

**MINUTES  
FORT MADISON CITY COUNCIL  
Tuesday, October 16, 2018**

Mayor Bradley A. Randolph presided with Council Members Chris Greenwald, Bob Morawitz, Kevin Rink, Rusty Andrews, Matt Mohrfeld, Mark Lair and Chad Cangas present.

**VISITORS AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS**

Mayor Randolph presented a proclamation declaring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month to Heaven, the Lee County Advocate for the Domestic Violence Intervention Program.

**AGENDA**

Randolph announced Item # 5, the Pool Management Agreement with the YMCA, has been removed from the agenda and will be acted upon at the next meeting.

Lair MOVED and Morawitz SECONDED to approve the agenda.

**MOTION PASSED 7-0**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mohrfeld MOVED and Cangas SECONDED to approve the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of October 2, 2018;
- Liquor License Renewal: Aldi, Inc., #77, 927 Avenue G, effective November 4, 2018 – Class B Wine, Class C Beer with Sunday Sales;
- Liquor License Renewal: Garner Foods, 2236 Avenue L, effective December 15, 2018 – Class C Beer with Sunday Sales;
- Liquor License Renewal: Simple Table, LLC, 617 – 7<sup>th</sup> Street, effective October 1, 2018 – Special Class C Liquor with Outdoor Service and Sunday Sales;
- New Five-Day License: Palms Supper Club for catering event at 415 – 11<sup>th</sup> Street, effective October 20, 2018 – Class C Liquor; and
- September Financial Report;
- Payment of Claims.

**MOTION PASSED 7-0**

**ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTIONS**

**2nd READING, AMEND TITLE 1, ADMINISTRATION:** Cangas MOVED and Morawitz SECONDED to approve the second reading of an ordinance amending Title 1, Administration, of the Fort Madison City Code.

ROLL CALL:           AYES: Greenwald, Morawitz, Rink, Andrews, Mohrfeld, Lair, Cangas  
                          NAYES: None

**MOTION PASSED 7-0**

The Mayor then declared said Ordinance PASSED and APPROVED this 16th day of October, 2018.

**OTHER**

**PORT TRAIL PHASE 3:** Cangas MOVED and Andrews SECONDED to approve the Mayor's signature on a Professional Services Agreement with Poepping, Stone, Bach & Associates, Inc., for engineering services for PORT Trail Phase 3, in an amount not to exceed \$29,300.

**MOTION PASSED 7-0**

**BOARD APPOINTMENT:** Rink MOVED and Andrews SECONDED to approve the Mayor's appointment of Thomas Gregory as an alternate to the Historic Preservation Commission, term expiring March 31, 2021.

**MOTION PASSED 7-0**

**VISU SEWER AGREEMENT:** Cangas MOVED and Rink SECONDED to approve the Public Works Director's signature on an agreement with Visu-Sewer to pressure grout storm sewer culvert joints on 48<sup>th</sup> Street in the amount of \$50,000 per year over a three-year period.

**MOTION PASSED 7-0**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

***Lee County Economic Development Group (LCEDG) Funding Request:*** Dennis Fraise, LCEDG, reviewed the group's priorities and activities. These include keeping in touch with Lee County industries, establishing relationships with them, keeping aware of issues, working with schools as well as attracting new businesses and retaining current ones.

The City did not budget funds for the fifth year of LCEDG's current campaign. LCEDG is also asking for five more years of funding for their next capital campaign.

Cangas did not think anyone questions the need for funding LCEDG but pointed out city revenues are down. The biggest question is what can the City do and can the City afford to do anything? Greenwald thought Council needed to go back through the budget and prioritize but added he was not willing to lay off public safety workers.

Mohrfeld believed it would be tremendous return on our investment if the City can partner with somebody instead of recreating the wheel.

Rink noted the City Manager outlined 12 different programs that could be reduced to provide \$25,000 this year. Several council members believed the money was available but just needed to be found. Morawitz was not as confident and pointed out there are properties that need to be demolished but the City cannot afford to do so. Lair was opposed to cutting funding for infrastructure.

Mohrfeld MOVED and Greenwald SECONDED to approve a \$25,000 contribution to the Lee County Economic Development Group starting in Fiscal Year 2019-2020 contingent upon the normal budgeting process.

At a question from Randolph, Mohrfeld clarified this motion is only for the next budget year and not for the fifth year of the current campaign.

