

**City of Ida Grove
City Council Meeting
March 18, 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 also present.

Motion by Goodman to approve the agenda, second by Ernst. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Jerry Purdy of Design Alliance presented the early designs for the renovation of City Hall. Purdy would like to utilize the second level of City Hall by moving the council chambers upstairs. He presented a couple different options to council including one that keeps the main entrance of City Hall where it currently is and one that moves the main entrance to the West side of the building. The proposed plans keep the main functions of City Hall on the North side as well as maintaining the event center on the South side of the building. Purdy envisions the building being brought back to its original form. Purdy believes the original exterior block was grey. Council will process the information and make some decisions at a future council meeting.

Public Works Foreman, Gerrod Sholty, addressed the council in regards to vehicle detection loops along Moorehead Avenue and Highway 175. The City applied for a grant to receive funds towards getting a vehicle detection camera, but was not awarded funds. Sholty received estimates from General Traffic Controls; \$15,000 for the camera, system and installation which controls all 4 directions or \$1,850 per loop to replace. The city currently has 1 bad loop, possibly 2 and there are 19 total loops throughout the intersection. GTC told Sholty the majority of cities are moving away from loops and going towards cameras. Tomlinson would like Sholty to find out what the lifespan of the camera system is. The transportation subcommittee will meet with Sholty to further discuss.

Motion by Goodman to approve the consent agenda consisting of the claims list, budget/treasurer/revenue reports, 3/4/2019 minutes, and a liquor license for Hillside Pub, second by Tomlinson. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Motion by Clough to approve a \$500 payment to Kiwanis in support of the soccer program, second by Tomlinson. Goodman abstains due to personal conflict. Ayes: Cates, Ernst, Clough, Tomlinson. Motion passes 4-0.

Council briefly discussed advertising in the Tourism Guide Ad that is distributed through Carroll County, IA. Council decided there is not much worth in advertising so close to home and will pass on the advertisement.

City Clerk, Heather Sweeden, recommended to council to have an official policy in place regarding flood events. Council directed Sweeden to check with some other cities to see how they handle flood events/filling sand bags and write up a policy to bring to Council for approval or suggestions.

Sweeden presented the results of the fluoride poll. 430 of 904 households voted; of the households there were 129 yes votes and 303 no votes; this is approximately 48% participation of the voting population. Each adult in the household was allowed a

vote; thus having 196 yes votes (30%) and 461 no votes (70%). Ernst gave a background of how the council arrived where they are today. Several months back the council voted unanimously to remove fluoridation, they then voted fluoridation back in with a 3-2 vote. Council and the public were in disagreement on how to move forward so the council decided to do a survey on the water bills; asking the citizens how they feel about water fluoridation. Two city employees independently tallied the water bill votes on separate spreadsheets. There were 12 discrepancies when comparing the spreadsheets; those bills were located, errors were fixed and the city ended up with a 100% match between sheets. Motion by Ernst for the City of Ida Grove to not add fluoride to the municipal water, second by Tomlinson. Clough states he truly cares for the citizens of Ida Grove and Ida County for that matter, and it's hard not to be swayed by public vote, but struggles to go against professional opinion and expert evidence that fluoride is effective in preventing tooth decay. Ernst argues that through studies that have been conducted on community water fluoridation, the professionals cannot say there is not a direct correlation to harmful effects from fluoride; these studies end with "more research to be done on this topic". Ernst references that 70% of those that voted are against fluoride. Council then heard from some citizens; Shelly Malcom states it is not right for the Council to make individuals' health decisions for them and this is one of those circumstances. Jessica Bluml agrees with Malcom's statement and urges the council to listen to the public's opinion that was clearly stated through the poll. Christi Ladwig spoke on fluoridation and also agrees it is not right for the Council to choose to add fluoride to the water system. She states it is un-educated not to listen to the risks associated with fluoridation. If families choose to have fluoride treatments given to their children, there are plenty of opportunities to do so through the school, dental offices, Medicaid, etc. Ayes: Goodman, Ernst, Tomlinson. Nays: Cates, Clough. Motion to not add fluoride to the municipal water passes 3-2.

In other business, Lon Schluter, discussed a building permit the city received from Verizon Wireless for work to be done at the water tower. Schluter has concerns with the location of the building and fence they are proposing to put up. Schluter would prefer the work be done in the Northeast corner of the tower in order to assure heavy equipment can still access the area for maintenance and upkeep. Goldsmith states it could take up to 6 months to get the permitting changed, but agrees with Lon's concerns. Schluter and Ernst will work together to reach the contractor to discuss options for moving forward.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Heather Sweeden, City Clerk

Devlun Whiteing, Mayor