

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES FORT MADISON CITY COUNCIL Tuesday, October 20, 2020

The City Council met in adjourned session at 5:30 P.M. on Monday, November 2, 2020, at City Hall, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison. Mayor Matt Mohrfeld presided with Council Members Mark Lair, Kevin Rink, Rebecca Bowker, Rusty Andrews and Chad Cangas present.

The meeting was held with participants present either in person or electronically (pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.8) due to social distancing issues because of COVID-19.

**VISITORS AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS:** Carol Foss, 412 Avenue F, questioned why people are allowed to speak during this section of the Council meeting but Council is unable to respond. She asked how she could get answers. Mohrfeld said everything that is said at the podium is discussed at twice monthly meetings held with staff members and the mayor. It was noted some things do fall through the cracks but sometimes the items are discussed and it is determined that it is not the time to do something about it. Council should do better to follow through and provide feedback.

### **AGENDA**

Cangas MOVED and Bowker SECONDED to approve the agenda.

**MOTION PASSED 5-0**

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Cangas MOVED and Rink SECONDED to approve the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of October 20, 2020;
- Liquor License Renewal: Pizza Hut, 1123 – 24<sup>th</sup> Street, effective December 20, 2020 – Class B Beer with Sunday Sales;
- Resolution No. 2020-62, approving the Fiscal Year Ending 2020 Annual Urban Renewal Report;
- The 2020 Financial Report for Fiscal Year ending June 20, 2020;
- Claims dated October 29, 2020; and
- Payroll of October 23, 2020.

**MOTION PASSED 5-0**

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS AND CITY MANAGER'S FINANCIAL REPORT:** The Police Department has received a supply of Narcan for the officers to carry. The Fire Department completed yearly pump testing for the fire trucks. Yard waste/recycling schedules will be sent out next month. Finance Director Peggy Steffensmeier suggested the Mayor and Council could add an insert to the schedule with some type of information regarding City plans or projects. The Friends of the Library are having their book sale next week. Rental registration renewals are due in two weeks.

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The old Visitor's Center has been demolished. A tree planting was held on October 24 for Trees Forever. The Dog Park Friends' group will be planting trees at the dog park on November 13. The replacement of well pump #9 will be covered under insurance. The City Hall parking lot reconstruction has been completed and the contractor is working on the 8<sup>th</sup> and Avenue F parking lot. Mohrfeld said the City met with met with Klingner (engineers) and Iowa Bridge and Culvert (contractor) regarding the Amtrak Depot project and change orders. He noted things were a little tense for a few minutes. Mohrfeld and Public Works Director Mark Boussetot reported there have been a lot of good things from these meetings. The project is basically being re-engineered and they are finding potential savings.

## ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

**1<sup>ST</sup> READING, PARKING PROHIBITED:** Cangas MOVED and Lair SECONDED to approve the first reading of an Amendment to Title 9, Traffic, Chapter 7, Stopping, Standing, Parking, Section 6, Parking Prohibited.

Mohrfeld said Bill Faeth had questioned what went into the deciding the south side instead of the north side. Cangas said there is more traffic coming up from the south than down from the north. It was noted a lot of people have called in and some have had some good points. It was questioned if this should be amended to restrict only from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> Street. There doesn't seem to be a parking issue the further west you go. Bowker said of all the calls she received, just one person was opposed.

Police Chief Mark Rohloff said there have been complaints regarding visibility and traffic issues. The situation was reviewed and studies performed. It was found the road, which is considered an arterial roadway, does not meet the standards set by the Department of Transportation. The road is too narrow to have parking on both sides. He did not believe the City could look at this issue and walk away. The number of reported collisions have nearly doubled since last year. Other streets, such as Avenues F and D which have been brought up as too narrow, are not classified as arterials and can be narrower.

A citizen had expressed concern over the risk of crossing the street to the parks and several other churches. At a question regarding removing parking only from the east end of Avenue E, Cangas felt either the City should follow the standard entirely or disregard entirely.