**MOTION CARRIED 7-0**

### ***Construction of Amtrak Passenger Platform Project***

Randolph wanted Council to take a look at where the City stands with this project. It started in 2006 and a lot has changed in terms of the scope, commitment and regulations. One of several things that has changed is the Southwest Chief's route between Dodge City, Kansas, and Albuquerque, New Mexico, does not have positive track controls (PTC). Amtrak does not want to run their trains on tracks without PTC and have discussed options, including bussing passengers for that section of track. Amtrak did receive the necessary waivers to run without PTC on that section of track next year.

Randolph said he has had discussions with Tom Carver of Macomb, Illinois, a member of Amtrak's Board of Directors, and Ray Lang, a senior director for Amtrak. He learned Amtrak plans to look at their entire system next year, including the long-haul routes to decide if those routes will remain the same. The Southwest Chief has the highest ridership of the three long haul routes. One possible change could be the Southwest Chief only running from Chicago to Kansas City. Carver has emphasized that, as a board member, he never sees a time when the Southwest Chief does not stop in Fort Madison. Lang and Carver have said they always envision Fort Madison as being a stop but Randolph pointed out they are only two persons on a rather large board. He questioned at what point will Amtrak think stopping in Fort Madison costs more than continuing?

At a question from Cangas, Varley said if the City pulled out of the project, Fort Madison would have to pay \$63,500 back to make the grant whole. If the project continues, it will cost the City at least \$370,000 if the cost of construction comes back where it is believed it will. This amount of money was budgeted several years ago, set aside and has been carried forward each year. Some of it came from the Quality of Life bond money and some from hotel/motel tax funding.

Lair was concerned with paying \$30-40,000 in yearly operating fees to clean, maintain and man the depot. He questioned what would be done with the parking lot since there is water in the parking lot because of the river flooding.

It was pointed out if the project were scrapped the depot building would still be used by the North Lee County Historical Society's museum.

Varley said the City is waiting on the final plans and specs for the platform and also any additional changes to the agreements which have already been amended.

The Southwest Chief had 6,000 plus persons (2017) departing/arriving in Fort Madison yearly. This is approximately 18 persons per day. Morawitz thought the persons getting on or off in Fort Madison are mostly local residents. He didn't believe this investment will ever give a return on our investment.

Jason Huppert, 1215 Avenue B, said as a former city council member he voted "no" every time a vote was taken on the depot project. With the public funds that have already been invested in the project he felt the project needed to be completed.

Lair questioned if the City needs to provide a timeline to Amtrak and BNSF regarding the return of the agreements. Mohrfeld questioned if a future Council action item would be a drop-dead date regarding the documents. Randolph had concerns as he had heard that for every minute a BNSF train sits on the tracks it costs BNSF \$1,000,000. There are 80 trains a day going by the station. He questioned if BNSF may regulate the construction so much the bids will be astronomical.

Randolph suggested informing BNSF and Amtrak that the documents need to be in the City's hands by the end of the year or sooner.

#### **POSSIBLE ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED AT FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS**

- ◆ Accept PIP 2017-03, Phase 2 WWTP Rehab
- ◆ Downtown Sidewalk Project
- ◆ 2018 Financial Report
- ◆ 2018 Urban Renewal Report
- ◆ Update of Title 4, Business
- ◆ BNSF Bridge Study
- ◆ Fireworks ordinance
- ◆ Approve Audit

**DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORTS**

A fire on Avenue M damaged three houses Monday morning. The City hired a contractor to knock down what was left of the homes. At a question from Morawitz, Fire Chief Herren said this cost would be coming out of the fire department’s budget.

**PRESENTATIONS BY LIAISONS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Randolph reported Viking Cruise Lines is moving forward with their plans to cruise on the Mississippi River. Fort Madison remains on the schedule as a stop

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:27 P.M., Cangas MOVED and Morawitz SECONDED to adjourn until Monday, November 5, 2018, at 5:30 P.M.

**VOICE VOTE APPROVAL**

**MANUAL CLAIMS & WARRANTS:** See Claims dated October 11, 2018, in the amount of \$95,738.89.

<u>Payroll</u>	10/12/2018
General	\$175,472.04
Special Rev.	4,597.85
Road Use	26,224.38
Water	27,848.03
Sewer	40,578.94
Solid Waste	11,904.90
Airport	486.54
Storm Water	3,462.31
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	\$290,574.99

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Mayor Bradley A. Randolph

ATTEST:

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Melinda L. Blind, City Clerk