

A Work Session was held on Tuesday, May 19, 2020
Starting at 4:00 PM
At Sabula City Hall located at 411 Broad Street

The City of Sabula is still practicing social distancing. The meeting was held Electronically on Zoom or via Telephone

Join Zoom Meeting

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Meeting ID: 853 8878 4451

Password: 3LY6w3

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

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Password: 858436

Present: Mayor Troy Hansen, Dave Ward, Pat Meyers, Lynn Parker, Travis Woodhurst, Wendy Hoertz, Dave Ackerman, Curtis Koch and Bobbi Bratcher.

Others Present Via Electronically: Rich Epich, Teena Franzen left the meeting at 5:20 P.M., Hank Kramer arrived at 4:25 P.M., Attorney Bob McGee, Brian Hood, Travis Eichelberger, Michele & Paul Figie and Bruce Hayden.

Mayor Troy Hansen called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Work Session

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

Solar Energy/Green Energy

The Mayor and Council heard from Brian Hood from Alliant Energy and Travis Eichelberger from Moxie Solar. Attorney Bob McGee was also in attendance for guidance with legalities for the city. The Mayor stated that this discussion stems from residents requesting solar power. Mayor Hansen said the City of Sabula provides electric and gas to residents and Sabula is not looking to block solar. We are looking at ways to make it financially sound. He stated that we are a small community and we don't generate a lot of revenue to do maintenance projects. Brian Hood from Alliant informed council that the system improvements that need to be done would be the responsibility of the developer of the solar system. Very little would need to be done with the electrical system. The city would need to figure out billing mechanisms and metering systems. The solar company would have to apply for a permit from Alliant. Bob McGee, the city attorney, stated that we will need to revise the ordinance regarding solar energy, green energy and tariff rates. The Mayor asked Bob to work with the deputy clerk, Wendy Hoertz,

regarding billing rates for the ordinance. No decisions were made at the work session. Many steps need to be completed before moving forward. Other concerns were the aesthetics of solar panels and what affect it would have on neighboring properties. Attorney McGee stated that one of the critical aspects of the solar and/or wind generation scenario is formulating the tariff procedure. As soon as he receives the information from the solar company he will talk to Alliant. The whole theory of the alternate energy process is that we do what we can to encourage it.

Dumping Waste In The Sewer Treatment Plant

Council and Mayor discussed a sewer line at Jerry's Plumbing. He previously asked for council to approve a yearly letter that is required from the IDNR for discharging at the Sabula Wastewater Treatment Plant. Motion to approve the letter did not pass at March or April's meeting. Council was informed that there was no evidence of a 10-inch pipe and that the owner was inviting council to come look. Hank Kramer asked how much it cost to treat if we charge .08 to dump. He stated that we need to speak with Leo Foley from V&K to get figures and he also suggested that businesses should be charged more than a resident. Wendy Hoertz mentioned that we also need to look in to discharges at the campground. They charge RV's to dump, we pay to treat and the money goes to the county.

New Water Rates

The Mayor told Council that meters have been installed for almost a year and that the office staff has received some guidance for figuring fees. He asked Council when they wanted to start charging for water usage. It was noted that we need to figure out how much it costs per month to maintain the water department; make the 2 loan payments (water main/meter project and water tower maintenance); employee cost/benefits and number of customers/meters. Once these numbers are made available they will be given to council.

Water Meter Responsibility

The Mayor asked Council to think about what they wanted in the ordinance for Water Meters. The City Clerk had provided examples of ordinances from other cities. We will get in touch with Leo Foley for additional guidance.

Sand Points

We have several fishermen in town that use sand points. It was mentioned that we must make sure that the sand points don't enter the water system. It was suggested that we have residents apply for a permit for their sand point and then have the City inspect it and sign off for the permit. This would also require an ordinance change.

Wood Burners

Wendy Hoertz stated that we had received a lot of complaints this winter regarding smoke coming from the wood burners. The Mayor asked Council if any revisions needed to be made to the ordinance.

Sump Pumps Discharging In Streets

Travis Woodhurst spoke to the Mayor and Council regarding the condition of the streets due to sump pumps. A lot of residents pump year-round and the roads are in need of repair. He can't fix the street because of the saturation, we must stop the water first. Travis spoke to a repair company and they told him that in order to fix Broad Street we would have to take it down to base rock. Dave Ackerman stated that the IDNR doesn't want residents to pump to the sewer and that we need to reduce infiltration. He also stated that we need to repair curb work to resolve the problem of standing water. The Mayor suggested that we contact Leo Foley from V&K to get a cost to finish the main on Broad Street from the 600 block to Vulcan.

Storage Containers

This is an item that the previous attorney was working on. He had provided information to council but no steps were taken. The Mayor asked if Council wanted to consider requiring a permit.

Disconnect Fees

The current ordinance states that if a customer voluntarily has their service disconnected to make changes, there is a \$15 disconnect fee. The City employees feel that the ordinance should show no charge since the customer is trying to make improvements. Mayor Hanson instructed the clerk to make the ordinance changes, send to the attorney for review and then have a public hearing in June.

Police Building

Council member Hank Kramer stated that he looked on Beacon and the building at 504 River Street shows that it belongs to Iowa Telecom. Attorney McGee stated that he would call the county clerk to see what the recorder has down.

Boat Ramp Sign

Mayor Hansen informed Council that he would like to get a metal sign made using the city logo. He was going to reach out to a local businessman to make the sign. A council member asked where the sign would go, on the levee or between the ramps. Travis Woodhurst recommended that we put it between the ramps. Dave Ward suggested that we get a sign for the river boat ramp.

Underground Electric Hook-Up

Mayor Hansen stated that he would be talking to Attorney McGee regarding this matter.

Impound Lot

This item was started by Chief Adney. No decision had been made. The Mayor suggested that Council should decide whether or not we want to pursue.

Boat Leases

Mayor Hansen suggested that we discuss this later in the summer. We would need to discuss lease/launch fees and dock requirements. He also stated that we need to get rid of the junk at the north ramp. If we know who the item belongs to, he would like the city workers to contact that person. If they don't respond, the city will dispose of the item.

City Shed Expansion

Mayor Hansen asked the workers if the shed expansion was necessary. Curtis Koch stated that we don't have storage for mowers, we have one truck that sits outside, items stacked on top of each other. Mayor Hansen asked if we had any current bids. We do not. He stated to go ahead and start the process of getting bids.

Residents Not Paying Full Utilities

We have utility customers that have infrastructure but don't pay for all utilities. Council must decide how to charge customers at a future work session.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting made by P. Meyers and seconded by H. Kramer. All ayes. Motion carried.

Troy Hansen, Mayor

Lynn Parker, City Clerk