

**IDA GROVE**  
**City Council Meeting**  
**6:00pm, November 20, 2017**  
**City Hall**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Mayor Whiteing.

Roll Call: Scott Tomlinson, Gregor Ernst, Ryan Goodman and Paul Cates present. Doug Clough not present.

Others Present: Deb Loger of the Ida County Courier, Grant Patera of the Hoffman Agency, Dan Remer of the Chamber of Commerce and Parks Department Superintendent Bob Lorenzen.

Oath of Office taken by Gregor Ernst.

Motion by Council member Goodman, second by Council member Tomlinson to approve the agenda.

Motion carries unanimously, 4-0.

Appearances, Petitions and Communications:

Lisa Thompson giving a presentation to the council asking them to allow her to meet with city employees to discuss going with AFLAC. Lisa will discuss the issue with the City Administrator and set up a time to talk with all of the city employees.

Motion by Council member Goodman, second by Council member Cates to approve the consent agenda.

Motion carries unanimously, 4-0.

**Old Business**

Discussion of the King Theater. Volunteers are starting to move wood into the building and ready to get started.

No discussion of the Resolution 2017-12 Providing for Sale of the King Theater.

Discussion of the gambling license application. The City Administrator informing the council of which license would be most optimal to the city.

Motion by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Tomlinson to apply for the 2 year qualified organization gambling license application.

Motion carries unanimously, 4-0.

Discussion of the Moorehead Avenue bridge. Federal aid funding, 80/20 match is very competitive. The bridge is 10 to 15 spots out of getting funding. The city can allow the bridge to age to get posted and

reduce and paint bridge down to 3 lanes and buy the city some time. Discussion on closing the bridge or bond for the bridge. Debating on re-decking the bridge or go new. Discussion on the steps to where the city needs to be in order to get a new bridge.

No discussion of the Fireworks Ordinance.

Discussion of the back yard pool and hot tube ordinance #551. Talking about the ordinance and lockable hard cover for a hot tub.

Motion by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Tomlinson to have the third reading and approve the back yard pool and hot tube ordinance #551.

Motion carries unanimously, 4-0.

Discussion of the employee benefits package. Council member Goodman discussing the Wellmark (My Blue 3600 PPO) plan, keeping the plan similar to the old one and creating a savings for the city. Council member Ernst discussing reducing costs, create more coverage, two agencies presenting at the same meeting. He is looking for ways the agent can save the city money, thinking of a consultant fee for a presenter. Gregor Ernst is in favor of paying the other agent a consultant fee for their efforts. Grant Patera of the Hoffman Agency discussing the situation and understanding he was operating under. Gregor Ernst is impressed with what the city has, a win-win with the city and the employees. Maybe communication was an issue, that apples and oranges were being compared. Ryan Goodman discussing the reasoning behind going with the Hoffman Agency.

Motion by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Cates to approve the Hoffman Agency Wellmark Plan (My Blue 3600 PPO).

Motion carries unanimously, 4-0.

Shannon Hazelton resigned today to start at Ida Grove in two weeks. He will have COBRA insurance. Council member Goodman recommends the city pays COBRA and temporary housing. How much is his COBRA? Council member Ernst discussing insurance and costs and timing of insurance. What are the costs? Discussion of Shannon getting the current plan through Ida Grove. Can't have his kids uninsured for the month of December. Talking about out of pocket costs and starting dates. Can go on short term plan, fairly inexpensive, doesn't count towards ACA. Council member Tomlinson wants Shannon to pay something out of pocket. Ryan Goodman, Paul Cates and Scott Tomlinson discussing the costs, ability/responsibility for out of pocket costs incurred. Grant Patera discussing alternatives for Shannon and family to receive insurance and the city to incur lower costs. Discussion by City Attorney Goldsmith on taxes and costs to Shannon.

Motion by Council member Ernst, seconded by Council member Cates to cover Shannon Hazelton's insurance payable to his insurance provider, up to \$859.95 for the month of December and \$500 relocation assistance package.

Motion carries, 3-1. Council members Ernst, Cates, Tomlinson voting aye and Council member Goodman voting nay.

Discussion of a test well. Mayor Whiteing is trying to talk to Ronnie Bresnahan and he is trying to get Ronnie to talk to Water Department Superintendent Lon Schluter.

No discussion of signs for the Pleasant Valley Trail. Will wait for Council member Clough.

Discussion of amending the city's dangerous dog ordinance. Council member Ernst talking about the city's reaction to this ordinance, muzzle laws and classes for owners. Gregor would like to meet in the middle and allow mentioned breeds and have a muzzle for them. The Mayor wants to have a written proposal for input. Possible fine for owners may be needed to be written in, or a municipal infraction. Council member Goodman not in favor of making a change to the ordinance as currently written. Discussion of muzzles, dogs, owners and responsibility for incidents. Talking about training, credentials for dog owners. Mayor Whiteing asking a committee to meet to get information and create a proposal.

