

**City of Ida Grove
City Council Meeting
Monday, April 20, 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: Jared Bogue, Gregor Ernst and Reynold McLead. City Attorney, Peter Goldsmith, was also present. Councilmen Jason Schable and Ryan Jordan were 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 Bogue to approve the agenda, second by Ernst. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Chelsea Gross was present to seek direction from the Council regarding the outdoor pool and summer rec/youth sports. Council noted they have typically been following the guidance of Governor Reynolds and the Iowa Department of Public Health. Council directed Gross not to get the slides polished this year since there is a possibility of not opening. Whiteing asked Gross to keep in touch with the council regarding summer sporting activities, but stated that the City cannot plan on anything right now.

Gerrod Sholty was not present to discuss the motor grader. Sweeden noted there were several quotes included in the council packet and Sholty was working to obtain an official quote to fix the City’s grader. Sweeden believes Sholty intends to fix the City’s grader depending on price but will follow up with him for clarification.

Motion by Bogue to approve the consent agenda consisting of the claims list in the amount of \$173,243.61, the budget/revenue/treasurer reports, minutes of the 4-6-2020, 4-9-2020 and 4-15-2020 meetings and a Class E liquor license for Discount Liquors, second by Ernst. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

The City will need to obtain easements from four property owners along Seventh Street in order to create a new drainage structure for stormwater run-off. The proposed structure would be moved South of its current location, closer to the trail. Letters were sent to the four property owners as well as Golden Horizons inviting them to tonight’s meeting. OABCIG School Superintendent, Matt Alexander, has joined previous meetings and was invited to tonight’s meeting as well. The City is asking OABCIG Schools and Golden Horizons to partner with the City on the project from a financial standpoint. After discussion, council asked JEO to put together an agreement for the next council meeting for potential approval. Having the agreement in place would allow JEO to move forward with design of the structure and offer additional information to property owners, such as how much of an easement is needed for construction and for future maintenance.

Cody Forch was present to obtain council direction on lighting and brick color for the Moorehead Avenue Bridge aesthetics. Council were in agreeance the color and lighting should fit in with the rest of the castle structures throughout town, but will send their choices to Sweeden to forward to Forch. Forch noted there has been movement on the section 408 permit. He is hopeful for final plan submittal in June and a September/October letting.

Goldsmith informed council he re-drafted the proposed contract between the City and Landus for the bypass road and sent the draft back to Landus’ lawyer for review.

McLead has been researching 45 errors in the City’s code to find the corrected state code citations and has succeeded on 23 of them thus far. McLead noted the other 22 are

more difficult as the citations have been repealed or replaced by others and is seeking direction from the rest of the council. Ernst added it may be a good idea to add a disclaimer regarding the ones McLead is still researching. Council asked McLead to continue working on them for the time being.

Sweeden recently sent 36 letters to the occupants of Hughes, Riverview and Kolb Lane asking for feedback regarding the potential parking ordinance for Schmidt's Addition. Sweeden noted feedback received by four residents and Whiteing noted feedback from two. Of the feedback received, the consensus was the council should not implement a parking ordinance. Council debated whether to attempt to solicit additional feedback, but noted this has been on several agendas and letters were already sent. Motion by McLead to table indefinitely Ordinance 582 – Prohibiting Parking on the West Side of Kolb Lane, Hughes Lane, Riverview Lane, second by Bogue. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

An Ordinance Increasing Certain Water Turn-On and Shut-Off Fees was presented after a council decision on April 6, 2020 to require water to be shut off at the curb when a resident request's a suspension of billing. A fee will be imposed to shut the water off and turn it back on upon the resident's return. Council requests adding an additional \$50 fee if the water is turned on during the weekend and a public works member would be called out to do so. The question of whether to increase the fees for involuntary water connections and disconnections as well as landlord/tenant situations was raised. Council noted they would like the fees to be consistent and asked for a new draft of the proposed ordinance with the recommended changes.

Sweeden presented information from the County Board of Supervisors who recently voted to approve a temporary agreement to alter the truck route to include Father Daily Drive. Council question why the altered route would be temporary and would like it to be a permanent route. Motion by Ernst to approve the first reading of Ordinance 583 – Truck Route, second by McLead. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Motion by Bogue to approve the Utility Service Policy, second by McLead. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Council requested to have Ashley with Utility Service Partners call in to the next council meeting and answer questions regarding the insurance program options.

Motion by McLead to approve the seasonal mowing & parks department job description, second by Ernst. Sweeden noted the approval request is so the City can be ready to hire once the hiring requirements of physicals and drug screens can be met. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

Sweeden informed council of two bids received for the flower garden certificate of deposit renewal. The CD is currently at UBI at a rate of 2.35%. The new bids are as follows: UBI .65% for 365 days and FSB 1% for 365 days. Bogue abstains due to a conflict of interest. Sweeden questioned whether the vote can be made with only two voting councilmen; Goldsmith gave the go ahead. Ernst asked what is involved in switching banks; Sweeden noted about a ½ hour of time on her end to get everything done. Motion by McLead to leave the CD with UBI at a rate of .65%, second by Ernst. Ayes: Ernst, McLead. Abstains: Bogue. Motion passes 2-0.

Sweeden updated council on a recent IMWCA audit and included the recommendations from IMWCA in the packet as follows: Review and update the City's safety manual, implement a formal training process and develop and review annually all written standard operating procedures. Sweeden noted she has been working on this and included a draft safety manual and a training schedule. Sweeden asked that the City create a Safety Committee as stated in the manual and have the committee work on the recommendations.

Sweeden will reach out to staff members and ask for their commitment on the committee. Whiteing volunteered to be a member.

Council briefly discussed COVID-19 and ask that citizens continue to do their part in social distancing, following guidelines and taking precautions as if the virus is here.

Motion by Ernst to set the date of public hearing on the budget amendment for May 4, 2020 at 6:00 pm, second by Bogue. On a unanimous vote, motion carried.

In other business, Sweeden informed council the City's franchise agreement with MidAmerican is due for renewal this year. A MidAmerican representative will call in to the next meeting to discuss it. Whiteing noted the City will be publicizing via the newspaper, Facebook and Website of the requirement to obtain building and concrete permits prior to doing any work.

Motion by Ernst to adjourn, second by Bogue. On a unanimous vote, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Heather Sweeden, City Clerk

Devlun Whiteing, Mayor