

**City of Ida Grove  
City Council Meeting  
March 2, 2020 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: Jared Bogue, Jason Schable, Gregor Ernst, Ryan Jordan and Reynold McLead. City Attorney, Peter Goldsmith, was absent.

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

Cody Forch of JEO was present to give a general update on multiple ongoing projects and answer any questions council may have. Moorehead Avenue Bridge Replacement: The City has received their floodplain permit but is still waiting to receive the section 408 permit from USACE. Forch is hopeful the permit will be received in April which then provides for bid letting around September-November. Forch briefly touched on aesthetic features of the bridge. Bogue would like a committee meeting to review this information prior to final submittal of plans. The estimated time frame from start to finish is approximately six months. Test Wells: The City has been working with Bresnahan Well Drilling to test water quality on a farm Northeast of Ida Grove and is currently awaiting the test results. Council will further discuss this at an upcoming utility committee meeting. Water/Sewer Improvement Projects: The City had been waiting on response from USDA to initiate the application as a means to secure grant funding and heard back from them today; which will initiate the process. Levee Pipe Rehab: Similar to the bridge project, the City is awaiting section 408 permitting from USACE. The City is prepared to begin the letting process once permitting is received. Flood Insurance Rate Maps: IDNR is set to release the preliminary maps on 3-3-2020. From there a CCO meeting and public open house will be scheduled to review the maps and allow for questions. The City is still looking at multiple months until the maps are finalized and adopted.

Dan Johnson was not present to discuss vehicle nuisance letters.

Leonard Daniels and Phillip Means were present to address council regarding requests for sewer bill forgiveness. The Public Works and Utilities Committee recently met to discuss the bills and decided to implement a policy regarding water/sewer forgiveness that allows the council the ability to set standards and remain consistent with all citizens. The policy will be presented to council at the following meeting, at which time the council hopes to make a decision for Daniels and Means.

Motion by Ernst to approve the consent agenda consisting of the claims list in the amount of \$69,145.35, budget/revenue/treasurer reports, Rec/Fire/Library/Youth Sports financials and the minutes of the 2-18-2020, 2-19-2020 and 2-25-2020 meetings, second by McLead. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Council reviewed the proposed Council Rules of Procedure which included suggested amendments by the City Attorney. Council would like to include language that give them the option to have legal counsel present or not during a closed session meeting. Sweeden is further directed to work on other changes with McLead in order to allow structure within the rules, but with less formality.

McLead spoke regarding the OABCIG High School addition. After review of the plans, there is concern regarding the discharge of stormwater runoff. As proposed, the

water is being discharged to the North side of John Montgomery Drive. The water then flows naturally NW around the practice football field, under Ellen Street, behind residences on the South side of 7<sup>th</sup> Street to the Badger Creek. Council is concerned the additional stormwater runoff will contribute to concerns the City already has. Council supports the schools plans for the addition, but would like to make sure there is no damage caused to residents that live lower than the school building from the water discharge. Sweeden is directed to provide comment back to the school/architect regarding the concern.

Motion by Ernst to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of Ordinance 579 – amending Title 17 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 McLead. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

No action was taken on Resolution 2020-10 to approve Ordinance 579 until the next regular meeting.

Todd Riessen and Janet Christiansen were present to express their interest and concern over the parking issue on Morningside Street. Both citizens agree there is a congestion issue and feel the issue is worsened during after school pick up times and school events. After additional discussion, there was a motion by Bogue to amend Ordinance 580 – prohibiting parking on the East side of Morningside Street to prohibit parking on the West side, second by McLead. On a unanimous vote, motion carried. Motion by Bogue to approve the first reading of Ordinance 580 – prohibiting parking on the West side of Morningside Street, second by Jordan. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

No action was taken on Resolution 2020-11 to approve Ordinance 580 until a future meeting.

Stephanie Konradi and Beth Euchner were present to provide council feedback on the discussion of the congested parking concern in Schmidt's Addition. Both Konradi and Euchner reside on Hughes Lane. Both citizens agree there is a concern whether emergency responders would be able to get down the street if needed as so many cars are parked along both sides of the narrow street. They also expressed concern for garbage trucks, UPS drivers, etc. as they have difficulty navigating the street. Council questions the space availability on each side of the street, suggesting the side with more parking availability would be the side to remain open to parking. Council plans to visit the area individually and revisit the topic at the next council meeting.

Motion by McLead to approve the first reading of Ordinance 581 – prohibiting vehicle traffic in the alley between Moorehead Avenue and Washington Street, second by Bogue. Mike Thornhill expresses concern for access to the back of his property from the alley. Council directed Sweeden to check with Attorney Goldsmith on obtaining documentation/approval that would stay with the property in question, allowing continued access to the property from the alley. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

No action was taken on Resolution 2020-12 approving Ordinance 581 until a future meeting.

Council agreed to Key Club's request to hang additional Falcon banners along Highway 175.

Sweeden informed council Code Publishing Company will charge \$18.95 per page for any changes made to the online code. The question came about after council hired

CPC to complete a legal review of the City Code, received the feedback and are prepared to begin amendments. Council questions how many pages are in need of change; Councilman McLead volunteered to gather that information. Council will continue discussion on that topic at a future meeting.

Motion by Ernst to approve setting a date of public hearing on the annual budget adoption for March 16, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., second by Jordan. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Sweeden explained to council that her recommendation for a 3<sup>rd</sup> employee at City Hall would be to mainly cover the following areas: permitting, Planning & Zoning, Board of Adjustment, nuisances, assist with social media, utility billing and other daily tasks. Sweeden noted her and Project Management Clerk, Kelly Young, have discussed and would recommend going back to a City Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Administrative Assistant. Ernst advises Sweeden to prepare a job description to present to council at the next meeting and council will have a contest to come up with a title for the 3<sup>rd</sup> position.

Motion by Ernst to approve setting a date of public hearing on the Library copier lease for March 16, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. following the budget public hearing, second by McLead. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Sweeden informed council of information obtained regarding the Siouxland Regional Transit System agreement between City and County. SRTS provided 2,343 trips to Ida Grove residents in 2019. The agreement dates back numerous years consisting of the City paying 1/3 and County 2/3 of the annual cost. Motion by Jordan to approve the agreement, second by Ernst. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

In other business, Sweeden noted the City has received \$500 towards the Parks and Rec Mini Grant for City Park Shelter House Repair. The City crew has already begun the project. The Ida County Community Betterment Foundation Grant was submitted on 2-28-2020, applying for 2 welcome signs. McLead updated council on a SIMPCO workshop he attended regarding abandoned properties. Bogue updated council on a housing meeting he recently attended. The City is in the process of developing a committee, with the help of local banks, Ida County Economic Development and ISU Extension. The Committee will consist of about 12-15 members encompassing several businesses and entities in Ida Grove. Bogue also noted the upcoming Heritage Days fundraiser to be held on March 14, 2020 and encouraged all to attend the family friendly event.

Motion by Ernst to adjourn, second by McLead. On a unanimous vote, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

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Heather Sweeden, City Clerk

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Devlun Whiteing, Mayor