

**MINUTES
FORT MADISON CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, February 18, 2020**

Mayor Matt Mohrfeld presided with Council Members Rebecca Bowker, Bob Morawitz, Rusty Andrews, Tyler Miller and Mark Lair present. Council Members Chad Cangas and Kevin Rink were absent.

VISITORS

There were none.

AGENDA

Bowker MOVED and Andrews SECONDED to approve the agenda.

**VOICE VOTE
MOTION PASSED 5-0**

CONSENT AGENDA

Bowker MOVED and Miller SECONDED to approve the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of February 4, 2020 Council Meeting and Budget Work Session;
- Liquor License Renewal: Pen City Aerie #1287 (Eagles Club), 4821 Avenue O, effective January 31, 2020, Class C Liquor with Outdoor Service and Sunday Sales;
- Liquor License Renewal: Columbus Club, Inc., 807-809 Avenue H, effective February 5, 2020 – Class C Liquor with Outdoor Service and Sunday Sales; and
- Payroll: February 14, 2020.

**VOICE VOTE
MOTION PASSED 5-0**

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS: **County Wide Digital Radio** – Fire Chief Joey Herren said the federal government split the VHF (very high frequency) bandwidth into two in 2013. This added more people to the frequency used for emergency services. He noted the change has caused issues with radio traffic being very difficult to understand. This is not only a problem in Lee County but has affected the entire country. The radios were all reprogrammed, at a cost, but there are still problems. The situation has steadily gotten worse. PSAP has been working on the issue for the last several years. Herren is on the Lee County PSAP Board. A consultant was hired using E911 funds to determine options. The consultant came up with three alternatives, ranging from a standalone system or connecting with the state’s system.

Herren’s presentation tonight is the first of several presentations throughout Lee County. Costs range from \$7,057,200 to \$9,895,700. This will be paid for with a county debt levy, using some E911 funds and making payments over 10 years. With the number of radios needed, the consultant felt volume pricing could lower the cost by 20%. This will update PSAP, all handheld radios and vehicle radios throughout the county.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS: Public Works Director Mark Boussetot met with the City bridge engineer, attended some dog park meetings and is working FEMA items. The Police Department will be accepting applications to fill some vacancies coming up. There are also two vacancies for shift supervisors. Police Chief Mark Rohloff discussed promotional testing with the Civil Service Commission. The Civil Service Commission held a Fire Department Captain testing this week. The Library’s Date Escape Room was a big success. Two bids were received for the second bid letting for the Amtrak Platform.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Concerning the Fiscal Year 2021 Maximum Property Tax Dollars Levy

Mohrfeld opened the public hearing at 6:04 P.M.. City Manager David Varley said setting the Maximum Property Tax Dollars is a new requirement from the Iowa Legislature. There were no other oral or written comments. At 6:07 P.M., Mohrfeld closed the public hearing.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-10, MAX TAX LEVY: Miller MOVED and Lair SECONDED to adopt a resolution setting the Maximum Property Tax Dollars levy for Fiscal Year 2021.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Bowker, Morawitz, Andrews, Miller, Lair
NAYES: None

MOTION PASSED 5-0

The Mayor then declared said Resolution ADOPTED and ENACTED, this 18th day of February, 2020.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-11, APPROVE URTEDS: Bowker MOVED and Miller SECONDED to adopt a resolution granting property tax exemption for: William F Britton, for property located at 2412 Avenue D (new garage); and DJI Real Estate, LLC, for property at 1001 Avenue H (redevelopment/remodel).

ROLL CALL: AYES: Bowker, Morawitz, Andrews, Miller, Lair
NAYES: None

MOTION PASSED 5-0

The Mayor then declared said Resolution ADOPTED and ENACTED, this 18th day of February, 2020.

OTHER

APPROVE CLAIMS: Lair MOVED and Morawitz SECONDED to approve Claims dated February 13, 2020, January 2020 Manual Claims, and the January Financial Report.

**VOICE VOTE
MOTION PASSED 5-0**

CAPTAIN PROMOTIONAL LIST: Lair MOVED and Morawitz SECONDED to accept the Civil Service Commission's Fire Department Captain Promotional List.

**VOICE VOTE
MOTION PASSED 5-0**

2019 CLG REPORT: Bowker MOVED and Andrews SECONDED to review and receive the 2019 Certified Local Government (CLG) Annual Report.

Bowker noted the report seemed rather bare, everything is either "NA" or "no". Morawitz questioned if the City could maintain the CLG if there were all these "nos". Historic Preservation Commission Chairman Andy Andrews said the Commission needs some new members, there are several vacancies. Mohrfeld questioned if this Commission is something that is past it's time. Andy Andrews said Barker (a development company) likes to invest in communities with the CLG. Bowker wanted to revitalize the Commission. Varley suggested it be a subcommittee of the Parks Board.

**VOICE VOTE
MOTION PASSED 5-0**

DISCUSSION ITEMS

LIBRARY BUDGET: Following a discussion regarding the Library's proposed budget with Library Director Sarah Clendineng, Mohrfeld recommended the Library Board look at going after the library levy. This would bring in about \$80,000.

REVIEW/DISCUSSION OF WATER RATES: Bowker said she would like to consider some relief for water customers by forgoing the next 2% increase. She felt this should be discussed and considered every year. Varley said there are a lot of 100 year old water lines, these need to be replaced. Miller wanted to see an estimate of how much it costs to replace 8,000 feet of water line. Mohrfeld wanted to see five year comprehensive capital plan. Miller said he would also like to see some relief on the utility bills.

Bowker asked that this not just be an automatic increase. Citizens have expressed concern and felt it was not fair this was not being discussed every year. It was noted in the ordinance this is to be discussed, beginning in 2020, by Council every two years.

ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED AT FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS: Miller said he would like to see a discussion regarding the marina. Mohrfeld questioned if the City would just do away with fuel sales.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS: Council wished to hold a workshop regarding the future of the Tourism Commission. Bowker noted the Housing Authority is accepting applications for 2-3 bedroom homes. A meeting will be held at 827 Avenue H on Thursday. David Taylor of 10th Street Station is spearheading the meeting. This is to get the conversation started about consolidating entities. Andrews has been attending Rodeo and Riverfest meetings. There was concern regarding the detour on Avenue H between 2nd and 6th Streets for events. It was suggested additional signage might be needed.

MAYOR ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mohrfeld attended Southeast Iowa Legislative Days in Des Moines. He told Council a letter is being sent out with nuisance infraction notices to show persons Council is supporting the cleanup efforts. HR Green provided more information regarding the 2nd to 6th Street project. Shopko turned over management of their property here to the Hubbell Group out of Des Moines. Interest has been expressed in part of the building. The property is being actively marketed. There has been an inquiry into some properties for a senior living development. The hearing regarding the Humphrey Building is next Monday.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:12 P.M., the Council adjourned until Monday, March 2, 2020, at 5:30 P.M.

MANUAL CLAIMS & WARRANTS: See Claims dated February 13, 2020, in the amount of \$238,247.56 and January Manual Claims, in the amount of \$80,909.41.

PAYROLL	2/14/2020
General	\$179,693.28
Special Revenue	3,951.39
Road Use	27,041.70
Water	29,245.49
Sewer	38,604.91
Solid Waste/IWC	11,592.17
Airport	312.77
Storm Water	3,647.39
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	\$294,089.10

Matt J. Mohrfeld, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melinda L. Blind, City Clerk