

**City of Ida Grove
Special City Council Meeting
March 11, 2020 5:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers**

Mayor, Devlun Whiteing, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following Council Members present: Jared Bogue, Jason Schable, Ryan Jordan and Reynold McLead. Council Member, Gregor Ernst, was absent.

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

Cody Forch and Ethan Joy, both of JEO, were present to update council on various ongoing projects and seek direction to continue moving forward. Joy reviewed the initial sewer plant upgrades, including: headworks improvements, sludge handling & storage and purchasing a generator. The current estimate for those improvements is about 4.6 million. Lucas Collins, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, explained the ongoing issues he is having with the headworks which effects sludge, sampling and digestion. Council noted they are in favor of moving forward with plans to upgrade, however, the City is awaiting response from USDA as to how much funding may be available to be put towards the project prior to making final decisions.

Water Superintendent, Lon Schluter, was present to update council on research regarding upgrading the City's meter system. Schluter and Sweeden explained the efficiency difference between radio reads and cellular read meters and offered input they had received from other communities that use those types of meter systems. Council noted they are supportive of updating from the current system, but would like to see what amount of funding may be offered by USDA.

Schluter, Forch and Joy all updated council on the lab results of a recent test well drilling at Roger Frank's property Northeast of town. Overall, the water quality is good with the exception of high nitrates (18). Joy explained the next step would be to look at drilling alluvial and/or dakota wells; keeping in mind the ultimate goal is to find a site that doesn't require treatment, if possible. JEO notes they would like signed copies of property easements prior to drilling the test wells. JEO was given approval by the council to send out bid packages to local drillers for the test wells.

Forch asked for direction on the design plans for the Moorehead Avenue Bridge. After review of options, council agreed on a type T4-11, with a window type of option C, single rail (galvanized with Black powder coat). Council would also like to consider ornate lighting features that will accentuate the Castletown, USA theme, if costs allow. Forch will start on some designs to present at a later date.

Whiteing, Gerrod Sholty, Forch and Sweeden "toured" the town today assessing various streets that have become a major concern. On the list were: 2nd Street, Ellen Street, Washington Street and 1st Street. The City notes the majority of the reason for the deteriorating streets is likely the re-routed truck traffic due to the weight limit on the Moorehead Avenue Bridge. The City is looking into any possible funding opportunities to assist in repairing some streets and urges truck traffic to use the designated streets.

Whiteing reviewed recent discussions regarding the stormwater runoff concerns starting at the High School and running along the back of Seventh Street. Whiteing and Sweeden recently met with Superintendent, Matt Alexander, and Director of Buildings and

Grounds, Roger Walter, regarding concerns the City has with the stormwater runoff after the school addition is complete. Forch noted he would like to revisit the plan JEO submitted to the City in late 2019, moving the drainage ditch to the North side of the trail, to make sure it would still be adequate once the High School addition is complete. The estimate of the project was about \$97,000.

Sweeden presented the proposed Utility Service Policy, including recommendations from the Public Works & Utilities Committee. Sweeden asked for review of specific items such as: is the council considering waiving water and/or sewer, how long would residents need to be gone from their home in order to inactivate the billing of their account, would the waiver/reduction of excessive use be offered one time per account or more? Sweeden recommended only offering a reduction of the sewer portion of excessive use. After discussion, Council agreed the policy should only offer reduction of the sewer portion, including other additional criteria to be presented to council at their next regular meeting. Council also noted the City staff should no longer inactivate billing on accounts unless the resident has the water shut off at the curb stop and pays for the shut off trip. Sweeden is directed to make the changes to the policy and present it at Monday's meeting.

In other business, Sweeden noted difficulties City Staff are facing regarding floodplain permitting and asked for direction to continue moving forward. Forch noted he would be willing to assist City Hall in the processing of those permits in order to meet City and DNR requirements.

Motion by Bogue to adjourn, second by McLead. On a unanimous vote, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Heather Sweeden, City Clerk

Devlun Whiteing, Mayor