

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES FORT MADISON CITY COUNCIL Tuesday, October 5, 2021

The City Council met in regular session at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, October 5, 2021, at City Hall, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison.

Mayor Matt Mohrfeld presided with Council Members Rebecca Bowker, Tom Schulz, Kevin Rink, Chad Cangas, Mark Lair, Donna Amandus and Rusty Andrews present. Andrews arrived at 5:38 P.M.

VISITORS AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS: Chris Sorrentino, 412 Avenue D, asked that Council look into installing a four-way stop at 5th Street and Avenue E since the stop lights were removed. He pointed out children cross there to a bus stop at 4th and Avenue F.

AGENDA

Amandus MOVED and Cangas SECONDED to approve the agenda.

MOTION PASSED 6-0

CONSENT AGENDA

Cangas MOVED and Amandus SECONDED to approve the agenda.

- Minutes of September 21, 2021;
- Liquor License Renewal: Quicker Liquor, 1414 – 48th Street, effective November 1, 2021 – Class E Liquor, Class B Beer, Class B Wine with Sunday Sales;
- Claims dated September 30, 2021 and September Manual Claims; and
- Payroll of September 24, 2021.

MOTION PASSED 6-0

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE No. D-076: Rink MOVED and Cangas SECONDED to approve the third reading of an ordinance rezoning 1501 – 39th Street from R-4, One Family Residential, to B-4, Highway Business District.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Bowker, Lair, Amandus, Schulz, Cangas, Rink
NAYES: None

MOTION PASSED 6-0

The Mayor then declared the third reading of said Ordinance PASSED and APPROVED this 5th day of October, 2021.

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2nd READING TRAFFIC: Amandus MOVED and Cangas SECONDED to approve the second reading of an ordinance amending Title 9, Chapters 7 and 10 of the Fort Madison City Code, removing four stop signs on 15th Street and adding a no parking zone on the east side of 15th Street from Avenue E north to the City Limits.

Bowker said she was still unsure about removing the stop signs on 15th Street. Schulz said he spent three mornings and one afternoon watching those intersections. During that time period he saw, at the most, six children crossing there. He also talked with two school board members, the school superintendent and transportation manager. They said they would be opposed to the removal of the stop signs on 15th Street unless there is a four-way stop sign at 15th Street and Avenue E. They liked the current four-way stop at 15th Street and Avenue E because there is a higher traffic flow and more kids cross there. When Lincoln School closes there will still be a bus stop at the Lincoln School location.

Police Chief Mark Rohloff said the Public Safety Committee did review this matter before recommending these changes. Cangas said a lot of time was spent discussing traffic flow and looking at a balance between traffic flow and crossing the streets. The Committee was also going to look at putting four-way stops in at 15th and possibly at 18th Streets but wanted to consider which of those was more conducive.

Andrews arrived at 5:38 PM

ROLL CALL: AYES: Amandus, Schulz, Cangas, Rink, Andrews
NAYES: Bowker, Lair

MOTION PASSED 5-2

The Mayor then declared the second reading of said Ordinance PASSED and APPROVED this 5th day of October, 2021.

2nd READING RECODIFY: Cangas MOVED and Amandus SECONDED to approve the second reading of an ordinance adopting the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Madison, 2021 a/k/a "City Code".

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

MOTION PASSED 7-0

The Mayor then declared the second reading of said Ordinance PASSED and APPROVED this 5th day of October, 2021.

1st READING SIGNS: Cangas MOVED and Amandus SECONDED to approve the first reading of an ordinance amending Title 9, Chapter 10, "Stop, Yield Intersections" of the Fort Madison City Code, as to make the northbound and southbound stop at 15th Street and Avenue a four-way stop.

Mayor Mohrfeld noted most of the discussion concerning this was covered with the second reading of the ordinance removing stop signs and no parking signs along various sections of 15th Street.

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ROLL CALL: AYES: Amandus, Schulz, Cangas, Rink, Andrews, Bowker, Lair
NAYES:

MOTION PASSED 7-0

The Mayor then declared the first reading of said Ordinance PASSED and APPROVED this 5th day of October, 2021.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-54, APPROVE LOVETT SUBDIVISION: Rink MOVED and Amandus SECONDED to adopt a resolution accepting the submitted plat of survey and waiving subdivision requirements (Title 11 – Subdivision Regulations) for Richard Lovett, for property located at 2336 – 259th Avenue, within two miles of City Limits.

Planning Director Doug Krogmeier said this is splitting one lot into two. Both sections have street access and meet all zoning requirements it would need in the future

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

MOTION PASSED 7-0

The Mayor then declared the Resolution ADOPTED and ENACTED this 5th day of October, 2021.

OTHER

POOL AGREEMENT: Bowker MOVED and Amandus SECONDED to approve the Mayor's signature on a Management Agreement with the YMCA for management of the City Swimming Pool.

Ryan Wilson, Director of the Fort Madison YMCA, met with the City Manager David Varley, Public Works Director Mark Bousset, Parks Supervisor Andrew McFall and the YMCA's Program director last week. It was believed 2021 was the best year the YMCA has had since they started managing the City's pool. Varley said this is a win-win situation. It makes sense to have the YMCA do this and they are doing a very good job.

MOTION PASSED 7-0

AGREEMENT: Schulz MOVED and Cangas SECONDED to approve the Mayor's signature on a Professional Services Agreement with Solum Lang Architects, LLC, of Cedar Rapids, for the proposed fire station and public works facilities.

Nine responses were received following the City's Request for Qualifications. A committee of staff and Council Member Andrews narrowed the list down to three firms. All three firms were interviewed and background checks were done. Solum Lang Architects was recommended. Andrews felt this was a good, thorough process with good candidates.

