

**MINUTES OF THE
FORT MADISON CITY COUNCIL
March 3, 2009 7:00 P.M.**

The Fort Madison City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 3, 2009, at 7:00 P.M. at the Municipal Building, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa. Presiding was Mayor Steven J. Ireland with Council Members Greenwald, Rink, Randolph, Chesnut, Boeding and Lair present. Council Member Fraise was absent.

VISITORS AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS

None.

AGENDA

Randolph MOVED and Lair SECONDED to approve the agenda, as written.

MOTION PASSED 6 AYES

CONSENT AGENDA

Rink MOVED and Greenwald SECONDED to approve:

- Minutes of February 17, 2009;
- Mayor's reappointment of Moudy Nabulsi to the Sister Cities Commission, term expiring January 6, 2012;
- Resolution No. 2009-12 granting application for an URTED to SSMID for property located at 822-826 Avenue G; and
- Payment of Claims.

MOTION PASSED 6 AYES

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

2ND READING, AMENDING HANDICAP PARKING: Greenwald MOVED and Randolph SECONDED to approve the 2nd reading of an ordinance amending Title 9, Chapter 7, Section 18 of the City Code entitled "Handicap Parking" by repealing Subsection E in its entirety.

MOTION PASSED 6 AYES

2ND READING, RAISING WATER RATES: Chesnut MOVED and Randolph SECONDED to approve the 2nd reading of an ordinance repealing Title 6, Chapter 5, Section 6 of the City Code and enacting in lieu thereof a new Title 6, Chapter 5, Section 6 so as to provide for a new water rate schedule effective April 1, 2009.

MOTION PASSED 6 AYES

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-13, PIP 2009-4, NEW WATER TREATMENT PLANT WELLS: Rink MOVED and Chesnut SECONDED to approve a resolution ordering construction, setting public hearing and bid letting for Public Improvement Project, 2009-#4, New Water Treatment Plant Wells.

Lair questioned if the City has the land. Larry Dinwiddie answered that a check was deposited with the Clerk of Court for the land and we now have possession.

MOTION PASSED 6 AYES

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-14, PARTICIPATION IN MAIN STREET: Chesnut MOVED and Randolph SECONDED to approve a resolution authorizing participation in the Main Street Program and designating a City official to represent the City on the local non-profit Main Street Board of Directors.

MOTION PASSED 6 AYES

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-15, ACCEPTING ORTHO ROAD PROJECT: Rink MOVED and Chesnut SECONDED to approve a resolution accepting Public Improvement Project 2005-4, Ortho Road/Hospital Intersection Relocation.

MOTION PASSED 6 AYES

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-16, PIP 2009-3, RIVERVIEW PARK RIP-RAP REPAIRS: Greenwald MOVED and Boeding SECONDED to approve a resolution ordering construction, setting public hearing and bid letting for Public Improvement Project 2009-#3, Riverview Park Rip-Rap Repairs.

Rink inquired about how far the rip-rap would go. John Luna advised it would go all along the shore line to Captain Kirk's. Chesnut confirmed that the project was totally funded by FEMA. It is, with no City matching funds required. Mr. Luna then explained the FEMA process on how the repairs would be carried out.

MOTION PASSED 6 AYES

OTHER

HISTORICAL GRANT: Chesnut MOVED and Lair SECONDED to authorize the Mayor's signature on a grant application to the State Historical Society for the Cattermole Cultural Center.

Chesnut asked if City funds for the Cattermole Commission was budgeted in 09-10. They are. Lair wondered because the grant asking was more if it would cost the City more. It won't as the Commission was given a set lump sum match.

MOTION PASSED 6 AYES

BALLOONS REQUEST FOR HOTEL/MOTEL FUNDS: Rink MOVED and Boeding SECONDED to approve an expenditure of \$500 from the Hotel/Motel Tax Fund for Balloons Over the Mississippi on July 17-18, 2009, at Rodeo Park.

Lair asked how we could assure the money asked for would be used for as it was intended. Larry Dinwiddie answered that we don't require follow-up invoices to be provided after an event. Mayor Ireland added this is something we can look at and require from the different groups requesting these funds.

MOTION PASSED 6 AYES

REDNECK RODEO REQUEST FOR HOTEL/MOTEL FUNDS: Chesnut MOVED and Rink SECONDED to approve an expenditure of \$1,500 from the Hotel/Motel Tax Fund for the Redneck Rodeo on April 25, 2009, at Rodeo Park.

