

**City of Ida Grove
City Council Meeting
December 16, 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, Jason Schable, Gregor Ernst, and Ryan Jordan. City Attorney, Peter Goldsmith, was also in attendance. Reynold McLead was absent.

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

Grant Patera from the Hoffman Agency was present to discuss health insurance premiums for the City's full-time employees. The City currently has Wellmark Health Insurance and Patera informed there will be a 11% increase to the 2020 premiums. Patera quoted out for premiums and wanted to present to Council his findings. National General quotes came back at a savings of about \$10,000 a year. Two employee's rates would go up on the National General plan. Jordan asked if National General was easy to deal with. Patera answered yes and all would have the same in-network doctors. Ernst requested a spreadsheet. Council wants to study this more and will decide what company to go with at the next meeting.

Motion by Ernst to approve the consent agenda consisting of the claims list in the amount of \$251,110.45, budget/revenue/treasurer/rec/fire and library reports and minutes of the 12-2-2019 meeting, second by Jordan. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Council discussed the Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendations to modify portions of Chapter 17.10 of the Zoning Code (modification of nonconforming building regulations). Council discussed some possible updates they may make in regards to allowed uses in R-2 and R-3 as well as changes to special uses in those zones. Council notes some concern with the accessory building special use, which is currently under legal review. Concerned citizens spoke regarding R3 including general commercial. They discussed adding triplexes in R2 and rezoning parcels 18-30-0101 through 18-30-0105 Zobel's 6th Addition to R2 instead of R3. This item was tabled until the next meeting.

Motion by Ernst to approve the first reading to amend chapter 3.05.3050 Provisions Pertaining to Operating Budget Preparation, due to new state laws for budget processing and publication, second by Jordan. Attorney Goldsmith will review the additions. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Mayor discussed a concern of liability and safety regarding a portion of the walking trail/street or alley between Washington Street and Moorehead Avenue. There is no sidewalk present there for pedestrians so they have to use the street. Discussion was to put new signage up slowing vehicles down. Mike Thornhill commented that he only sees traffic through there when a train is blocking the street and vehicles are trying to hurry through to get to the opened street. Thornhill suggested placing speed bumps on the street in order to slow drivers down. Beings the trail is closed for the winter, Council decided to table this for the next meeting.

The Planning and Zoning Commission has two vacancies and is looking for new members. Asking citizens to get involved and join.

Motion by Cates to approve the FMCSA Commercial License Drug/Alcohol Clearinghouse which is in regard to new requirements for those having a CDL license. A consent form must be signed and a query purchase of \$1.25 per employee must be completed, Jordan second. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Mayor explained wanting to give the full-time employee's a Christmas bonus. \$50 minimum for 10 years or less of service. Additional \$5 per year for each year of service greater than 10 years. Ernst thought it was a great idea to give back for all their hard work and motioned to approve, second by Schable. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

City Clerk Sweeden included a 2020 Council meeting schedule with all meeting dates and times set. Motion was made by Ernst to approve the schedule, second by Cates. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

In other business, Ernst shared he received many compliments from the public regarding the quick response from the public works crew to remove the snow we've received so far this year. Jordan attended a Municipal Leadership Academy in Van Meter and really enjoyed it. Jared Bogue shared he toured Denison's recently renovated City Hall and it was a great experience and made our potential City Hall renovation seem more achievable. Members thanked Cates for his many years of service as a City Councilman.

Motion by Cates to adjourn, second by Ernst. On a unanimous vote, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Kelly Young, Project Management Clerk

Devlun Whiteing, Mayor