

City of Ida Grove
Emergency - Special City Council Meeting
March 16, 2020 8:00 a.m.
City Council Chambers

Mayor, Devlun Whiteing, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.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.

Mayor Whiteing called the emergency meeting to discuss a preparedness plan and steps the City will take regarding COVID-19. The meeting was called with less than a 24-hour notice after the local school district made the announcement late last night that they would be closing schools until further notice. Whiteing noted the importance of limiting exposure to employees and citizens/patrons by practicing social distancing, sanitizing and hand washing, etc. Whiteing encouraged employees to stay home if they are sick. At this time, council encourages citizens not to attend city council meetings, and to instead watch them from home via the City's Facebook page.

Council noted their concern with only two staff members employed at City Hall; if one or both were to get sick, how could the essential functions of City Hall business continue? Motion by Bogue to close City Hall to the public, effective immediately, until further notice, second by Jordan. Council urges residents to call City Hall with any questions and utilize the drop box located at the front doors of City Hall. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

With the notice of closure of the OABCIG Community School District last night, council and staff members are concerned about our community's youth gathering at the Recreation Center. After discussion of taking critical steps to aid in protecting and minimizing the impact to our community, the following motion was made: Motion by Ernst to close the Ida Grove Recreation Center, effective as of close of business on March 16, 2020, until further notice, second by Jordan. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Council had the same concerns for the Ida Grove Public Library. Motion by McLead to close the Library, effective as of close of business March 16, 2020, until further notice, second by Bogue. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Whiteing noted there will be an Ida County Emergency Management meeting held March 17, 2020 at 9:00 am to discuss and create a countywide plan.

Motion by Bogue to close the Community Hall for upcoming events, until further notice, with the exception of Meals On Wheels, until the City can come up with a plan for delivery of all meals, second by McLead. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Ed Sohm, Ida County Emergency Management, noted that citizens should call 211 if they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. To minimize the risk to others, please do not go to your local Dr. office or hospital, without first calling 211. Sohm also noted citizens may sign up for emergency alerts by visiting the Ida County Sheriff's Office website.

Motion by Jordan to adjourn, second by Schable. On a unanimous vote, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:58 a.m.

Heather Sweeden, City Clerk

Devlun Whiteing, Mayor