

City of Ida Grove
Special City Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 25, 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: Jared Bogue, Gregor Ernst, Ryan Jordan and Reynold McLead. City Attorney, Peter Goldsmith, was also in attendance. 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 Bogue to approve the agenda, second by Jordan. On a unanimous vote, motion carried. Councilman, Jason Schable, joined the meeting at this time.

Mayor Whiteing noted the reason for the meeting was to discuss ongoing matters in relation to the virus. Whiteing informed council of a conversation he had with Sheriff Harriman due to a recent increase in theft and criminal activity in Ida Grove. Local law enforcement is working hard to enforce the Governor's closure orders and also plan to spend additional hours in Ida Grove to mitigate the rise in criminal activity. Whiteing reported he has been approached by citizens regarding the following items: reducing the curfew from 11:00 pm to 9:00 pm, closure of parks within City limits, Pleasant Valley Trail use, parades/events in the community. Whiteing further noted he supports the Fire Department, EMS and Law Enforcement's request to parade through Ida Grove at 7:00 pm tonight to show their support for our community. The parade will take place inside vehicles and social distancing guidelines will be followed. No Council members were in favor of changing the curfew at this time. All members agreed the best course of action at this time is to continue with parks being closed. Council noted the trail is not included in the closure, however, citizens need to follow the seasonal trail opening date (May 1).

In other business, Ernst noted requests from residents such as scoop the loop night, car parades and events other communities are doing. Bogue asked if the City could utilize their website and Facebook page to market a guide on the different benefits and opportunities currently available for large and small employers due to the virus. Bogue will work with Rita Frahm to develop a guide and Sweeden will post on social media. Whiteing referenced the Extended Family Medical Leave Act recently passed by President Trump, asking Sweeden to look into it. Sweeden explained she had been in contact with Goldsmith regarding the Act as the City doesn't currently follow FMLA guidelines due to not meeting the requirement for number of employees. Goldsmith clarified, the extended FMLA also does not pertain to the City. Sweeden will draft a policy for council review that the City may use, if needed.

In ending, Whiteing stated "these are trying times and nothing we have ever been through before. We have a strong Council, City Staff and citizens. If we all do what we're suppose to do, we will come out of this strong. Follow the guidelines, practice social distancing and we will get through this stronger than ever!"

Motion by Jordan to adjourn, second by Ernst. On a unanimous vote, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Heather Sweeden, City Clerk

Devlun Whiteing, Mayor

