

**City of Ida Grove
Special City Council Meeting
Wednesday, April 15, 2020 5:00 p.m.
Due to the COVID-19 crisis, this meeting was held electronically.**

Mayor, Devlun Whiteing, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with the following Council Members present: Jason Schable, Gregor Ernst, Ryan Jordan and Reynold McLead. Councilman Jared Bogue intends to join the meeting at approximately 5:15 p.m. In order to help stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the meeting was held electronically via GoToMeeting. 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 Jordan. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Whiteing stated the reason for the special meeting was to review a power point presentation himself, Heather Sweeden and Kelly Young have been working on in regards to the City Hall Project. Previously council voted to narrow down the options to 1.) renovate the current City Hall building or 2.) purchase the old Courier building and turn into City Hall. Whiteing presented the draft power point which included pros and cons of each building, information from the 2018 community survey and overall project information. Whiteing explained he would like to receive feedback from the council on the presentation and then once finalized, have two community meetings in order to present the power point to the public and hear feedback, broadcast the presentation on Facebook live and also have a survey available to receive further citizen input. Council provided feedback of items that could be included in the final presentation and agreed on the remaining process leading to a final decision while also giving additional recommendations for advertising the public meetings.

Council approved hiring Craig Schafer for seasonal mowing at their 4-6-2020 council meeting. Sweeden informed council she is currently unable to schedule physicals and drug tests as required by the City Personnel Handbook, for all post-off, pre-employment hires due to COVID-19 and the clinic not accepting this type of appointment at the time. After discussion, council decided to hold off on hiring anyone until further notice. Motion by Ernst to implement a hiring freeze due to COVID-19 to be lifted at a later date, second by Jordan. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Motion by McLead to adjourn, second by Jordan. On a unanimous vote, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Heather Sweeden, City Clerk

Devlun Whiteing, Mayor