

City of Ida Grove
City Hall
January 16, 2017

Mayor Pro Tem Cates called the meeting to order with the following Council Members present: Scott Tomlinson, Doug Clough and Ryan Goodman. Others present were Deputy Clerk Heather Sweeden, Attorney Peter Goldsmith, Library Director Angela Scales, Library Board Chairman Larry Albrecht, Library Board Trustee Joshua VanHouten, Rec Center Director Chelsea Gross, Justin Gross, Dennis Ernst, Howard Ladwig and Verdean Kruse. Council Member Jeff Buehler was absent.

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

Kassandra Wieling and Carol Reitz were not present to discuss their hope for an exception to the current dog ordinance.

Motion by Council Member Goodman to approve the consent agenda consisting of the claims list, City Clerk's report, financial report, the January 3rd minutes, financial reports from the Fire Department, Rec Center and Library and a Class B Wine, Class C Beer and Sunday sales liquor license for Dollar General, second by Council Member Clough. On a unanimous vote motion carried.

Deputy Clerk Sweeden stated the new telephones from Frontier were installed last week and working great.

Council Member Clough gave an update on the King Theatre. There will be a community meeting on January 24th from 6-8:30 p.m. to look at two interior designs and two façade designs. At that time they will also discuss fundraising goals, demolition, deconstruction and construction of the Theatre.

Council Member Clough also gave an update on the Downtown Revitalization project. He met with Red Oak Glass, the makers of the doors and windows, and also met with the contractor from Cornerstone regarding the frosting doors and windows. The Contractor is going to meet with the business owners who are having these issues and give them some options for moving forward.

Attorney Goldsmith has not been able to get a response from Verizon regarding the water tower lease, but will continue trying to reach someone.

Council Member Clough and Council Member Buehler will regroup to discuss ACH and third party billing pay pricing.

Library Director Angela Scales presented her FY2018 budget. Their proposed budget is similar to last year with just a few increases. One area is library materials as they are hoping to digitize newspapers dating from 1890 to 2014 which is highly suggested by the State. They are also looking for an increase to Capital Improvements to remodel the Library restrooms which are original to the building. They plan to apply for grants for both projects but would need additional funds to cover all of the cost. Library Board Chairman Albrecht stated they also put in for a 5% wage increase for employees.

Rec Center Director Chelsea Gross presented her annual report. Memberships for the year are on track reaching almost 400 memberships to date and the fitness classes offered have been a great success. There are several new programs planned

for the year such as a dodgeball tournament, kickball tournament, cardboard boat races and there is an upcoming youth sports fundraiser on May 9th featuring Dan Gable.

Motion by Council Member Goodman to approve Jennifer Conover as receptionist sub at \$7.25/hr, Whitney Frank-Simonsen as receptionist sub at \$7.25/hr and Dawn Schreiber as Interim Director while Chelsea is on maternity leave for 8 weeks at \$11.00/hr. Motion was also to approve the Rec Center's request for fiscal sponsor for the next Ida County Betterment Application for the handicap stair lift to the golf room, second by Council Member Tomlinson. On a unanimous vote motion carried.

Motion by Council Member Goodman to approve the \$2300.00 payment to survey the railroad bridge in order for the flood mapping survey to be completed, second by Council Member Clough.

Motion by Council Member Goodman to appoint Laurel Boerner and Peter Goldsmith as City Attorneys, second by Council Member Tomlinson. On a unanimous vote motion carried.

Motion by Council Member Goodman to approve Janon Douglas from Data Technology to help prepare the budget at \$95/hr, second by Council Member Clough. On a unanimous vote motion carried.

Council gave general consent to have Becky Matthies help in City Hall on a temporary basis. General consent was also given to hire Marlo Schoer on a temporary basis to assist with City Clerk duties.

Motion by Council Member Goodman to approve a wage increase for Heather Sweeden to \$17.00/hr retroactive to January 4, 2017, second by Council Member Clough. On a unanimous vote motion carried.

Council Member Clough will speak with Iowa Municipal Benefits to get more information on a new insurance program to help smaller cities receive better insurance rates.

Council Member Goodman prepared a City Administrator job description and spoke with Mark Tomb from the Iowa League of Cities about hiring a City Administrator. Tomb suggested posting to the league of cities website, municipal website and the paper with a pay range of \$55,000 - \$75,000. The Council's goal is to give 30 days to receive applications and 30 days for the hiring process.

Several members of the community have been individually spoken to about their interest in the Mayor vacancy and the Council would like to speak about the vacancy in a group setting. Motion by Council Member Clough to hold a Special Meeting Thursday, January 19, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. regarding the Mayor Vacancy, second by Council Member Tomlinson. On a unanimous vote motion carried.

The Council will also discuss the FY2018 budget during their special meeting on Thursday.

Motion by Council Member Tomlinson to adjourn, second by Council Member Clough. On a unanimous vote motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.