Andrews said he had a lot of phone calls from citizens on Avenue E who were concerned traffic speeds would increase if parking were removed on one side.

Rohloff said none of the accidents reported on Avenue E have been due to speed. The volume is higher due to road construction on Avenue H and will stay that way for the next 2-3 years. He felt knowing the minimum standards and walking away was unconscionable.

Bowker noted overwhelming support from the 1st Ward which is the most affected.

In a continuing discussion regarding why the south side was chosen instead of the north side, Rohloff said there are two large parks, a library and a school on the south side of the street. Less residences would be inconvenienced than if parking was prohibited on the north side.

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ROLL CALL: AYES: Bowker, Lair, Andrews, Rink, Cangas  
NAYES: None

**MOTION PASSED 5-0**

The Mayor then declared the first reading of said Ordinance PASSED and APPROVED this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of November 2020.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-63, SET P.H. ELECTRIC FRANCHISE:** Bowker MOVED and Cangas SECONDED adopt a resolution setting public hearing on a proposed ordinance repealing the current electric franchise, granting a new franchise to Interstate Power and Light, and imposing a franchise fee.

Mohrfeld noted these two resolutions are only to set the public hearings on these matters.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Bowker, Lair, Andrews, Rink, Cangas  
NAYES: None

**MOTION PASSED 5-0**

The Mayor then declared said Resolution ADOPTED and ENACTED this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of November, 2020.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-64, SET P.H. GAS FRANCHISE:** Lair MOVED and Bowker SECONDED adopt a resolution setting public hearing on a proposed ordinance repealing the current gas franchise, granting a new franchise to MidAmerican Energy, and imposing a franchise fee.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Bowker, Lair, Andrews, Rink, Cangas  
NAYES: None

**MOTION PASSED 5-0**

The Mayor then declared said Resolution ADOPTED and ENACTED this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of November, 2020.

## **OTHER**

**AMBULANCE SERVICE:** Rink MOVED and Cangas SECONDED to approve a letter to the Lee County Board of Supervisors concerning Lee County's proposed new ambulance service.

Mohrfeld said this is a supportive letter with the support being towards not only quality assurance but continued quality assurance for the new ambulance service. The City does assist with medical calls through our fire department. The letter states the City would offer the Fire Chief's services to an overseeing board.

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**CHANGE ORDERS:** Cangas MOVED and Bowker SECONDED to approve the Mayor's signature on Change Order #3 for Public Improvement Project 2020-01, Parking Lot Reconstruction and Stormwater Improvements.

Public Works Director Mark Bousselot said the change order is to address the concrete slab and foundation found at the 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Avenue F parking lot. The cost listed is the worst case scenario, the amount could be much less depending upon how much debris is removed.

MOTION PASSED 5-0

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:** None

**COUNCIL MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS:** Cangas appreciated the City Manager's and Chiefs' participation in the work group. He believed this group would continue as there are other things to address. In addition to the Old Settler's Association holding "trunk or treat" at Old Settler's Park, the 34<sup>th</sup> Place Neighborhood Watch also held a 'trunk or treat' at 34<sup>th</sup> Street and Avenue D. Both these events were well received by the public.

**MAYOR ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Mohrfeld met with Bryan Humphrey and opened up a dialogue regarding the building.

**ADJOURNMENT:** At 6:30 P.M., the regular meeting adjourned until Tuesday, November 17, 2020, at 5:30 P.M.

**MANUAL CLAIMS & WARRANTS:** See Claims dated October 30, 2020, in the amount of \$337,553.05.

<b>PAYROLL</b>	<b>10/23/2020</b>
General	\$190,556.42
Old Fort	3,335.26
Employee Benefit	6,332.36
Road Use	25,986.36
Tourism	951.41
Water	29,875.96
Sewer	40,037.97
Solid Waste	11,467.23
Airport	312.77
Storm Water	<u>3,810.56</u>
	\$312,666.30

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Matt J. Mohrfeld, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Melinda L. Blind, City Clerk