

**City of Ida Grove  
City Council Meeting  
April 1, 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, Gregor Ernst and Scott Tomlinson.

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

Warren Devore and Paul Konrad of Landus presented a possible solution for a bypass road in the event of an emergency and all rail crossings are blocked. Devore reported the bypass road would provide access to the North side from the South. Landus would build a gravel road around the West end of their property for use by emergency and city vehicles only. The City of Ida Grove needs to check with any property owners along the proposed route to obtain easements. Landus proposes paying for the gravel road and leasing the land to the City on an annual basis; the City of Ida Grove would also be responsible for maintenance of the road. Devore stated the Landus team is continuing to work with the Canadian Northern Railway's legal team to obtain other solutions and the lease would be terminated at the time another solution is provided. Landus will wait to hear back from the City on easements and negotiating a lease price.

Cody Forch of JEO discussed a task order for floodway delineations in regards to updated flood plain mapping. The City has currently paid about \$45,000 towards surveying land for updated maps. The City was previously told Iowa Flood Center would complete the technical review and submit for approval under a grant they were working under; costing the city no extra money to complete. It was recently brought to the attention of city officials that despite all the work that has gone into this as well as city officials working closely with IFC, DNR, JEO, Atkins, FEMA, etc., IFC will not be able to finalize the paperwork or complete the 1D analysis which is required by June 1, 2019. At that point, JEO will submit the draft preliminary floodplain map which will hopefully come out around September – November of this year. Having updated flood maps will remove approximately 44 residences from the floodplain and only add 3 residences. Council feels very strongly on moving forward with the project, but are disappointed the City will need to pay an extra \$35,890 in order to provide the updated maps. Motion by Goodman to approve the floodway delineations task order in the amount of \$35,890, second by Ernst. Sweeden is directed to amend the current year budget to include this increase. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Forch also presented the 2019 Facility Plan Report and 2019 Water System Preliminary Engineering Report. Forch needs approval of the plans for the water and sewer upgrades so he may submit to the DNR. At that point the City will be able to submit the plans to funding sources such as USDA and Iowa Finance Authority to receive funding offers. Submitting these plans does not lock the city in to doing all the projects and changes are still allowed. Council noted that a majority of the plans will eventually become mandated by the DNR. Motion by Ernst to approve the 2019 Facility

Plan Report and 2019 Water System Preliminary Engineering Report, second by Goodman. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Public Works Foreman, Gerrod Sholty, discussed the alley by 511 Burns Street. Sholty reported that over the years, the alley has inverted and has been filled with blacktop. It has now tipped and water is running towards the garage at 511 Burns as well as through the homeowner's yard. Sholty recommends milling out a section of the alley and replacing with asphalt. Blacktop Services, Inc. will be in town this week to inspect and give their recommendation.

Waste Water Treatment Plant Superintendent, Shannon Hazelton, discussed an issue with the seal on pump 3. Hazelton was quoted a \$2900 kit to fix the pump and labor of about \$1000. He requests buying a hoist to be able to pull the pump himself for a cost of \$500-\$600; the hoist would also be used for future maintenance projects. Motion by Tomlinson to approve fixing the pump, second by Cates. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

March 28, 2019 a sewer locate was called in for the residence at 411 Court Street. Public Works informed the homeowner the sewer does not run towards 5<sup>th</sup> Street; it runs towards Court. Over the weekend, it was noted the homeowner dug from the house, under 5<sup>th</sup> Street, and tied into an unknown pipe. Hazelton is concerned they may have tied sewer into storm water and is asking for permission to investigate the situation. Council stated there must be a permit in order to excavate in City right-of-way and requests Hazelton to have the line televised. Council advises City Hall to send fines for violating City Ordinance. Council is also concerned that the homeowner cut out sidewalk panels and then just replaced them with no concrete permit and advises to send a fine for that as well. City Hall will investigate future permits for replacing water/sewer lines on private property as well as an inspection process.

Hazelton received a quote of \$17,000 from Phil's Lawn, Landscaping and Nursery to plant grass seed on the 10 acres of farm ground the city is using for sludge hauling. Sholty explained Parks Superintendent, Bob Lorenzen, investigated further and can get the seed ordered and planted for roughly \$1,500. Council gives the go ahead to have Lorenzen handle the project.

Troy Groth of Sunquist Engineering presented on behalf of UBI's intent to replace undersized storm sewer pipes in the alley between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. Sundquist would like to replace the existing 8" lines with 12" lines to meet the water run off needs. Sholty stated adding extra downspouts to provide run off from roof water is necessary but does not necessarily mean the City is solely responsible for the cost of replacing lines. Ernst suggests negotiating a cost share between City and UBI once all the quotes are received for the project.

Sholty reported on street issues on 1<sup>st</sup> and Ellen Streets in town. The asphalt began breaking up about a week ago and is worsening quickly. Sholty states the extra truck traffic and heavy loads on 1<sup>st</sup> Street most likely contributed to the issue, but it is also an old street. Blacktop Services will inspect this week.

