

## **REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

A Regular Council Meeting was held on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at Sabula City Hall, 411 Broad Street Sabula, Iowa

In order to help stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus, this meeting of the Sabula City Council was held electronically as well as in person. The City of Sabula anticipated a large crowd for the meeting so a decision was made to provide electronic access. The City's social media page and website had this message posted several hours in advance to give instructions on how others could participate in the meeting.

Present: Mayor Troy Hansen and Council Members; Pat Meyers, Dave Ward, Teena Franzen and Rich Epich. Henry Kramer attended electronically and then later presented in person.

Others Present: Lynn Parker, Wendy Hoertz, Adam McPherson, Travis Woodhurst, Curtis & Abbie Koch, Judy & Dave Rittmer, Paul & Michele Figie, Bobbi Bratcher, Dan Peiffer, Becky Wilslef, Curt Marzofka, Don Thayer, John Mangler, David Ackerman, Michael Eckman and Attorney Bob McGee.

Mayor Hansen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

### **Regular Council Meeting**

T. Franzen made a motion to open the council meeting; seconded by P. Meyers. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Deletions-** None.

**Citizen Concerns** – Council member Franzen followed up in regards to vehicles that are not registered/licensed. Mayor Hanson asked Chief McPherson if he had made contact with the owner of the vehicles. Chief McPherson stated that the owner was waiting on salvage titles. The Mayor informed the Chief that he would like to have all titles/registrations by the end of the week. \*\*\*Correction: P. Figie also stated that the neighbors were parking on the sidewalk. M. Figie suggested that since they are new in town, they may not know the ordinance.\*\*\* Chief McPherson will inform them of the ordinance.

### **Agenda**

#### **Approve minutes**

Motion was made by T. Franzen; seconded by P. Meyers to approve the minutes for 8/25/20 and 9/2/20. Ayes: T. Franzen, P. Meyers, R. Epich and D. Ward. H. Kramer abstained from the minutes on 8/25/20. Motion carried.

#### **Approve claims**

T. Franzen made a motion to approve the bills and payroll for September; seconded by P. Meyers. All ayes. Motion carried.

#### **Liquor license**

The Mayor informed Council that he had spoken to the applicant about his intent with the liquor license. It was stated that G. Allinger would like to get out of the Performing Arts business. He is looking to do a bar and restaurant with live music. He plans on being open from 6 A.M. – 2 A.M. Council was asked if

the City could decide based on the amount of complaint calls to the current business. The Attorney informed Council that it was a separate business, you could not base a decision on the calls. It was also asked if G. Allinger could be granted a license under the same address as the current business. It was stated that if he violated the liquor license it would be revoked by the Iowa Beverage Division. After discussion H. Kramer made a motion to approve the liquor license; seconded by P. Meyers. Ayes: P. Meyers & R. Epich. Nays: H. Kramer, T. Franzen and D. Ward. Motion did not pass.

### **Resolution #1211, Public Hearing**

Motion made by T. Franzen; seconded by P. Meyers to direct the City Clerk to publish notice that the City Council proposes to amend the City Code of Ordinance Chapter 6, Utilities, Electric for the City of Sabula, Section 6.6-19 Service Rules of the Municipal Electric Utility. Said hearing will be on October 27, 2020 at 6:30 P.M. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Interconnection Standards**

A discussion was had regarding solar buy back. City Attorney Bob McGee will proceed drawing up an Ordinance for a 1<sup>st</sup> reading at the meeting in October.

### **Playground equipment**

A motion was made by T. Franzen to approve the purchase of playground equipment, Option 2, from Cunningham Recreation; seconded by P. Meyers. All ayes. Motion carried. Option 2 is \$11,580.20 and does not include the cost of installation. The City received FEMA funds in the amount of \$15,043.03 and the City Clerk was able to find a 100% matching fund grant through GameTime. \*\*When doing the minutes, the Clerk discovered that she had written down the wrong cost for the equipment. She had told the Council that the cost would be \$11,580.20 which was the amount of the grant, not the equipment. The equipment will cost \$ 15,586.33. She reached out to council via electronic means to poll council whether they wanted to proceed or not. Ayes: R. Epich, P. Meyers and T. Franzen. No response from H. Kramer or D. Ward. The City will have to pay \$543.30 plus the cost of safety materials.

