

**City of Ida Grove
City Council Meeting
July 15, 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: Paul Cates, Ryan Goodman, Jared Bogue and Gregor Ernst. City Attorney, Peter Goldsmith, was also in attendance.

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

Motion by Goodman to approve the consent agenda consisting of the claims list, budget/treasurer/revenue reports, Rec/Fire/Library reports, and minutes of the 7-1-2019 and 7-8-2019 meetings, second by Cates. Council asked City Clerk, Heather Sweeden, about several line items that are showing being spent close to budget; Sweeden stated the line items in question are liability and property insurance premiums and are paid in full for the year. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Reynold McLead and Jason Schable were present to express interest in the Ward III Council Vacancy. McLead has served on the Ambulance and Fire Department in past years, lived in Ida Grove for over 24 years and loves the community. McLead states he sees a need for improvement in the City and is willing to spend the time it takes to dig into projects. Schable, a local business owner, was born and raised in Ida Grove. Schable stated his construction background would be beneficial to the City Council. Both candidates were asked one thing they would like to help the Council accomplish. McLead would like to help set the groundwork for things that have been neglected for years, such as zoning. Schable would like to utilize local contractors within the city, such as for nuisance abatement (building inspections). Council notes this seat will be open for election this Fall. Both candidates stated they plan to run regardless of who Council chooses to fill the seat at this time. Council will hold a special meeting on Wednesday, July 17, 2019 at Noon to meet with McLead and 12:30 p.m. to meet with Schable. Appointment of the Ward III member will be on the agenda for 8-5-2019.

Motion by Ernst to approve the corrections for Resolution 2019-20 FY Salaries – Effective July 1, 2019. The corrections are as follows: Stacy Segebart, City Hall Janitor, \$9.00 per hour and Jane Petersen, Librarian Assistant, \$8.25 per hour, second by Goodman. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Council have received numerous phone calls in regards to recent discussion's on hiring a nuisance abatement officer. At a committee meeting held last week, Council agreed it doesn't make sense to hire an abatement officer at this time. They would like to prioritize nuisances, look at the current process of how nuisances are handled and define a better process. City Hall is gathering information and will set up a meeting in the next few weeks to further discuss the future process.

Whiteing and Sweeden met with Jerry Purdy of Design Alliance on July 2nd to further discuss the City Hall renovation plans. Purdy downscaled the project, taking out some of the excess windows, removing the update for the Community Hall and rooms on the second level. The original quote for renovation was about 1.3 million, the project

is now estimated at \$890,000 with the removal of some rooms. Council confirmed the exterior of the building would also be addressed in the quote as well as electrical and plumbing updates. Council notes it is estimated at roughly \$100,000 to do updates to the Community Hall. Bogue is concerned about spending such a large amount of money to renovate other areas, and not including the Hall. Ernst agrees that it may be necessary to include the Hall renovation in the plans. Council discussed using TIF to fund the renovation project. Council will hold some public meetings to gather citizen input on the project in the near future. Sweeden will work with Northland Securities to gather information on funding options and the impact to citizens for the public meetings.

Vicki and Reynold McLead were present to discuss the fireworks ordinance. Sweeden notes City Hall only received one complaint this year. Council members state they heard some fireworks outside of the permitted days/hours, but it wasn't out of control. Council discussed the difficulty in enforcing this ordinance. The committee on policies and ordinances plan to meet and discuss making possible changes to the ordinance.

Council met last week to discuss water and sewer rate increases in accordance with the water/sewer upgrade plans. Council reviewed increases based on all flow, all base, and several scenarios of splits between flow and base. At that meeting, council agreed they like the increase based on 35% flow and 65% base; this seemed to best accommodate all users. Bogue notes he read in the newspaper that Arthur, IA is implementing rate increases again through 2024 and their increases are higher than all of Ida Grove's options. Bogue toured the wastewater plant with City Engineer's last week to view the upgrade plans. Bogue understands the need for the majority of the improvement plans. Goodman recommends sending a letter to all citizens, explaining the increase that will come in the next few months. Council plans to notify the public in August, start the readings for ordinance change in September and implement new rates in October. At this time the City is still waiting to hear from Iowa DNR on approval of plans and possible funding assistance. City Hall will draft a letter explaining the increase of approximately 50% of the total need, using the 35/65 option. Also discussed, was the possibility of removing portions of the upgrade plans, to lessen the rate increases. Council plans to hold another committee meeting to discuss the impact on users and brainstorm ideas to help ease the impact. Bogue created some tiered approaches to the increases and will send the information to Sweeden. Sweeden is directed to have Northland Securities calculate the increase options council has come up with to see where everything falls before the committee meeting is held.

Sweeden reported to Council an accident with a City vehicle that occurred on June 21, 2019. An employee was driving the 1989 Ford Truck to dump rock at the City Park. When the employee turned the wheel, the weight shifted and the box on the truck, full of rock, broke off the frame and tipped over. Sweeden reported to the insurance company, an appraiser came out to look at the truck and has deemed it a total loss. The insurance company states if the City does not want to keep the truck, they would pay the City \$9,650.00 and if the City decides to keep the truck, they would make a payment to the City in the amount of \$7,981.00. Council directed Sweeden to speak with Public Works to inquire about what the truck could still be used for if the City keeps it as well as have Public Works obtain quotes for fixing the truck or possibly buying a new, used vehicle to meet the City's needs.

As requested at a recent meeting, Sweeden reported the estimated costs of repairing West 6th Street. To reconstruct using 7" PCC, the estimate is \$1,416,550.00 and to mill and resurface West 6th Street would cost approximately \$903,350.00. Ernst is concerned about the life expectancy of the street if the City spends the money to reconstruct it and the heavy concrete trucks and county trucks continue driving on it. Council discusses whether the concrete plant could be moved to a more convenient location. Sweeden is directed to speak with JEO to figure the life expectancy of the road if the City repairs it and it is continued to be used in the same manner as it is today.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Heather Sweeden, City Clerk

Devlun Whiteing, Mayor