Sholty received an official quote from General Traffic Controls in regards to the traffic loop system controlling the stop lights. Camera detection with installation is \$13,900 but the City would be responsible to pull continuous CAT5e and mount cameras. Replacing the current two loops is a cost of \$1,950 each. Sweeden is looking

into whether these could be paid from the road use tax fund. Council will further discuss at the next meeting.

Motion by Goodman to approve the consent agenda consisting of the claims list, budget/treasurer/revenue reports, Rec/Fire/Library financials, 3/18/2019 minutes (3), 3/26/2019 minutes and liquor licenses for Ida Liquor and Mi Rancho, second by Ernst. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Council briefly discussed the City Hall Renovation plans that were presented at the last City Council meeting. Council likes the layout that keeps the entrance to City Hall at the current location. Sweeden noted that all City Hall staff prefer the layout with the entrance on the West end of the building. Whiteing noted there would be more parking available with the entrance on the West side and suggested a community meeting to get public input.

Cates noted that H&H builders are the contractor's for UBI's addition to their building on Main/2<sup>nd</sup> Street. H&H applied for a building permit with City Hall to demolish the two existing buildings and rebuild a 2-story addition in their place; building permit was approved. UBI later built a vestibule in the rear parking lot with no additional permits provided in a timely manner. City Hall sent a late permit fine of \$125; UBI wasn't aware they needed an additional permit.

Randy Forinash, owner of Hillside Pub, applied for a building permit to construct a façade improvement which would extrude up to 3" from the current façade; causing interruption with the City's sidewalk. Sweeden will obtain further information as to what type of stone will be used in the project, whether it is self-supporting or would require footings, and obtain a statement from the owner that releases the City of liability if the City were to replace the sidewalk in the future and cause any damage to the façade. Council approves moving forward with the permit once statement is signed and confirmation that the stone is self-supporting.

Motion by Goodman to approve Ordinance 2018-560 Regulating Recreational, Utility and Cargo Vehicle Parking – 1<sup>st</sup> reading, second by Tomlinson. On a unanimous vote, motion approved.

Sweeden reported a resident is concerned there is an overpopulation of squirrels in town and they are getting under the hood of her vehicle, chewing through wires. Council suggested City Hall reach out to the DNR and Ida County Conservation for suggestions on how to assist.

Motion by Goodman to approve Craig Schaffer for the part-time, seasonal mowing position at \$10.00 per hour, second by Ernst. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Council stated it is challenging for the City to donate to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society donation request when the budget is extremely tight and have decided to pass on this request.

Whiteing touched base on the current water, sewer, City Hall and Moorehead Avenue bridge projects. Council will see what funding is available for the water and sewer upgrades before making any final decisions on the projects; worst case scenario, with no funding, would raise utility bills roughly \$50 per month. Some of the upgrades, especially associated with the water projects, may be mandated in the near future. The City will receive up to 1 million in funding towards the Moorehead Avenue bridge project, leaving an estimated \$620,000 for the City to fund. Whiteing discussed the

importance of renovating City Hall with several immediate needs necessary. Whiteing recapped that the current council is focused on being proactive vs. reactive.

Motion by Tomlinson to approve the following outdoor pool employees: Whitney Francis-Simonson and Holly Nuetzman \$650/month, Sydney Bauer \$9.35/hour, Alyssa Mason \$9.10/hour, Elle McCormick \$9.40/hour, Taylor Oldham, Macy Nicholson, Taylor DeVine, Sarah Cotton, Austin Wardrip, Tyler Ehrig and Madison Schiernbeck all at \$8.05/hour, JoAnna Matthies, Sarah Petersen, Graci Nettles, Dallas McKibbin, Morgan Godbersen, Autumn Schreiber, Melissa Hewitt, Elijah Salcido, Lauren Lansink, Kya Ladwig, Zachary Dunker and Jayde Schluter all at \$8.00/hour, second by Ernst. Goodman Abstains due to personal conflict. Ayes: Tomlinson, Ernst, Cates. Motion passes 3-0.

In other business, Tomlinson states he does not want to receive any council pay from March 26, 2019 until the end of his term on December 31, 2019 to help preserve the budget. Verizon has been working at the water tower this past week; installing equipment. Whiteing informed everyone about the efforts City Hall recently made in applying for two major grants in which they were advised by SIMPCO to apply for: TAP and STBG for the Moorehead Avenue bridge. After a long process both grants were ineligible due to the year of construction vs. when the funds would become available. City officials have also been in constant contact with Ida County requesting their partnership in replacing the bridge with farm to market funds. Ida County does not have any intentions of assisting the City in the funding process. MidAmerican Energy will soon be boring along Hwy 175/North Main Street, once applications are approved. As of today, there is a Ward II council vacancy. Any interested parties within this ward should contact City Hall, Mayor Whiteing or a City Council member to express interest.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

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Heather Sweeden, City Clerk

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Devlun Whiteing, Mayor