

**City of Ida Grove  
City Council Meeting  
February 18, 2020 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, Jason Schable, Gregor Ernst, Ryan Jordan and Reynold McLead. City Attorney, Peter Goldsmith, was also in attendance.

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

Motion by McLead to open the public hearing on the Maximum Property Tax Dollars, second by Ernst. On a unanimous vote, motion carried. Sweeden noted no comments were received at City Hall on the subject, neither oral or written. There were no citizen comments during the public hearing. Motion by Ernst to close the public hearing on the Maximum Property Tax Dollars, second by Jordan. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Motion by Ernst to approve Resolution 2020-9 A Resolution Approving the Maximum Property Tax Dollars Requested for Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021, second by Jordan. Upon questions from the council, Sweeden noted the total tax asking is not the final amount. The Resolution is a new requirement this year, but only shows the maximum tax asking for certain levy's, not all. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 2020-9**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MAXIMUM PROPERTY TAX DOLLARS  
REQUESTED FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021**

WHEREAS, at the February 3, 2020 regular city council meeting, the Ida Grove City Council approved setting a public hearing for February 18, 2020, on the maximum property tax dollars requested, and

WHEREAS, notice of said hearing was published as required in the Ida County Courier and posted on the City website and City Facebook page on February 5, 2020, and

WHEREAS, said hearing concerning the proposed city maximum property tax dollars was held on February 18, 2020, and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Ida Grove have considered the proposed FY21 maximum property tax dollars for the affected levy total, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Ida Grove, Iowa, that the maximum property tax dollars for the affected tax levies for FY21 shall not exceed the following total:

Total maximum levy for affected property tax levies: \$842,729.

The Maximum Property Tax dollars requested in the total maximum levy for affected property tax levies for FY21 does not represent an increase of greater than 102% from the Maximum Property Tax dollars requested for FY20.

Verdean Kruse addressed council regarding puddling of precipitation in the crosswalk of Virginia Street/Moorehead Avenue, near his property. Council noted this is a safety hazard, especially during the cold months when the water freezes. Kruse informed council he believes the piping is already there and accessible. The need is for a drain to be placed to divert the water. Council gave direction to have the Public Works Foreman receive feedback from Blacktop Services and address the issue.

Councilman Jordan spoke on behalf of Leonard Daniels' request for sewer bill forgiveness due to a water leak. Jordan noted the Water Superintendent verified that none of the water went through the sewer system. Sweeden added that to City Hall's knowledge, the leak was just repaired the week prior and there will likely be almost another full month's bill with the excess usage. Motion by Ernst to reduce the next sewer bill for Daniels to the base rate based on historical consumption with no changes for the current bill. Motion died for lack of a second. After further discussion, council decided they would like to verify additional facts such as: when the citizen was first notified of the leak, if the leak is repaired now, etc. Sweeden indicated it would be helpful to have a policy in regards to water leaks in the future. Council decided to wait until the next meeting to make a decision as the next bill will be available at that time.

Councilman Schable spoke on behalf of Phillip Means who is also asking for forgiveness due to a large consumption of water/sewer usage. Means was away from his residence for a lengthy amount of time and was notified by the City of unusually high water consumption. After investigation, it was found there was an issue with a toilet inside the residence. McLead noted he has been researching other City's policies on these topics. Some of those cities reduce the bill to a certain percentage of water use. Council again discussed coming up with a policy to handle these situations now and in the future. The Committee on Utilities will meet to discuss and propose a policy at the next council meeting. Council will revisit Means' and Daniels' bill at the next meeting after a policy is created so as to stay consistent with all citizens.

Motion by Ernst to approve the consent agenda consisting of the claims list in the amount of \$52,706.71, budget/revenue/treasurer reports, Rec/youth sports/Fire/Library financials, and the minutes of the following meetings: 2/3/2020 5:00 pm, 2/3/2020 6:00 pm, 2/5/2020, 2/10/2020, 2/11/2020 and 2/13/2020, second by McLead. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Sweeden and McLead presented the Council Rules of Procedure and noted Goldsmith has a few recommended amendments. Council would like Goldsmith's comments incorporated into the rules of procedure. Sweeden will make the changes and include for approval at the next meeting.

The City received a donation request from the Las Vegas Night committee. After discussion, council decided to pass on donating funds. Council all agreed they should consider donation requests that drive people to shop or stay in town.

Motion by McLead to approve the backup executive update quote in the amount of \$1,096, second by Jordan. The update will ensure all data on the server is properly backed up and saved. Ernst noted he validated the price of the quote with another company. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

During discussion of Key Club's request to hang additional Falcon banners, council decided they would like to keep the banners out of residential areas. Motion by Bogue to approve hanging additional banners along Susan Lawrence Drive/Ash Drive in addition to previously approved areas, second by McLead. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Sweeden updated council on correspondence with Code Publishing Company in regards to concerns council had with a few specific items as a result of the legal review of the city code. Code Publishing's attorney did address the concerns and provided feedback at no additional charge to the City. Council directed Sweeden to look back

through the original agreement to determine how CPC plans to bill once the City is ready to move forward with making the recommended changes to the city code. Currently, the City is billed per page for changes to the online code. Upon further discussion, council did note they were satisfied with much of the review content, just had some concerns on specific topics.

