

**City of Ida Grove  
City Council Meeting  
February 4, 2019 6:00 p.m.  
City Council Chambers**

Mayor, Devlun Whiteing, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following Council Members present: Ryan Goodman, Paul Cates, Doug Clough, Gregor Ernst and Scott Tomlinson. City Attorney, Peter Goldsmith was not in attendance.

Motion by Tomlinson to approve the agenda, second by Clough. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Ida County Sheriff Wade Harriman was present to discuss the Sheriff's Report. The Sheriff's Department budget has increased this fiscal year and Harriman would like to provide the council with the details leading to the increase. Harriman cited necessary expenses that are costly for the department such as those for IT services, raises, a new jailor and more. The department will also see expenses for new items such as body cams for the officers. While these will have an upfront cost, they will save much time and administrative work in the long run, thus saving money. As Ida County is utilizing county-wide law at the present time, Harriman discussed the different shares paid by each of the five towns in the county. Each town has the ability to tax up to \$1.50 per capita to help pay their portions of public safety. Additionally the county has the ability to also charge up to \$1.50 as well, but presently does not and instead has used their general basic fund to pay their portion of public safety.

Grant Patera was present to discuss the details of the HRA reimbursement plan for City employees utilizing health insurance. City Clerk Sweeden was investigating, at council direction, an option that would involve utilizing a debit card for the employee's reimbursed portion of medical expenses. With more information it was discovered by Clerk Sweeden that this new process would be very time consuming and lead to an increase in administrative costs. Prefunding options were discussed as an alternative. Council feels this is the better option for the City. Motion by Tomlinson to do the prefunding reimbursement option with no debit card, second by Cates. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Motion by Goodman to approve the consent agenda consisting of the claims list, Budget, Treasurer, Revenue, Rec, Fire, Library reports, and the 1/21/2019 (2), 1/22/2019, 1/24/2019, 1/28/2019, 1/30/2019, 1/31/19 (2) minutes, second by Cates. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

The City Park/Trail Proposal was discussed. Council has been approached with an offer for Godbersen Equipment Company to acquire .4 - .6 acres of the current City Park to expand their current location. In return, Godbersen-Smith would repair sections of trail that are in need throughout Ida Grove, calculated at approximately .62 miles, which amounts to roughly \$150,000 if the City were to hire the work to be completed. The current trail is 4" thick concrete to be replaced with 5" thick concrete for the sections being repaired. They would also address erosion issues and look at tiling the High School hill. Before proceeding with the proposal, the council wanted to give the public an opportunity to voice their opinion before making a final decision. The City has asked the public for their input on the matter and received responses from the community that

both support and deny the pursuit of the proposal. However, the majority of the public response is in favor of trading the piece of land for the trail repairs. After much discussion and various community members in attendance having a chance to state opinions on the matter, council would like to move forward in pursuing the proposal. Motion by Goodman to proceed with the City Park Trail Proposal allowing Ernst and Whiteing to work with GEC to work through the details and move forward with the proposal, second by Clough. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

City Hall will be closed on Monday February 18<sup>th</sup> 2019 in observance of President's Day. This falls on the next scheduled City Council Meeting so there may be a need to reschedule the meeting. As there may be schedule conflicts if the meeting is changed to another day, the council would like to leave it on the 18<sup>th</sup> as already scheduled. Motion by Goodman to keep the City Council meeting on Monday February 18<sup>th</sup> 2019, second by Clough. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Brief discussion on the conflict of interest caused by having Peter Goldsmith who will also serve as the county magistrate stay on as the City Attorney. Having Boerner also appointed will alleviate any possible problems with this issue. Motion by Goodman to appoint Peter Goldsmith and Laurel Boerner as City Attorneys, second by Tomlinson. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Personnel revisions as well as the addition of a social media policy, a company property policy and the resolution adopting all were next on the agenda. Because of discrepancies on the revisions, that item is unable to be approved at this time. Motion by Goodman to table the revisions of the personnel manual and the resolution, but approve items b) and c), the additions of the social media policy and the company property policy, second by Ernst. Ayes: Clough, Goodman, Ernst, Cates. Nays: None. Abstain: Tomlinson due to a conflict of interest. Motion passes 4-0.

Motion by Goodman to approve Northland Securities Clean Water Agreement and the Drinking Water Agreement, second by Tomlinson. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Trademark filing was discussed next. The initial trademark search was approved. Motion by Goodman to approve moving forward with the Trademark filing, second by Clough. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Heritage Days carnival contract was discussed next. As previously discussed and approved Clerk Tomlinson will authorize the contract and move forward.

Motion by Tomlinson to table the IAMU membership indefinitely, second by Ernst. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Discussion ensued on fluoride. There are no changes at this time but Ernst and Clough will continue working on the verbiage that will be included on the upcoming water bills requesting the public vote on whether or not they would like fluoride added to the water in Ida Grove.

No other business at this time.

Motion by Goodman to adjourn, second by Cates. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

---

Kandice Tomlinson, Clerk

---

Devlun Whiteing, Mayor