

**City of Ida Grove  
City Council Meeting  
Monday, April 6, 2020 6:00 p.m.  
Due to the COVID-19 crisis, this meeting was held electronically.**

Mayor, Devlun Whiteing, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following Council Members present: Jason Schable, Jared Bogue, Gregor Ernst, Ryan Jordan and Reynold McLead. City Attorney, Peter Goldsmith, was absent. In order to help stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the meeting was held electronically via GoToMeeting. Mayor Whiteing read the following statement: An in-person meeting is “impossible or impractical” because of the social distancing required by COVID-19 and the President’s and Governor’s statements that in person meetings are discouraged. This is provided to comply with Iowa Code Section 21.8”.

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

Amanda Harper of SIMPCO was present to request the council’s approval to sign a grant application with the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB). The application request is for \$300,000 in funding to attribute to a housing project council is looking to pursue (pocket neighborhood). The approximate \$2 million project would consist of 8-12 homes, all about 1,000 sq. feet in size. Harper noted the Western Iowa Community Improvement Regional Housing Trust Fund Board has agreed to put up the grant match of \$30,000. If approved, the grant will work as a reimbursement process with the City paying bills and being reimbursed from the FHLB, administrative costs could be included. A funding requirement is that the owners whom purchase these homes would need to be low income, at or below 80% of the median income for Ida County (\$69,000) dependent upon household size. Harper noted time is of the essence in applying for the grant. Ernst requested to have the council and city attorney review the grant application prior to signing. Harper will put together the basic plan and work with Sweeden and Goldsmith on the legal aspects, then bring the application back to council for final approval prior to submittal. Bogue inquired where the balance of the \$2 million project and \$330,000 in grants will come from. Harper stated SIMPCO will assist in applying for additional grants and this is just the very early stages of the process, but does not obligate the City to move forward.

City Crew Foreman, Gerrod Sholty, asked council for direction on street repair work. Council directed Sholty to work on patching areas of dire need prior to following the PASER report with any leftover street repair funds in the current fiscal year. Council further directed Sholty to put street work out for bids and obtain council approval for FY21 street projects.

Sholty explained the transmission in the motor grader has gone out and is requesting direction on repairing or replacing the transmission/grader. Sholty reviewed a quote he obtained in the amount of \$89,500 for a 2007 CAT with 10,564 hours on it. Sholty also noted he spoke with Ida County Engineer, Jeff Williams, who may be trading in one of their graders this year. Council directed Sholty to obtain additional quotes, talk more with the County and obtain the salvage value of the current grader for further review.

With the Moorehead Avenue Bridge embargo, truck traffic has increased on roads in town that were not built for the weight of loaded trucks. Sholty recommended changing the current truck route (M-15 to N. Main Street to Moorehead Avenue to Highway 59/175 to Washington Street and to 1<sup>st</sup> Street) to the following: M-15 to Father Daily Drive to Highway 59/175 to Washington Street and then to 1<sup>st</sup> Street. Council questioned whether Father Daily Drive could be set as a truck route since the City only owns half of the Street. Sweeden will discuss with Goldsmith and bring back for review at the next meeting.

Cody Forch presented plans for castle themed light poles for the Moorehead Avenue Bridge. The pole base would be roughly 8 ft tall and placed at the 4 corners of the bridge. Council agreed that if the poles may be constructed and are cost effective, they like the design. Forch inquired about the alley approach to the SE of Moorehead Avenue, which will be affected during bridge construction. Forch recommends that if council is closing the alley to vehicular traffic, they may want to consider narrowing the curb ramp as it would be used only for pedestrian traffic. Council decided to leave it as is for now as change orders may be made during the construction phase.

Forch introduced a letter of recommendation to approve Sargent Irrigation and Drilling for test well drilling. JEO sent out base bids for 1 alluvial and 1 dakota test well, and included bid requests for additional options if needed throughout the process, receiving three bids as follows: Sargent Irrigation and Drilling \$38,264; Bresnahan Well Drilling & Repair \$46,550 and Layne Water Resources \$81,095. Forch stated Sargent can begin drilling within 21 days of receiving notice to proceed, but the City will need the easement documents executed in advance. Motion by Bogue to award Sargent Irrigation and Drilling the test well contract not to exceed \$38,264 for the drilling of 1 alluvial and 1 dakota test well, second by Jordan. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Motion by Schable to approve Leonard Daniels request for waiver of 50% of sewer overage due to a leak for the months of November/December and Phillip Means request for waiver of 50% of sewer overage for the months of February/March, second by Ernst. Ayes: Schable, Ernst, McLead, Jordan. Nays: Bogue. Motion carried 4-1.

