

MINUTES
FORT MADISON CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, July 20, 2010 7:00 P.M.

The Fort Madison City Council met in adjourned session on Tuesday, July 20, 2010, at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa. Presiding was Mayor Steven J. Ireland with Councilors Tim Waggoner, Chris Greenwald, Kevin Rink, Brad Randolph, Jason Huppert and Mark Lair present. Council Member Bob Chesnut was absent.

VISITORS AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS

None.

AGENDA

With it so noted of an additional item concerning an I-Jobs application, Rink MOVED and Lair SECONDED to approve the agenda, as written.

MOTION PASSED 6 AYES

CONSENT AGENDA

Greenwald MOVED and Randolph SECONDED to approve:

- Minutes of July 6, 2010, as written;
- Renewal of a Class "C" Liquor License to Hill Side Inn, 1135 Avenue E, effective August 15, 2010;
- Renewal of a Class "C" Beer Permit to Kum & Go, 626 – 2nd Street, effective September 5, 2010;
- Renewal of a Class "C" Beer Permit to Hy-Vee Gas, 2632 Avenue L, effective September 5, 2010; and
- Payment of Claims.

MOTION PASSED 6 AYES

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. C-491, REZONING PROPERTY SOUTH OF 1125 – 48TH STREET:
Lair MOVED and Greenwald SECONDED to approve the 3rd reading of an ordinance rezoning property south of 1125 – 48th Street from R-1, One Family Dwelling District to R-4, One-Family Dwelling District.

MOTION PASSED 6 AYES

ORDINANCE C-492, AMENDING 10-12-3(A)(B) AND 4(B) OF THE ZONING CODE:
Waggoner MOVED and Rink SECONDED to approve the 3rd reading of an ordinance amending

Title 10, Chapter 12, Sections 3(A), 3(B), and 4(B) of the Zoning Code concerning dwellings within the B-1 zoning classifications and the area included in the B-1 Limited Retail District.

MOTION PASSED 6 AYES

2ND READING, RAISING GARBAGE FEES: Lair MOVED and Greenwald SECONDED to approve the 2nd reading of an ordinance amending Section 6-3-15(B) so as to increase monthly residential garbage fees from \$12.50 per month to \$15.00 per month for two 40-gallon containers.

The Mayor questioned Steve Hayes about the size and number of bags or containers that can be used.

MOTION PASSED 6 AYES

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-43, TRANSFERRING HOTEL/MOTEL TAXES: Randolph MOVED and Rink SECONDED to approve a resolution transferring Hotel/Motel Tax funds to the Fort Madison Partners.

Waggoner began discussions by asking if the City would have a voting member on the Partners. Yes, that is in the agreement which is the next agenda item. Randolph addressed those entities already receiving money. He asked Matt Morris of Partners if he ever saw a time when Partners would not fund these groups. Morris replied, no, these entities rely on those funds and use them the best way to have those dollars spent. Randolph asked if Morris saw new groups receiving money for events. Yes, they would.

The Mayor asked about the concerns over Main Street and the wording in the contract. Nora Dukowitz advised this is in the State's hands and they are working on it.

Lair asked if any of the funds from Hotel/Motel taxes would be used for operating expenses. Morris replied no. Lair continued the City is basically in the tourism business with the Fort, Museum and Captain Kirk's. So what are we doing that is so wrong that it needs to be changed? Morris said the Partners group was formed to promote tourism. Lair was still concerned over the tax dollars being spent correctly. The City is giving up these dollars to a private entity. Morris believed they would be giving Council accountability for the money spent.

Randolph confronted Lair as to whether the CVB was private or public. The CVB takes care of questions and distributes information on what events are going on. All these entities need to work together to achieve a common goal. By the Partners controlling the money takes this to the next level, it is critical to give it to them.

Huppert asked if these entities would provide budgets. Randolph answered in the past they have not provided budgets but financial statements. This resolution provides more structure than what we've had in the past. Huppert asked if the Partners would have to provide a budget. Randolph said this would require the resolution to be changed.

Greenwald said he was quick to listen and slow to speak. People are protecting their turf. We need to support the Partners group and everyone needs to work together. This could be conceived as an exercise in trust.