### **Levee system**

Council member H. Kramer stated that the levee was still not mowed. He asked why we would pay a contractor hundreds of thousands of dollars to construct it and then neglect it. He stated that we are not following the O&M. The Mayor stated that the 3 maintenance workers needed to come up with a plan for the levee. H. Kramer made a motion to make the levee system a priority until all items are resolved from the levee inspection; seconded by T. Franzen. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Street Sweeper**

T. Woodhurst informed Council that there is an opportunity for grant money for a street sweeper. He informed them that he had received quotes from Elliott Equipment and Mid-Iowa Solid Waste. Prices were available for new and used sweepers. City Clerk L. Parker informed Council that the grant would pay for most of the sweeper. Cost to the City would be 20%. A new sweeper would be around \$34,340.00 and a used one would be \$30,900.00. T. Franzen made a motion to have Lynn proceed with application for grant for a new sweeper; seconded by P. Meyers. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Flower gardens**

Council was informed that comments had been received about the flower gardens along Lake Street and River Street. The wood has rotted and needs repaired. The Clerk put this item on the agenda to see if The Community Club would like to take on this project. The Mayor stated that the City would do the repairs. The Mayor and Council member T. Franzen stated that it would only take a couple hundred dollars to replant them.

### **Skid loader mower attachment**

T. Woodhurst presented Council with a couple quotes for a skid loader mower attachment. He stated that he had rented one to mow the levee. He wanted to know if Council would be interested in purchasing an attachment to have for levee maintenance. H. Kramer made a motion to get more pricing on different brands; seconded by P. Meyers. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Trick or Treating**

M. Earles informed Council that she would like to plan the activities for Halloween. She was hoping to have Trick or Treating on October 31<sup>st</sup> from 4:00 – 6:00 P.M. She was planning on having a pumpkin carving contest at the Korner Stop Ice Cream Shop. She is also planning on passing out treats there as well rather than at City Hall. T. Franzen made a motion to reimburse Missy Earles up to \$150 for supplies; seconded by H. Kramer. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Utility Supervisor**

T. Franzen stated that she had asked this item to be placed on the agenda. She stated that she felt more stuff would get done with guiding and leading the other 2 employees. The City Clerk was instructed to schedule a closed work session to discuss the position.

### **Drug Screen**

T. Franzen suggested that the City have all employees registered in the random drug screen pool. The Attorney, Bob McGee, stated that the City would need to develop a policy regarding drug screens before proceeding. T. Franzen made a motion to proceed with the policy; seconded by P. Meyers. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Quote from Concrete Services**

T. Woodhurst informed Council that this quote was for any storm drain that needed repair. Travis stated that we have to get the one done in front of 916 Elk Street as soon as possible. T. Franzen made a motion to approve the standing quote for storm drain repairs; seconded by H. Kramer. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Operation New View Agreement**

T. Franzen made a motion to approve the yearly Agreement for FY20/21 Operation New View; seconded by P. Meyers. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Disincorporate the City of Sabula**

Council member H. Kramer stated that he had this item placed on the agenda. He stated that we should put on a referendum to disincorporate the City of Sabula. He was sick and tired of making policies, wasting time as a council when the problems never get solved. No motion made.

### **Reduction in City Staff**

Council member H. Kramer stated that he also had this item placed on the agenda. He stated that during the COVID shutdown the City was able to run on 60 hours of staffing. If we covered the City during COVID with 60 hours, why can't we cover it now? No motion was made.

### **Raise for Council**

Council member D. Ward stated that he felt that Council needed a raise. A discussion was had in regards to pay for other cities. The Attorney pointed out that this raise would not be for the current council. Item tabled.

### **Pay for attending Work Sessions**

Council member D. Ward also had this item placed on the agenda. He stated that he felt that Council should be paid for work sessions. Item tabled. The attorney will provide an Ordinance amendment for the changes.

### **Gruhn Electric Bill**

The office had a question regarding who was responsible for payment when services were requested from the home owner. The staff wanted clarification from Council as to how to handle billing. T. Franzen made a motion to pay all charges on the bill and work on an Ordinance/Policy change; seconded by H. Kramer. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Demo permit**

On 9/15 a city employee had been told that 914 Broad Street was burning garage material. When the city employee called the resident, they stated that they were burning a wood pile. The employee informed them that they couldn't burn building material. The City Clerk reached out to the Mayor whether he thought that a demolition permit was necessary. The Mayor said yes, a permit is required. The City Clerk reached out to the home owner. The home owner stated that they had spoken to the IDNR and according to section 567-23.2j, a person could burn. The Clerk told her that it states with council approval. The Clerk told her that she would put it on the agenda for Council to decide whether they could continue to burn or whether they needed a demolition permit. The work continued and was completed before the meeting. No action was taken by Council.

### **Police report**

Chief McPherson gave the police report for September: 19 misc. calls, 0 ambulance assists, 0 motor vehicle accident, 2 county assists, 3 arrest/police citations, 0 pending, 2 warnings were given and 1 further investigation report being worked on.

**Place on file**

H. Kramer made a motion to place on file the Sewer and Water Maintenance Report, Financial Statement and Expenditure and Revenue Report for August and Sabula's Water and Wastewater Report from Jim Merchie; seconded by T. Franzen. All ayes. Motion carried. Council member H. Kramer asked what they were going to do about Jim Merchie's retirement.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn meeting made by T. Franzen and seconded by P. Meyers. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

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Troy Hansen, Mayor

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Lynn Parker, City Clerk