Will postpone the development proposal by Jan Hewitt until a new housing study is completed.

City Attorney Peter Goldsmith is still working with Verizon Wireless on an antenna contract as well as working on the AT&T antenna contract.

Discussion of trees and plantings policy for the city. The Mayor is opening the bids for the tree removal list. The three bids are as follows:

Landsink:	\$3,680 for 8 trees
Jerry's Trees:	\$4,400 for 8 trees
Ratchet:	\$3,575 for 8 trees

Discussion on Landsink having the crew and the equipment, fast reaction to issues and has a history of good performance.

Motion by Council member Scott Tomlinson, seconded by Council member Ryan Goodman to approve the Landsink tree removal bid to cut down the 8 trees on the tree list.

Motion carries unanimously, 4-0.

### **New Business**

Discussion of the Personnel Handbook. Talking about getting Doug to finish it by the end of the year.

Discussion of downtown enhancement including street signs and planters. Talking about small changes to the downtown, by painting trash cans. Decoration of downtown for the winter. Council to split costs with the Chamber of Commerce for 3 years. \$750 for the winter portion. Discussion of the planters and who owns which ones and past projects. Talking about street signs to make them look better. Council member Ernst discussing longer term plans with the Chamber of Commerce, wants a welcoming look to downtown.

Motion by Council member Ernst, seconded by Council member Cates to share 50% of the costs of the winter pot plantings.

Motion carries, 3-0 with Council member Ryan Goodman abstaining.

Discussion of a fire hydrant along Father Daily Drive behind Midwest Inc. Midwest wants a hydrant in the area to pull water from, if there is a fire in the area. Midwest wants to partner with the city to provide fire coverage. Council member Tomlinson discussing placement of hydrants and asking Midwest to pay for the hydrant placement. Council member Goodman talking about safety of the employees and rebuilding if the building burned down.

Discussion of a master services agreement and task order for the CIP. Piggy backing on city engineering position. Outlining legal ins and outs, procedures and standard agreements. Cody Forch of JEO describing the process of the agreement and task orders. Council member Goodman discussing rate schedules. In favor of the issues, lays the groundwork for expectations. Council member Gregor Ernst thinks City Attorney Peter Goldsmith should give his blessing. Discussion of PASER ratings of streets, wastewater plant and create a 5 to 10 year CIP. JEO will give a fee breakdown, etc. Gregor Ernst talking about having an estimate done to see what the cost is to discuss cost sharing.

Motion by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Tomlinson to approve the Master Services Agreement from JEO.

Motion carries unanimously, 4-0

Discussion of televising culverts for the levy system. Cody Forch of JEO talking about the culverts and the steps to the process to repair the culverts. Parks Superintendent Bob Lorenzen discussing two culverts that put the city out of compliance with the Army Corps of Engineers. Council member Goodman talking about televising the sites and recording them to send to the Corps to satisfy the Corps requirements. Needs to be done every 5 years.

Motion by Council member Goodman, second by Council member Ernst to accept the task order for the required levy inspection analysis estimated at \$15,124.

Motion carries unanimously, 4-0.

Discussion of public works dumping rock on the alley behind 707 Elm Street. Debating the responsibility of the alley and maintenance of the alley.

Discussion of a consultation fee for health insurance data gathering. Talking about the process, past issues, being local, being a taxpayer. Going to save money and to maintain relationships. Somewhere between \$300 and \$500 for relationships. Talking about the process, comparing apples to oranges, different presentations. Discussion of lack of knowledge of the process.

The Mayor tables discussion on the issue until the December 18<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting.

Other Business:

City Attorney Peter Goldsmith challenges all of the contractors to be lean and get good deals on contracts.

Gregor Ernst says the city can purchase a port-a-pot for less than \$700 and use it for the city's own or rent it to others.

Mayor Whiteing discussing the train over both intersections and blocking them. Debating municipal fines to Landus or the Canadian Pacific Railroad Company. Discussing de-coupling of cars to not block intersections. Talking about Badger Creek washing out and culverts going bad. Discussing Harold Godbersen Drive and the bad condition it is in. Talking about snow equipment, a 91" bucket, ballast box, tractor and bucket loader. Funds can come out of the streets budget. Snow blower replacement.

Motion by Council member Goodman, second by Council member Cates to adjourn at 8:49pm.

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Marc Dennison, City Administrator

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Devlun Whiteing, Mayor