Councilors had questions concerning this event, however, the applicant, Nicole Prado, was not in attendance.

Chesnut MOVED and Greenwald SECONDED to TABLE the request until there was representation to explain the event.

MOTION TO TABLE PASSED 6 AYES

EASEMENT IN HAPPY HOLLOW: Rink MOVED and Lair SECONDED to approve the Mayor and Clerk's signatures on an Easement Agreement between the City and Richard Boe in order to proceed with a public improvement project in Happy Hollow.

MOTION PASSED 6 AYES

ENGINEERING AMENDMENT FOR WATER PLANT: Chesnut MOVED and Randolph SECONDED to approve an amendment to the original Engineering Services Agreement with Howard R. Green in connection with the new Water Treatment Plant Construction.

MOTION PASSED 6 AYES

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER: City Manager Smith began discussion. Because of the flood, the Tourist Information Center was damaged and per the memo from Doug Krogmeier and Jeff Hanan, if the damage exceeded 50% per the flood plain ordinance, it could not be rebuilt unless raised one foot above the flood elevation or flood proofed. There is an appeal process which could take 8-9 months. The CVB was approached on finding a new place for the Tourist Information Center. One suggestion has been the Burlington Northern building where the Art Center was formerly located. Workers have cleaned the building remarkably. He was asking Council if a new location could be pursued if even for just this season until a permanent location could be found. Tourist Information needs a place to work this season so he was asking for direction.

Greenwald stated he was initially opposed until he met with Mr. Smith this afternoon at the sites. The 2nd Street location is exceptional. The proposed new site is attractive so Mr. Smith was asking to at least give it a try for one season.

Randolph felt for the Tourist Center to have usage, it has to be in a good location. What will it cost to move it to a temporary location and would that money be well spent? Sandy Brown, Director of the CVB, answered that it would be set up as before with the City maintaining the building and the CVB paying the utilities. Everything from the old Tourist Center has already been placed in the building. Randolph asked if there would be different hours. Ms. Brown said no, but the big key to getting folks there was going to be signage. Due to the volume of events she has scheduled, she needs the Tourist Center. Greenwald added the log the center keeps will tell how many visitors would go through there.

Chesnut asked if this site works out, if she was considering making it permanent. Ms. Brown said if the signage is done right and the building is visible, this is something that could definitely be permanent.

Lair questioned if there was something that could be done at the new location such as putting in a railroad display or something of that nature to draw more people in. Ms. Brown responded there are opportunities for displays and to do more for tourists. The building has a lot of possibilities.

Randolph continued that all these other entities were to be together in one area to maximize potential. He did not see the CVB going into that location as he would like to see the CVB in that "umbrella group". Ms. Brown advised they were waiting for the super board to meet and find a building which would hold everyone. She could not be moving in May with all the events that are going to be going on.

Ms. Brown continued that she was looking at combining the Tourist Center and CVB because the CVB can't afford to support utilities at both locations. The CVB could move to that building until the super board located a building large enough to accommodate all the entities. It was noted the CVB and Tourist Center were in the same building during the flood.

Chesnut said he had no problem with the CVB being there but have the lease open just in case. If they can combine short-term it would be okay but he did not want anything long-term. We can put something together temporarily to get through the season and then adjust appropriately.

Mayor Ireland added the umbrella group was diligently looking for a building however there is no magic date. Sandy Brown and Becky Louck from the Chamber have been working together closely to offer each other's services.

City Manager Smith will get in touch with Robert Johnson and have something available for the next Council meeting.

Greenwald felt if the CVB wanted to go with the Tourist Center we can't keep them out. Chesnut believed if more than one group was there we would have the right to adjust accordingly.

PRESENTATIONS BY LIAISONS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSION

Greenwald reminded there was a meeting this Thursday at 6 PM at the library to discuss the Parks Master Plan. The City Manager reported Rick Kuhljuergen is working with the environmental attorneys on our CSO's. Chesnut asked if the combined sewers had been included in the stimulus bill. Kuhljuergen answered not in the current stimulus package, but there may be something coming down in the future. Chesnut felt this should have been a high priority of the stimulus due to the cost and mandates.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:50 P.M., Rink MOVED and Chesnut SECONDED to adjourn until Tuesday, March 17, 2009, at 7:00 P.M.

VOICE VOTE APPROVAL