

**City of Ida Grove
City Council Meeting
Monday, May 4, 2020 6:00 p.m.
Due to the COVID-19 crisis, this meeting was held electronically.**

Mayor, Devlun Whiteing, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following Council Members present: Jared Bogue, Jason Schable, Gregor Ernst, Ryan Jordan and Reynold McLead. City Attorney, Peter Goldsmith, was absent. In order to help stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the meeting was held electronically via GoToMeeting. Mayor Whiteing read the following statement: An in-person meeting is “impossible or impractical” because of the social distancing required by COVID-19 and the President’s and Governor’s statements that in person meetings are discouraged. This is provided to comply with Iowa Code Section 21.8”.

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

Motion by Bogue to open the public hearing on FY20 budget amendment, second by Ernst. On a unanimous vote, motion carried. Sweeden noted no comments were received at City Hall either oral nor written. Sweeden answered questions from council and explained the budget amendment process and proposed amendments. Motion by Ernst to close the public hearing on FY20 budget amendment, second by McLead. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Motion by Ernst to approve Resolution 2020-17 adopting FY2020 budget amendment, second by Jordan. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Ashley Shiwarski of Utility Service Partners, Inc. was present to answer questions from council regarding service line warranty programs. USP is endorsed by both the National League of Cities and the Iowa League of Cities for their program offerings that cover aging infrastructure such as water and sewer lines. USP offers 3 separate warranties covering external water, sewer and in-home plumbing fixtures. USP would handle all marketing, claims, customer service calls, etc. at no cost to the City, but the City would receive revenue in the form of .50 per warranty per household. USP sends up to 3 marketing letters per year on City letterhead, but would entertain using a co-logo so residents know the City does not handle any of the programs, claims, or customer service calls. Ashley will provide a sample marketing letter for City review. No action was taken.

Mark Reinders, franchise manager for MidAmerican Energy discussed electric and natural gas franchise renewal agreements with council. The agreement gives MidAmerican the legal right to use the right-of-way to support customers within city limits of Ida Grove. Reinders noted MidAmerican will reimburse the City for any publication costs related to the agreements. Reinders further noted Danbury, Early and Lake City currently have a 3% franchise fee. Also noted was Storm Lake and Cherokee whom have a 5% fee. Imposing a franchise fee would require a resolution stating what the franchise fee funds would be used for. Reinders also provided information to council regarding grants MidAmerican has available and applauded the City for their receipt of the Trees Please! grant award in the amount of \$2,000. Motion by Bogue to approve setting date of public hearing on the electric and natural gas franchise renewals for June 1, 2020, second by Jordan. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Cody Forch provided input regarding the use of Washington Street bridge as a portion of the truck route during construction of the Moorehead Avenue bridge. Forch noted Washington was deemed structurally deficient in February 2020 but doesn’t warrant load

posting at this time. Motion by Ernst to approve the second reading of Ordinance 583 – amending the truck route, second by Jordan. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Forch proposed a task order not to exceed \$11,000 for design and bidding of the Seventh Street stormwater drainage project. Letting would likely happen in Fall 2020. Forch directed the City to consult Attorney Goldsmith regarding the easement acquisitions and type of easement needed. Forch also noted council would need to decide who would be responsible for maintaining the structure going forward after project completion. Motion by Ernst to approve the task order with JEO for Seventh Street drainage not to exceed \$11,000, second by McLead. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Forch updated council on the Moorehead Avenue bridge aesthetics. Overall council consensus was Niles Series A for lighting. Forch is working to schedule meetings with contractors regarding the construction of the light bases. Dunes Grey Tuscan was the preferred color amongst council. Forch added the section 408 permit approval has not yet been received. JEO plans to host a public meeting on the bridge plans once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

Gerrod Sholty updated council on the current status of the City's motor grader and asked for direction. Council directed Sholty to look for something different that will last several years rather than fix the current one at a potential cost of \$50,000.

Frontier Communications is requesting approval of an agreement proposal for placement of telecommunication lines and associated equipment within city limits during 2020. Sholty requests to include language that the City has final say on placement so as to avoid placement of telecommunication lines on top of city infrastructure. Sweeden is directed to get Frontier in contact with Sholty.

Sholty requested approval of an agreement with Shamrock Tree Service for grinding and hauling of the City tree/brush pile. Sholty was directed to talk with Shamrock and try to negotiate a lower price on the rate per yard of grinding which was quoted at \$4.10 per yard. If a lower price can be negotiated, council plans to sign a 2 or 3 year agreement.

Motion by McLead to approve the consent agenda consisting of the claims list in the amount of \$44,709.88, budget/revenue/treasurer reports, Rec/Youth Sports/Fire/Library financials and minutes of the 4/20/2020 and 4/29/2020 meetings, second by Jordan. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

No action was taken regarding the Landus bypass road agreement as the agreement proposal is still being reviewed by Landus.

McLead continues working on the legal review code citations for further review at the next meeting.

Motion by McLead to approve the first reading of Ordinance 584 – Increasing Certain Water Turn-On and Shut-Off Fees, second by Bogue. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Sweeden requested direction to take with a new website being constructed to promote Castletown, USA. The site was developed by Spireworks, but Sweeden noted during her and councilman Ernst's work with them, there are some changes needing to be made regarding the content. It was suggested to make Ernst and Sweeden administrators on the site for the time being with the intent of additional people/organizations being included in the future.

Mayor Whiteing proposed a document including language to allow the opening of trails/parks for recreational use, with exceptions such as playground equipment, restrooms, shelter houses, contact sports, etc. Council all agreed it would benefit the citizens to allow use of City Parks so long as there is an understanding that it should be for members of your own household. Motion by Ernst to approve the opening of City Parks and outdoor facilities based on the proposal drafted by the Mayor, amended to include the statement related to members of the same household, second by Schable. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Whiteing noted an email sent out to Council today which included steps local governments can be taking to assist with public safety. Whiteing took special note to local facilities making sure people are fed, leading by example and having plans in place. Council members plan to reach out to department heads to assist in the process of formulating plans for city owned facilities. Council plans to meet Thursday at noon to discuss the facility plans and review plans on Wednesday, May 13th in order to finalize.

Motion by Bogue to adjourn, second by McLead. On a unanimous vote, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Heather Sweeden, City Clerk

Devlun Whiteing, Mayor