

**City of Ida Grove**  
**Special City Council Meeting**  
**Monday, March 30, 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, 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 Ernst to approve the agenda, second by Bogue. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Sweeden asked council for direction of how City Hall should handle delinquent water bill penalties, water shut off notices and actual water shut-offs due to non-payment during this time. Sweeden noted the Iowa Utilities Board is recommending City’s not shut-off water during the pandemic. Motion by Ernst to not assess late penalty fees or shut off water/sewer for Ida Grove residents due to the COVID-19 Pandemic until further notice, second by Bogue. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Council has been asked if camping will be allowed during the pandemic. After discussion the following was decided: motion by Jordan not to allow camping within City limits until further notice, second by Bogue. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Council reviewed their decision to close parks until further notice and decided parks shall remain closed, not open to public at this time in an effort to slow the spread.

Sweeden presented a draft Expanded Family and Medical Leave Policy that follows the procedures recently set and passed around the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. Motion by McLead to approve the policy as written, second by Jordan. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Council noted they have seen many places around town in which people are congregating, citizens not of the same household walking together, without social distancing, and question what more can be done to educate citizens on the severity of the pandemic. The Mayor and Council urge citizens to follow the guidelines set at the state and local level: social distancing, hand washing, stay home if you don’t absolutely need to go out, etc.

Last February (2019), council approved an update to the tennis courts at City Park and for Whiteing, Sweeden and Ernst to work on the project. The update includes turning one of the tennis courts into 2 pickleball courts and updating the current tennis court. The entire area will have a 4” overlay, restriping, utilization of the current chain link fence, re-finished lighting and updated electrical. The update to the court will be done by Godbersen-Smith and generously paid for by the Godbersen Foundation.

Motion by Ernst to adjourn, second by McLead. On a unanimous vote, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

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Heather Sweeden, City Clerk

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Devlun Whiteing, Mayor