

**City of Ida Grove
City Council Meeting
March 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 absent.

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

Jerry Purdy of Design Alliance was unable to attend the meeting and will be at the next City Council meeting on March 18th to show design options for City Hall.

Reynold McLead, Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission, was present to get feedback from the City Council regarding draft Ordinance 560 – Regulating Recreational Vehicle Parking. McLead stated the past general consensus was that special use permits and variances are tied to the person applying instead of the land. The commission recently learned at a workshop that special use permits and variances are tied to the land, continuing until the use is abandoned. The commission is looking at possibly offering a yearly parking permit to store rv's, campers, etc. on lots instead of issuing a special use permit. Council also discussed putting a maximum number of vehicles that could be parked on a lot to prohibit lots from being full of vehicles. Ernst suggested the committee on policy and planning set a meeting with the Commission to further discuss options. After they meet, the Commission will bring the Ordinance back to Council for approval.

Motion by Clough to approve the consent agenda consisting of the claims list, budget/treasurer/revenue reports, Fire/Library/Rec financials and the 2/18/2019 and 2/27/2019 minutes, second by Cates. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Mayor Whiteing opened the public hearing for FY2020 budget. No comments were received written or oral. Whiteing closed the public hearing. Motion by Goodman to approve Resolution 2019-9 Adopting FY2020 Budget, second by Tomlinson. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2019-9

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1,
2019 - JUNE 30, 2020**

WHEREAS, at the February 18th, 2019 regular city council meeting the Ida Grove City Council approved setting the public hearing on the FY20 annual budget for March 4th, 2019 and

WHEREAS, notice of said hearing was published on February 20th, 2019 in the Ida County Courier and

WHEREAS, said hearing was held on March 4th, 2019, and

WHEREAS, State law requires said hearing to be held prior to adoption of the annual budget and said budget to be certified by March 15th to the County Auditor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Ida Grove, Iowa:

The annual budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, as set forth in the Budget Summary Certificate and in the detailed budget in support thereof showing the revenue estimates and appropriation expenditures and allocations to functions and activities for said fiscal year is adopted, and the City Clerk is directed to make the filings required by law and to set up the books in accordance with the summary and details as adopted.

Passed and approved this 4th day of March, 2019

City Clerk, Heather Sweeden, updated the council on the employee wellness benefit. Rec Center Director, Chelsea Gross, met with her board and they approved for all full-time city staff to receive \$100.00 off a Rec Center membership to promote health and wellness within city staff. Sweeden stated that some employees have a monthly membership while others have a yearly. One staff member just purchased a membership in December while the other memberships will expire in the next couple weeks. Council directed Sweeden and Gross to work together to come up with a way to handle the situation as they see fit.

Council reviewed the updated farm ground lease between the City of Ida Grove and Jerry Ruser/Lanny Cipperly. Ernst questions why the lease states “cash or crop sales” and would like the “or crop sales” crossed out. Ernst also noted the lease states the property is located in Butler county. Motion by Goodman to approve lease with the stated changes, second by Cates. On a unanimous vote, motion carried. Sweeden noted the council also needs to choose a crop to plant in the 10 acres of ground the City is keeping for sludge dumping. Sweeden spoke with public works and they suggest planting grass or alfalfa. Grass will not bring in as much revenue as alfalfa would, but is easier for public works to access when needed. Motion by Tomlinson to plant grass, second by Goodman. Ayes: Tomlinson, Goodman, Cates, Clough. Nays: Ernst. Motion passes 4-1.

MidAmerican Energy recently contacted City Hall in regards to a light pole located at the dead end of West Sixth St. that they feel does not serve any purpose due to the location and vegetation surrounding it. City staff spoke with the homeowners living near the light and they feel it is a nuisance. There is no charge to have the pole removed and the electric cost of this light is \$28.73 per month. Motion by Tomlinson to have MidAmerican Energy remove the pole, second by Cates. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Motion by Goodman to approve Kris Taylor to attend water distribution class, second by Clough. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Motion by Ernst to appoint Ross Ladwig to Planning & Zoning, term expiring 12-31-2019, second by Goodman. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Sweeden asked council how they would like city staff to pursue two ongoing nuisance properties located at 807 Second Street and 300 Quimby Street. City Hall continues to receive complaints against both properties, city staff have sent letters and met with the homeowner several times to attempt to fix the nuisances. Complaints received are in regards to several trailers full of items, machinery and vehicles parked

all over the lawn at 807 Second Street as well as numerous items scattered throughout the yard. The question was raised in regards to whether or not the homeowner has obtained a building permit if there are renovations in progress to the exterior of the home. Sweeden stated no building permit has been applied for, but City staff have not seen any physical changes happening to the exterior. It has been reported to staff that the 300 Quimby St. home still has a trailer full of items, possibly a wrecked car, and numerous items along the alley as well as some broken/boarded up windows. Council directed city staff to send municipal infractions for both properties.

Motion by Goodman to approve Resolution 2019-5 adopting the revised personnel manual, second by Clough. Tomlinson abstains due to personal conflict. Ayes: Cates, Goodman, Ernst and Clough. Motion passes 4-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-5

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE REVISED
PERSONNEL POLICY MANUAL

WHEREAS, the City of Ida Grove, Iowa desires to have a personnel policy manual which explains their current policies and procedures; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ida Grove, Iowa, has revised some sections of the personnel policy; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ida Grove, Iowa, employees desire to have a personnel policy manual to inform them of policies and procedures.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Ida Grove, Iowa, that they adopt a revised personnel policy manual; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Ida Grove, Iowa, that the City Clerk is directed to distribute this manual to all employees and members of management and the Mayor and City Clerk are hereby directed to certify this resolution of approval.

Passed and approved this 4th day of March, 2019.

In other business, council noted city crew members have done an excellent job with snow removal the past couple of weeks. Mayor Whiteing brought up a concern some residents of the Twin Pines neighborhood have in regards to snow removal on their sidewalks due to their sidewalks being located next to the city street. Residents feel it is impossible to clear their walks when there is an abundance of snow. Council discussed different options the city could offer such as having a list of contractors who do snow removal available at City Hall, talking with the local High School and churches to see if there are kids or organizations willing to help with snow removal of people who are unable, as well as offering a sort of "signal" that could be placed outside of homes to indicate a resident who may need help with shoveling in the hopes that a good samaritan or neighbor would assist. Sweeden again asked for direction from the council for how to handle Twin Pines and the homes along Second Street who also have sidewalks next to the city streets. Council discussed city staff using their best judgement and not expecting those residents to scoop snow unless it is a reasonable

amount or looking at each snowfall on a case by case basis. Sweeden again asked for more clarification. Ernst asked if the city could post a sign near the homes stating something to the effect of "in the event of heavy snow, sidewalks are closed", while Clough expressed he feels the residents in these areas should have open communication with City Hall during the snow season to find out if they should clear their walks based on the amount of snow received each snowfall. Sweeden updated the council on the release of money from the Heritage Days fund. Twelve organizations were offered to accept or deny the donation: 8 accepted totaling \$5,000, 3 denied totaling \$2,500 and 1 did not answer before the due date totaling \$1,500.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Heather Sweeden, City Clerk

Devlun Whiteing, Mayor