

**City of Ida Grove
City Council Meeting
December 17, 2018 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: Paul Cates, Ryan Goodman, Doug Clough, Gregor Ernst and Scott Tomlinson. City Attorney, Peter Goldsmith was also in attendance.

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

Allyson Schable was present to discuss problems and the need for paving of the alley located in the 500 block of Moorehead Avenue. Schable cited the alley is the only access she and her neighbors have to their driveways so the need for paving and maintenance is important. The alley used to be a main thoroughfare but after the addition of Moorehead Avenue it is no longer. Schable has been stuck in the alley numerous times and feels the alley needs more attention. Many times the alley isn't cleared promptly after snowfall and in the Spring becomes filled with potholes. Schable would like to know what can be done to pave the alley like the others throughout town. She states Councilman Tomlinson who also lives in this neighborhood has cleared the alley to assist his neighbors numerous times but shouldn't have to. Councilman Tomlinson agrees there is no other parking option for the residents in this area and feels this is also an important need to be addressed. Another resident from that area of town, Matt Alexander, questioned what the master plan for something such as this was and where the priority for this type of project fell. Councilman Goodman reflected back to the Comprehensive Plan and how that should be guiding the plans of the City. Alexander asked, given the budget for the City, where this project falls. Councilman Ernst mentioned the recent Paizer Report and how that would be used to help guide the council in future decision making in these areas. Mayor Whiteing assured the residents that they would do the best they could to improve the conditions. Schable asked if in the meantime, snow removal issues could at least be addressed and council assured her they felt City Superintendent Sholty, also present was noting the issue and would pay special attention to the area in the future.

Christie VanHouten appeared next. VanHouten was present due to a continued concern she has for the community regarding the council's recent decision to reinstate adding fluoride to the city's water. VanHouten presented the council with a letter she wrote on the negative effects of hydrofluorosilic acid, the chemical previously being used for fluoridation in the city's water supply. In her letter, VanHouten stated facts of hydrofluorosilic acid and asked the council to please reconsider it's use and look for an alternative chemical, as it would be in the best interest of the citizens of Ida Grove. She also requested the council let the citizens of Ida Grove vote to decide if the practice of water fluoridation should continue. After listening to VanHouten, council members voiced their individual concerns and opinions on the topic. It was the overwhelming opinion of the council that a safer fluoridation option be pursued in lieu of the hydrofluorosilic acid the City had been using previously. Mayor Whiteing asked City Attorney Goldsmith if he could check into the process for a community vote on the issue

and also directed Water Superintendent Lon Schluter to look into an alternative fluoridation additive.

The next appearance on the agenda was open to any citizens who wanted to voice their opinion on the recent appropriations of the Heritage Days funds. Mayor Whiteing asked if anyone present was there to discuss the topic but no one was so the agenda item was passed.

City Superintendent, Gerrod Sholty was present to discuss the option of tree grinding and the benefits this would bring to the City. Shamrock Recycling sent Sholty information on the process and Sholty feels this would be a positive alternative to replace the burning and hauling practices the City currently uses. This option would be better for the environment, would save money and would leave a community wood chip pile as a possible option for residents. Council was intrigued by the idea and directed Sholty to pursue more information on the topic.

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

The second reading of the ordinance governing accessory buildings was next. Councilman Ernst pointed out wording that may have been overlooked regarding adjoining and adjacent. Clerk Tomlinson will take these concerns to the Planning and Zoning Commission for further review before the 3rd reading of the ordinance. Motion by Goodman to approve the second reading, second by Cates. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

The second reading of the ordinance regulating recreational, utility and cargo vehicle parking was up for consideration next. Motion by Goodman to approve the second reading, second by Tomlinson. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Next on the Agenda was the request from the Ida Grove Kiwanis on waiving or reducing their recent Rec Center Rental fees as the rental was used for a fundraiser and the group is a non-profit organization. Discussion ensued regarding the high volume of the rentals of the Rec Center and the Community Hall being for similar purposes. This issue was addressed recently when another organization requested a similar benefit. At this time no action will be taken but at the next Council meeting, there will be an agenda item discussing possibly rewriting the rental ordinance in the future. Another agenda item, pertaining to Kiwanis, was the request of the City to approve the purchase order for the lighting of the Sport Complex. Motion by Tomlinson to approve the purchase order and initial payment by the City with reimbursement from Kiwanis, second by Ernst. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

In other business Councilman Ernst voiced his approval for the citizens of Ida Grove coming to the meetings to voice their concerns and take an involved approach to their local government. Mayor Whiteing voiced his concern over the Christmas decorations that are located in the downtown area that are posing issues with safety as the community sidewalk area is covered and becomes unpassable especially in the evening hours. Many citizens and other business owners are voicing concerns due to the lighting that is coming from the area. City Hall will call the business owner to ask the sidewalk be cleared for safety purposes immediately. Mayor Whiteing thanked the newspaper for their continued support of the Council and thanked the community for their willingness to voice their concern on recent, high interest topics. He encourages the community to follow the agendas and the news both on Facebook and in the

newspaper. Councilmen Ernst added his approval of the great job the newspaper does in following the Council news. Councilmen Gates updated the council that the Midwest Watermain Extension Project is now complete.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Kandice Tomlinson, Clerk

Devlun Whiteing, Mayor