

Discussion of Resolution 2017-12 Providing for Sale of King Theater Property. The city council will put off a decision on this issue until the insurance for the theater is settled.

Discussion of 6th street repair project and wait for the city engineering firm to be hired.

Discussion of the Iverson/Groene alleyway. The City will wait for the engineering firm to make a decision.

Nothing to report for the Moorehead Avenue bridge.

The appropriate committee will meet later to discuss a fireworks ordinance.

Discussion of the city vacating the alley near 707 Elm Street. Stan Chisholm is working on it, but wants to put it off for a little bit.

The committee will work on a revision of the back yard pool and hot tub ordinance currently in the books. The committee ran out of time to discuss the issue further.

Discussion of the second reading of Resolution 2017-15 amending the code of ordinances for the city of Ida Grove Iowa, by enacting an ordinance to prohibit vehicle parking in front yards. Talking about winter parking, snow plowing and people who do not have driveways currently.

Motion by Council member Goodman, second by Council member Tomlinson to approve the second reading of Resolution 2017-15 Amending the Code of Ordinances for the City of Ida Grove Iowa, by Enacting an Ordinance to Prohibit Vehicle Parking in Front Yards.

New Business

Discussion of the fuel tank at the airport. Roger Frank would like to buy the tank for his business. Talking about the fuel currently in the tank. Debating to put in the newspaper fuel for sale in sealed bids. Must purchase all of the fuel. Approximately 1,000 gallons of high octaine fuel. Discussion of the tank itself. The bid process should be for fuel, the tank or a combination of the two.

Discussion of the Ida Grove Recreation Valley. Council member Clough will provide more information at the next meeting.

Discussion of raising dog license fees. Talking about fees, fines and registration dates. Discussion of ordinances. Talking about the cost the city incurs from the licensing process.

Discussion of approving Shannon Hazelton as the Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator at \$22 per hour. Talking about policies and pay hikes in relation to passing the tests.

Motion by Council member Goodman, second by Council member Ernst to hire Shannon Hazelton as the Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator at \$22 per hour on the condition he passes the grade I and II operator license within a reasonable amount of time set by the Personnel Committee.

Motion carries 4-0.

Discussion of purchasing an outdoor pool heater. One week before the end of the swim season, the heater stopped working. Hemer gave a quote. 2006 was the last time a pool heater was purchased. Discussion of replacing or repairing the heater. Talking about getting a second quote.

Motion by Council member Tomlinson, second by Council member Goodman to repair the natural gas pool heater.

Motion carries 4-0.

Discussion of purchasing a golf simulator for the Recreation Center. The simulator has not been working for a couple of years.

Motion by Council member Goodman, second by Council member Ernst to pay \$17,757.14 for a golf simulator for the Recreation Center and be reimbursed by Gary and Sharon Godbersen.

Motion carries 4-0.

Discussion of the city employee benefits package. Talking about how bad the benefits package is in relation to vacation time, ability to take vacation and maternity leave as well as cost for family health insurance.

Motion by Council member Goodman, second by Council member Ernst to cap the employee cost of health insurance at \$300 per pay period.

If the employee wants to go with the family plan, the employee contribution would be capped at \$300 per pay period.

Motion fails as it was withdrawn before a full vote.

Talking about concerns regarding employees taking city health insurance and costing the city more. Discussion of the current high rates. Staff will provide feedback to the City Administrator on the current plan. City Council wants to do the right thing for the employees. Talking about the budget implications for this issue. Debating open enrolment, incentives to switch insurance plans and insurance rates. Discussion of balancing costs vs. new employee and old employees.

Motion by Council member Goodman, second by Council member Cates to adjourn at 7:57pm.