Waggoner added that instead of seven groups there would now be one. This huge group will help Fort Madison grow. The community needs to improve.

Andy Andrews, 2020 Avenue G, President of the North Lee County Historical Society, said that even before Dukowitz arrived, the Chamber and CVB said they had to get their hands on the Hotel/Motel tax money. He continued that all the comments and thoughts were good, the Partners Group is good for Fort Madison, but you have to ask, why do they want the money so bad? He knew that by speaking out tonight he risked getting funds shorted. He encouraged Council to keep the money and administer it themselves. Randolph advised Andrews that the City went to the Partners, they did not come to us. Rink asked Andrews why he felt the Historical Society would be shorted. Andrews answered again that by speaking out against the Partners receiving the money he could get dropped from funding.

The Mayor added that this had all been thought through and if there was any unfairness going on, Council would take the money back.

Greenwald stated Dukowitz had qualifications in tourism. This compares to our department heads as to the promotion of assets. Let the people who run departments do the day-to-day operations. It is more responsible to let the Partners run the tourism.

Lair then asked if we're letting the dollars go to the Partners, why are we holding on to the Fort. Because the City owns the Fort and it is different than leasing to an entity.

Prescott Smith, 435 Avenue E, stated he returned to Fort Madison in 2000. Over time he has observed the Chamber struggling to get control of the Hotel/Motel taxes and squabble with the CVB. The CVB and Chamber are political organizations. This is a "narrow" base to leave to the Partners.

MOTION PASSED 4 AYES
2 NAYS (Huppert,Lair)

AGREEMENT WITH CITY AND PARTNERS: Waggoner MOVED and Randolph SECONDED to approve an agreement between the City of Fort Madison and the Fort Madison Partners regarding Hotel/Motel Taxes.

MOTION PASSED 4 AYES
2 NAYS (Huppert,Lair)

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-44, SUPPORTING I-JOBS APPLICATION: Lair MOVED and Greenwald SECONDED to approve a resolution n support of an I-JOBS II Grant Application.

Mr. Smith advised this grant is for building and infrastructure out of the flood plain grant. We hope to be able to finish the water plant project with some of this money.

MOTION PASSED 6 YES

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-45, AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF I-JOBS

APPLICATION: Rink MOVED and Waggoner SECONDED to approve a resolution authorizing the submission of an I-JOBS application to the Iowa Finance Authority to leverage funds relative to the prevention and amelioration of adverse impacts to the Water Treatment Plant.

MOTION PASSED 6 AYES

OTHER

ASSEMBLY PURCHASE AT WASTEWATER: Greenwald MOVED and Waggoner SECONDED to approve the purchase of an upper bearing assembly unit in the amount of \$12,820.00 at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

MOTION PASSED 6 AYES

LAWN MOWER PURCHASE IN PARKS/CEMETERY: Randolph MOVED and Rink SECONDED to approve the purchase of a new 48-inch riding lawn mower from George's Lawn Mower of West Burlington, Iowa, in the amount of \$3,999.00 for the Parks/Cemetery Department.

Greenwald questioned accepting a bid from an out-of-town vendor. Mr. Smith advised the 5% bidding preference had been factored in and George's was still the lower bid. He added that staff had indicated they preferred the Toro brand mower.

MOTION PASSED 6 AYES

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION: Waggoner MOVED and Greenwald SECONDED to approve the Mayor's signature on a contract with Southeast Iowa regional Planning to administer a grant from the Iowa DOT Safe Routes to School Program

MOTION PASSED 6 AYES

HIRING TWO POLICE OFFICERS: Lair MOVED and Rink SECONDED to approve hiring two police officers.

MOTION PASSED 6 AYES

PRESENTATIONS BY LIAISONS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Greenwald mentioned the Parks Board will be initiating a policy where there will be no parking on the north side of the arena due to the damage caused by recent events. Mr. Smith announced that the arbitrator ruled in the City's favor and awarded Public Works employees the same as other unions who settled. The Mayor thanked Lynn and Heather Faeth and Sandy Brown for their hard work on the Balloons event this past weekend. It turned out to be a great event.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:52 P.M., Rink MOVED and Huppert SECONDED to adjourn until Tuesday, August 3, 2010, at 7:00 P.M.

VOICE VOTE APPROVAL