MOTION PASSED 7-0

Mark Lair left the message at 6:06 PM

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ELECTRIC CAR CHARGE METERS – PEN CITY PARKING LOT: Mohrfeld said two electric car charge meters have been installed at Pen City Parking Lot. He noted these are not super-chargers but are courtesy-style chargers. On a typical electric car it will charge about 10 miles each hour. He recommended Council approve making the chargers free until 2022 so costs could be analyzed.

The meters will be used through “Charge Point”, an app. If there is a charge persons could pay through the app. Bowker wasn’t sure two months would provide enough data to analyze how much electric is used and receiving feedback from downtown merchants.

Bowker MOVED and Amandus SECONDED to activate the electric chargers at no charge for the consumers for a period of 12 months to analyze the usage and cost.

Cangas asked to revisit this in six months. Schulz was concerned persons would take advantage of this. Andrews reported Burlington has two chargers in their downtown that are free.

MOTION APPROVED 6-0

PICKLEBALL COURTS AT VICTORY PARK: Amandus said the YMCA has times set aside in their gymnasium for persons to play pickleball. A group of pickleball players formed the Fort Madison Pickleball Association with hopes to install six pickleball courts at Victory Park. They went before the Parks Board and that Board voted 4-2 in favor. There were some members who wanted to keep a tennis court there.

This would remove the two existing lighted tennis courts at Victory Park. Since this would remove the only existing public tennis courts in Fort Madison, the principals at Fort Madison and Holy Trinity said their courts are open to the public when the schools are not using them. It was noted the schools’ courts are not lighted.

Phyllis Porter, 3378- 175th Street, Wever, is part of the Fort Madison Pickleball Association. This group has already started fundraising to have six pickleball courts at Victory Park. The Fort Madison Beautification Foundation will be a pass-through for the funds. The Association is requesting Council’s approval to move forward.

Amandus MOVED and Cangas SECONDED to offer support and initial approval for the Fort Madison Pickleball Association to move forward with the construction of pickleball courts with final approval being made by appropriate city staff.

MOTION APPROVED 6-0

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS AND CITY MANAGER’S FINANCIAL REPORT: The theme for Fire Prevention Week is smoke detectors. As part of Fire Prevention Week, the Fire Department is touring schools, putting on classes and holding drills. The curb and gutter are being poured at 5th and Avenue F. The asphalt company plans to finish the asphalt projects next week. The contractor hopes to pour concrete in the 900 block of Avenue H for the 6-10th Street highway project this week. The walking bridge on Avenue B was delivered last week. The final walk-through for PORT Phase 3 identified punch list items. The library might be providing some pickleball equipment for persons to check out and use at the new pickleball courts.

Following a question from Bowker, it was reported that September’s payroll included 188 hours of police overtime for the Rodeo.

The Planning Commission met last week and reviewed cottage business signs and tiny homes. There will be a forthcoming code change for cottage business signs. The goal with tiny homes is to have a plan before Council by the end of this year. Krogmeier said this is a complicated and might require a special use. Three police officers attended classes to be certified as Field Training Officers.

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COUNCIL MEMBER/MAYOR UPDATES: It was requested to have Dr. Eugene Watkins report on the Old Fort as a Community Report. The dog park received a \$10,000 anonymous donation which will fund two shelter houses. The Dog Park Committee has \$9,000 left to spend for obstacles. This will complete the dog park project. A concern was received regarding the lack of a street light at 33rd Street & Avenue E. The Marina project is progressing.

Mohrfeld said the six months deadline for the Humphrey building is coming up and there should be some action after that. He discussed there are concerns about persons with vacant or dilapidated properties, particularly those that do nothing with the properties they buy. He pointed out one property owner has 15 properties in Fort Madison and many have not had water service for years. Staff met with Mohrfeld and City Attorney Patrick O'Connell last week to discuss a plan to move forward with these matters. The City has taken ownership of a dilapidated house on Avenue E and are in the process of getting bids for demolition. Mohrfeld said as the City makes some forward motion with these matters there may be some political pushback. He noted Council is not here for any one person to take the opportunity to diminish our town, but for persons who want to make our town better.

Kristy Woolever, 1501 Avenue E, asked why the City is taking parking off the east side of 15th Street. She has lived there since she was a child and has never seen a problem. There used to be parking on both sides of 15th Street. She said there are not 2,000 cars that go up and down each day. She has no parking on Avenue E, no parking on the west side of 15th Street, and with the removal of parking on the east side of 15th Street there will be no place for her visitors to park.

Bonnie McVay, 1436 Avenue D, uses the east side of 15th Street to park because her neighbors take up the parking on Avenue D. Cangas suggested McVay and Woolever come to the next Council meeting. Woolever was upset that she had not been able to speak earlier. Mohrfeld and Cangas apologized that she was not offered the opportunity to talk at the time of the vote. Woolever asked Council to consider limiting parking to Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and to allow parking on Saturdays, Sundays and evenings when there is less traffic.

ADJOURNMENT: At 7:15 PM, the regular meeting adjourned until October 19, 2021, at 5:30 PM.

MANUAL CLAIMS & WARRANTS: See Claims dated September 16, 2021, in the amount of \$1,295,188.94 and Library Claims dated September 16, 2021, in the amount of \$10,050.58.

PAYROLL	9/24/2021
General	\$207,900.87
Emp. Benefits	5,346.50
Marina	159.95
Old Fort	4,058.70
Road Use	29,908.18
Tourism	1,085.67
Water	30,651.26
Sewer	33,516.37
Solid Waste	14,582.63
Airport	315.09
Storm Water	3,816.64
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	\$331,341.86

Matt J. Mohrfeld, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melinda L. Blind, City Clerk