



**IDA GROVE  
City Council Meeting  
6:00 p.m., January 15, 2018  
City Hall**

Call to order at 6:02pm by Mayor Whiteing. Council members Scott Tomlinson, Amanda Litchenberg, Gregor Ernst, Ryan Goodman and Paul Cates present. Others present: Rita Frahm of Ida County Economic Development, Deputy City Administrator Heather Sweeden, Nicole Peterson of SIMPCO, Deb Loger of the Ida County Courier, Doug Clough and Clay Miller of Ida Grove Economic Development Corporation.

Motion by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Ernst to approve the agenda.

Motion carries unanimously, 5-0.

Clay Miller of the Ida Grove Economic Development Corporation talking about the organization and had discussed with Doug Clough about being on the board of the Economic Development Corporation. Mr. Miller was the chairman of the group for 10 years. The organization slowly dissolved over time. Clay would like to have some seed money to restart the organization again and to have a plan. Discussion of a direction plan for the organization. The last one was completed in 2011. The board needs a total of 9 people for ordinance sake. There was a lack of interest in the organization for the last 3 years. The group needs to get together and establish a good base in order to succeed. Mr. Miller does have interest in the organization, but can't be as involved as he was before he retired. He would serve on the board, but not as Chairman. Clay remembers many people gave input into the organization and would like to see those people return and be on the board. Council member Goodman discussing Doug Clough's interest in being a part of the organization. Doug would like to be involved and would like to work with Mr. Miller. Council member Goodman discussing the mission of the organization. Rita Frahm of Ida County Economic Development discussing how she is involved with other communities. Mayor Whiteing would like to see City Hall participation. Clay Miller would like to see and active organization.

Rita Frahm of Ida County Economic Development telling the council the housing needs assessment is completed. The study shows a need for single family homes, while rental properties are in flux. It also projects growth in Ida County. The Economic Development Authority study has GIS information for the communities that shows infrastructure and zoning. The Highway 20 corridor study completion will be on November 1<sup>st</sup>. There is a request of \$25,000 for EDA funds to get matching funds so start the project in May. There is a possibility through the Comprehensive Plan the city will get zoning maps. Rita will get the study to the council via email. The study will project housing needs and projects growth for the area.

Nicole Peterson of SIMPCO discussing the citywide survey summary. There were 88 surveys with most filled out online. One item of interest is that there were 51% in favor of the West Access project, 21% not in favor and 20% maybes. Another item is Community Hall. 30% would like Community Hall remodeled, 30% in favor of the lowest cost option, 20% would like to see a new building, 14% a new building at the existing spot and 9% new building at a new spot. Ms. Peterson feels the amount of participation in the survey is a good response rate. Council member Goodman and Mayor Whiteing commenting on the feedback and liking it. Discussion of the streets results in the survey where 50% of the comments felt the city roads were good. Council member Ernst discussing the participation in the survey. The council would like to share the information online on the city website. There will be a Steering Committee meeting with the public invited on Monday January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5pm in the City Council Chambers.

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

Motion carries unanimously, 4-0.

#### Consent Agenda

- a. Claims List
- b. Financial Reports –
- c. Minutes – City Council meeting January 2, 2018
- d. Liquor License – Skate Palace

### **New Business**

Discussion of Holly Neutzman to be hired as a receptionist for the Rec Center at a pay rate of \$7.50 per hour.

Motion by Council member Tomlinson, seconded by Council member Goodman to approve Holly Neutzman to be hired as a receptionist for the Rec Center at a pay rate of \$7.50 per hour.

Motion carries unanimously, 4-0.

Discussion of the Appointment of Doug Clough to the Ida Grove Economic Development Corporation. Talking about the organization electing its own officers. Discussion of the council appointing a person to the group. Council member Goodman discussing filling the board. Mayor Whiteing, Doug Clough and Clay Miller will meet next week sometime to discuss.

Discussion of the SIMPCO proposal for city zoning map. Debating the two proposals from SIMPCO and JEO. Council member Goodman makes a motion to approve the SIMPCO proposal, but after further discussion withdraws his motion. Discussion of how the zoning map proposal is going to work with the Comprehensive Plan. Will there be duplicating services?

Discussion of Brenner's Quote for City Council Audio Recording Equipment. Council member Ernst asking if we go down this avenue, what do we want to do and what do we need? Mayor Whiteing is in favor of the audio recording avenue. Council member Goodman discussing the current proposal. The council will figure out what they want and want to do to figure out options. Deputy Administrator Sweeden will contact Judy Wheeda at the school district and ask how they have their system set up.

Discussion of the AT&T antenna contract.

Discussion of amending the dangerous Dog Ordinance. Debating issues involving dogs, owners and liability. Council members talking about their opinions on the issue, to keep it the same vs. changing the ordinance.

#### Other Business

- Discussion of Moorehead Avenue Bridge: The bridge will be discussed further with the Comp Plan.
- Discussion of Fireworks Ordinance: Mayor Whiteing wants the committee to work on it and see what state laws say and other towns do.
- Discussion of Development Proposal by Jan Hewitt: The city will wait till we receive the study from Rita Frahm to notify Mr. Hewitt on how to proceed.
- Discussion of Verizon Wireless Antenna Contract: Nothing discussed.
- Discussion of Trees and Plantings Policy for the City: Gregor Ernst wants to re-establish a tree board and is getting people to join.
- Discussion and Approval of the Zobel Addition Pipe Failure: JEO is getting prices from contractors.
- Discussion and Approval of Hangar Rent and Contracts: Have sent a contract certified mail to one of the last two renters that have not signed the contract.
- Discussion and Approval of a Test Well: Gordon Goodenow has given the city permission and the city will move forward on the project soon.
- Discussion and Approval of Bob Bendixon from Extreme Air Wireless Internet Antenna Proposal: Gregor Ernst will work with Peter Goldsmith to clean up the details of the contract.
- Discussion and Approval of a City Administrator Job Description Ordinance: Peter Goldsmith is working on it.
- Discussion and Approval of a Cost Estimate of a Water Main Extension and Fire Hydrant Along Father Daily Drive Behind Midwest: The City Administrator is trying to touch base with Jason Buns of Midwest to find a right time to have a Utility Committee meeting.
- Discussion and Approval of a Personnel Handbook: Ryan Goodman has gone through the handbook. Looking at sick time and vacation policies.
- Scott Tomlinson asking how long the train was blocking the three intersections in town. Ryan Goodman wants to have fines given to the railroad.
- Devlun Whiteing discussing grants and wants to get more grants. Talking about the company that looked at the City Hall renovation. Personnel Committee met to discuss communication between City

Hall, Public Works and City Council. Discussion of houses that should be condemned and how to do it.

- Paul Cates talking about a Volkswagon parked along Highway 157. It has junk in it and hasn't moved forever.

Adjournment at 8:16pm by Council member Goodman, seconded by Council member Cates.