Motion by Ernst to approve the consent agenda consisting of the claims list in the amount of \$119,922.50, budget/revenue/treasurers reports, rec/youth sports/fire/library financials, minutes of the 3/16/2020 (2), 3/25/2020 and 3/30/2020 meetings and liquor licenses for Mi Rancho, Brew and Ida Grove Golf & Country Club, second by Jordan. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Motion by Ernst to approve the final reading of Ordinance 580 – Prohibiting Parking on the West Side of Morningside Street, second by Jordan. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Motion by Jordan to approve Resolution 2020-11 – Approving Ordinance 580, second by Bogue. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 2020-11

RESOLUTION AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE CITY OF IDA GROVE, IOWA BY ENACTING AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING PARKING ON THE WEST SIDE OF MORNINGSIDE STREET, WITHIN THE CITY OF IDA GROVE, IOWA

WHEREAS, the City of Ida Grove, Iowa has determined that parking should be prohibited on the West side of Morningside Street; and

WHEREAS, an ordinance has been presented to the City Council that prohibits parking on the West side of Morningside Street.

Motion by Bogue to approve the final reading of Ordinance 581 – Prohibiting Vehicle Traffic in Alley Between Moorehead Avenue and Washington Street, second by McLead. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Motion by McLead to approve Resolution 2020-12 Approving Ordinance 581, second by Ernst. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 2020-12

RESOLUTION AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE CITY OF IDA GROVE, IOWA BY PROHIBITING VEHICLE TRAFFIC IN THE ALLEY BETWEEN MOOREHEAD AVENUE AND WASHINGTON STREET, WITHIN THE CITY OF IDA GROVE, IOWA

WHEREAS, the City of Ida Grove, Iowa has determined that vehicle traffic should be prohibited in the alley South of the Odebolt Creek between Moorehead Avenue and Washington Street; and

WHEREAS, an ordinance has been presented to the City Council that prohibits vehicle traffic in the alley South of the Odebolt Creek between Moorehead Avenue and Washington Street.

WHEREAS, this temporary alley closure does not apply to the current or future owners of 102 Moorehead Avenue, Ida Grove, Iowa, or to anyone designated by the current or future owners, including tenants and workers.

Mayor Whiteing read the first reading of Ordinance 582 – Prohibiting Parking on the West Side of Kolb, Hughes and Riverview Lane. Sweeden noted she received feedback from residents stating the fire hydrants are located on the East side of the Streets. Arlene Nollen and Nicki Ehrig spoke against the Ordinance. Ehrig noted the fire trucks navigated down her street (Hughes) twice last week, voluntarily, during the emergency personnel parade. She further stated that in 40 years, difficulty navigating the streets due to parking on both sides has not been an issue until now, and she doesn't understand the need for an Ordinance to prohibit parking. Council requests further feedback from the residents living in the area and instructed Sweeden to send letters to all the homeowners. The Ordinance was tabled until the next regular meeting.

McLead updated Council on the progress with Code Publishing Company and the legal review. CPC has completed the Iowa Code references update to all but 45 references. Those 45 will require additional research as the codes have been repealed/replaced. CPC estimated 20 hours of work at \$75 per hour if the Council would like them to move forward. McLead noted he is willing to work on the ones that he can and come back to council with the remaining for further direction.

Sweeden presented information gathered from other cities regarding their process for suspension of billing for snowbirds, summerbirds and general billing suspension requests. The overwhelming majority of other cities require residents to have the water shut off at the curb if they wish to not receive a minimum bill. Council previously made a motion to require water to be shut off at the curb in order to suspend billing, after this research, they agree that motion should stand. Council discussed charging a fee of \$45 to turn the water off and a \$45 reconnect fee. Sweeden will look into this as it may require an ordinance change prior to becoming effective.

Sweeden presented an agreement from Utility Service Partners that would offer residents the ability to purchase service line repair plans for broken or leaking outside water and sewer lines. The service plans would be handled through USP, not through the City. Council thinks this would be a good opportunity to provide to citizens if they wish to purchase the plans and directed Sweeden to do further research with other cities experiences with the program.

Motion by Ernst to move forward with Sargent Irrigation & Drilling to replace well #8 pump for up to \$16,052 with the possibility of additional expenses depending on what's uncovered, second by Schable. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Motion by Ernst to approve moving forward with castletownusa.com and having Spireworks set up the initial website with access to wordpress, second by Jordan. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Motion by Bogue to approve Craig Schafer as the seasonal mowing hire at \$10.30 per hour, second by Jordan. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Whiteing noted Ida County still has zero confirmed cases of COVID-19 and encouraged people to continue acting as though it is here and social distance. Bogue

questions how many testing kits are available in the area; Whiteing will reach out to Emergency Management and Ida County Public Health. Bogue further asks if the City should or could be applying for any funding for loss of revenue, Sweeden began looking into this today and will report back.

In other business, Sweeden reported the City was awarded 6 gallons of paint through the Paint Iowa Beautiful Grant for painting of the pump house. Sweeden is directed to reach out to SIMPCO regarding any funding applications the City could be looking into due to COVID-19. Whiteing noted the work on the tennis court rehab/addition of a pickleball court has begun, thanks to the Godbersen Foundation and Godbersen-Smith Construction. Whiteing also noted the City has been informed of possible stimulus money coming available for Federal shovel ready projects, such as the Moorehead Avenue Bridge. Sweeden informed council the ballfield light installation will begin tomorrow.

Motion by Ernst to adjourn, second by Jordan. On a unanimous vote, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

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Heather Sweeden, City Clerk

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Devlun Whiteing, Mayor