City Attorney, Peter Goldsmith, left the meeting at this time.

Motion by Bogue to approve the first reading of Ordinance 579 – to allow for a special use permit to be obtained prior to demolition or modification of a conforming property that would result in a non-conformance, second by Jordan. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

The Transportation Committee met recently to discuss trail regulations and congested parking issues on Morningside Street and Schmidt's Addition. Committee Chair, Jared Bogue, informed council of the proceedings of those discussions. Bogue noted the committee recommendation for the trail regulations is to close the alley connecting Washington Street to Moorehead Avenue (just North of Trendue). The Committee further requested the opinion of public works in terms of how to go about it and what type of bollards could be used to prevent motor vehicle traffic from passing through the alley. Two quotes were provided by Sholty, Public Works Foreman. Mike Thornhill, expressed concern in regards to accessing his personal property if the alley is closed. Council noted he could still access from Washington Street as the bollards/barrier is planned to be placed at the Moorehead Avenue entrance. Motion by Bogue to close the alley in question at Moorehead Avenue and place signage at the other side to alert motorists to the closure, second by Jordan. On a unanimous vote, motion carried. Sweeden will check with Goldsmith on the process for the closure.

Bogue informed council the Committee's concern of congested parking as well. The Committee expressed the Morningside Street issue is a major concern due to emergency vehicles not being able to pass through to the nursing home when vehicles are parked along both sides of the Street. It was also noted there is only one way to the home. Schmidt's Addition has the same scenario with narrow streets, vehicles parking on both sides which causes congested parking and difficulty for large vehicles to pass through. The Committee would like to receive feedback from the resident's that live on Hughes, Kolb and Riverview Lane prior to making any decisions on how to handle the issue. Motion by Bogue to change parking on Morningside Street to one side of the street only, alternating days to be implemented as soon as signage can be obtained. Sweeden noted there is likely a process and requirement for an ordinance change, but would like to verify with Goldsmith. Bogue withdrew his motion until the process can be verified. Bogue also requested the City to notify the resident's in that neighborhood by mail, prior to the change going into effect.

The Committee on Buildings and Property met recently to discuss the Highway 20 Billboard Sign and City Hall. Committee Chairman, Schable, informed council the committee recommends postponing work on the billboard sign until council makes final decisions on City Hall and where it will be located in the future. The Committee is concerned and questions whether travelers would detour 12 miles from Highway 20 to visit Ida Grove, especially if the town is unable to provide/deliver on the advertisement of "Castletown, USA". Schable also informed council the Committee reviewed the six current options the City has been offered for City Hall plans: build new, build new with

fire station, renovate current building, purchase old Courier building, Brenner building, Highway 175 building. Upon discussion, the Committee eliminated options one by one, keeping in mind the City's comprehensive plan (staying in the downtown area) and TIF availability. The final recommendation to council is to move forward with one of two options: renovate the current building or purchase the old Courier building. Schable noted one idea with the Courier would be to implement a "museum" within the already castle themed building and that there are typically grant options for museums as well. Council agreed these are two great options for moving forward.

Mayor Whiteing left the meeting at this time to attend the Countywide Law meeting; Mayor Pro Tem, Gregor Ernst, presided.

Sweeden updated council on the Welcome Sign Project. McLead drafted a mock-up of castle themed welcome signs (castle pillars including signage), in which Sweeden obtained a quote from Bohlmann's in Denison to create the pillars and signage but is awaiting one more quote from Pilot Rock for the project. Council were all impressed and in favor of the look. Sweeden noted the City could place one welcome sign on the City owned farm ground on the West side of town and was looking at the Airport property for an option on the East side of town. Motion by Ernst to approve Sweeden to move forward with writing and submitting the Ida County Community Betterment Foundation Grant for the Welcome signage, second by Schable. Bogue noted he would have liked to receive additional input on the signs, but time is of the essence as the application is due March 1. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Motion by Jordan to approve the Ida Grove Rec Center's request for the City of Ida Grove as Fiscal Sponsor for the Ida County Community Betterment Foundation grant application. The Rec Center is applying for indoor playground equipment/toys. Second by Schable. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Motion by Jordan to move forward with the Push, Pedal, Pull cardio equipment lease, second by McLead. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

In other business, Bogue attended the Chamber award night where Doug Clough presented. Clough is willing to give the presentation to council; Sweeden will invite Clough to a future meeting. Bogue also noted Paul Cates was awarded for outstanding citizen at the event. Ernst informed council he attended the school board meeting on Monday and spoke in regards to proposed changes for grade alike buildings. McLead will be attending SIMPCO's event on the 26<sup>th</sup> – legislative changes on abandoned and nuisance properties will be discussed.

Motion by McLead to adjourn, second by Jordan. On a unanimous vote, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

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Heather Sweeden, City Clerk

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Devlun Whiteing, Mayor

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Gregor Ernst, Mayor Pro-Tem

