

**City of Ida Grove
City Council Meeting
August 21, 2019 5:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers**

Mayor, Devlun Whiteing, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with the following Council Members present: Jared Bogue, Paul Cates and Gregor Ernst. Attorney, Peter Goldsmith, was also in attendance. Ryan Goodman was absent at this time.

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

Goldsmith informed the council of the current status of obtaining easements from four property owners in order to move forward with Landus building a by-pass road for use during emergency situations. Sweeden is directed to verify if the City Code includes an ordinance that gives emergency personnel access to private property during an emergency. Council notes Landus is currently working with CN Railroad to come up with a long-term solution to not have all 3 train crossings blocked at once. Motion by Cates to request Landus to move forward with the by-pass road on their property, pending review of the agreement/terms, second by Ernst. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Council discussed information obtained from Shelley Bruning in regards to options the City has for the upcoming At-Large vacancy. Council has the option to appoint a citizen to the At-Large seat between September 4th (effective date of Goodman's resignation) and September 13th and still have the seat on the November 5th ballot. Councilman Goodman joins the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

Motion by Ernst to recess this meeting at 6:05 p.m. in order to resume the August 19, 2019 meeting, second by Bogue. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Motion by Ernst to resume this meeting at 6:22 p.m., second by Bogue. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Council noted they did not receive many complaints over the 4th of July in regards to fireworks. Ernst recommends the council look at the fireworks ordinance in January after the New Years holiday and the new council is elected.

Sweeden reported Gerrod Sholty and Sweeden walked Harold Godbersen Drive with Jeff Williams, Ida County Engineer, and Cody Forch, JEO, on Monday August 19th. Sweeden noted recent concerns about the signage along Harold Godbersen Drive and 2nd Street. Sholty is working with MidAmerican to move signage that is causing blind spots. Council discussed putting a stop sign back in place along 2nd Street from the East or whether the intersection should be a 4-way stop. Motion by Bogue to add a stop sign at the Northeast corner of the intersection and also add clarifying signage, such as oncoming traffic does not stop, second by Cates. Sweeden is directed to ask Sheriff, Wade Harriman, to place the speed sign at the intersection before school starts on Friday to help slow kids as well as request public works get the stop sign put in before school starts. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Goodman left the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Bogue informed the council of a recent meeting he had with Water Superintendent, Lon Schluter, in regards to the city wells. Bogue notes a couple farmers who have previously allowed the city to drill test wells on their property that may allow for an adequate water supply; one of the test wells was drilled in the 1960's. Council discusses if they would be able to do flow, nitrate and manganese testing from a previously drilled well. Bogue will set a meeting with Schluter and Ron Bresnahan to see what options the city has in possibly moving forward with the testing.

Council discussed the current permit ordinance which includes building and concrete permits. Currently, the city does not charge a fee for concrete permits, however, it has been recently discovered the ordinance reads there is a fee for concrete permits just as there is for building permits. Council discussed whether or not to change or enforce the ordinance. Council recommends changing the ordinance to read: concrete projects under 100 square feet to be free of charge and projects over 100 square feet to be \$25.00.

Sweeden noted Heidi Kuhl of Northland has requested additional information in order to get analyze the city council's proposed water and sewer rate increase. Ernst is hopeful the council can review the information before their next regular council meeting on September 3, 2019.

City Hall is working with Northland and Bob Josten (bond attorney) to amend the Urban Renewal Area, gain authority, and review financing options for the possible City Hall Renovation. Sweeden notes the front windows in City Hall are now leaking in addition to two areas in the Community Hall that leak from the roof.

Council reviewed the City's current nuisance abatement process. Ernst requests a defined list of nuisances and the City's ability to fine for each nuisance without charging for a municipal infraction from Goldsmith. Goodman suggests city staff only send one warning letter, per nuisance, per person and any subsequent violations of the same nuisance be immediately charged a fine. Council stresses the need to create a database in City Hall for tracking nuisances more efficiently. Sweeden and Goldsmith will work together to create a list of nuisances and fines associated to present to council.

Sweeden will send a to-do list to all councilmen to begin planning the September 5th Farmer's Market supper.

Motion by Cates to adjourn, second by Bogue. On a unanimous vote, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Heather Sweeden, City Clerk

Devlun Whiteing, Mayor