

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES FORT MADISON CITY COUNCIL Tuesday, October 6, 2020

The City Council met in regular session at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, October 6, 2020, at City Hall, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison. Mayor Matt Mohrfeld presided with Council Members Mark Lair, Tyler Miller, 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.

PROCLAMATIONS: Mayor Mohrfeld read a proclamation honoring Second Ward City Council Member Robert Morawitz who passed away on September 30, 2020.

Mayor Mohrfeld read a proclamation naming October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Alta Medea Peters, Director of Community Engagement for the Iowa Domestic Violence Intervention Program, reported 60 individuals sought IDVIP's services in Fort Madison last year. There has been an increase this year which is expected because of the issues with the pandemic. IDVIP's services are free and confidential. Bowker reported she is assisting with fundraising efforts for IDVIP. Peters said all donations from Lee County stay in Lee County.

VISITORS – Bob Huffman, Chairman of the Fort Madison Economic Development Corporation, said industry appreciates the open dialogue the City has initiated as it concerns a potential franchise fee. He read a brief statement outlining the mission statement of FMEDC and their concerns regarding the proposed franchise fee. (Note: the following submitted emails supporting the letter: ConAgra, Cryotech, Pipeline Cleaners, DuPont and Scott's Company.) Huffman provided separate letters from Siemens Gamesa and Independent Can Company. Huffman said they believe this is a disproportionate fee for industry. He noted area industries are competing within their own companies to stay open.

Emily Benjamin, Climax, also spoke regarding the proposed franchise fee and said they empathize with the City's budget issues but feel the fee is disproportionate for industry.

Brian Langerud, ConAgra, asked Council to think about the broader picture as it concerns the franchise fee. It is anticipated this will cost ConAgra over \$200,000 per year.

David Van Ginkel (no address given), felt the franchise fee was taxation without representation. He said there are lot of persons on a fixed income in Fort Madison and did not feel this was helping the citizens.

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AGENDA

Cangas MOVED and Miller SECONDED to approve the agenda.

**MOTION PASSED 6-0
VOICE VOTE**

CONSENT AGENDA

Rink MOVED and Cangas SECONDED to approve the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of September 15, 2020;
- Liquor License Renewal: Quicker Liquor, 1414 -48th Street, effective November 1, 2020 - Class E Liquor License, Class C Beer Permit, Class B Wine Permit with Sunday Sales;
- Claims dated October 1, Manual Claims dated September 30, Library Claims dated September 17, and the September Financial Report; and
- Payroll of September 25, 2020.

**MOTION PASSED 6-0
ROLL CALL VOTE**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS AND CITY MANAGER'S FINANCIAL REPORT: The Library's final Story Walk is up. The Finance Department is reviewing the City's electric bills and Council Member Andrews has offered to assist with looking for efficiencies. The Police Department has been busy recruiting new officers. They expect to be at 80% capacity by the end of the year and 100% by March. The Building Department is still seeing a lot of building permits. Rehabilitation of the fence at City Cemetery has started. The 2020 Asphalt paving projects have been completed. The Storms Court project is nearly finished. The Henry Layden Drive project has been completed. A stakeholder's meeting was held for the 6th to 10th Street project. The 2nd to 6th Street project on Avenue H is moving along.

Lair questioned the progress of the contractor on the Storms Court project. Public Works Director Mark Bousselot noted the weather hasn't helped but that hasn't been the only holdup. The concrete supplier was unable to supply product last Friday and that affected more than one City project.

The Fire Department held a review with Conagra regarding the ammonia leak there. There will be some adjustments and inter-training. The Lee County Board of Supervisors voted to hire Dennis Cosby as the ambulance director today. It was noted there has been a lot of talk regarding the cost of an ambulance service but not about the service.

Cangas asked about placing some trash cans along the PORT trail. Bousselot will see about installing them at the trail heads.

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ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-57, INTENT TO FILL 3RD WARD VACANCY: Lair MOVED and Cangas SECONDED to adopt a resolution directing the City Clerk to publish notice of the City Council's intent to fill the vacancy created by the October 6, 2020 resignation of Tyler Miller, Third Ward Council Member.

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

MOTION PASSED 6-0

The Mayor then declared said Resolution ADOPTED and ENACTED, this 6th day of October, 2020.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-58, INTENT TO FILL 2ND WARD VACANCY: Cangas MOVED and Bowker SECONDED to adopt a resolution directing the City Clerk to publish notice of the City Council's intent to fill the vacancy created by the death of Robert Morawitz, Second Ward Council Member.

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

MOTION PASSED 6-0

The Mayor then declared said Resolution ADOPTED and ENACTED, this 6th day of October, 2020.

Mohrfeld stated persons interested in these seats should provide a letter of interest and brief bio to the City Clerk no later than 4:30 P.M. on Tuesday, November 10. These will be provided to Council to review. At the start of the November 17 Council meeting, Council can interview applicants and then appoint. If an applicant would prefer to be interviewed in Closed Session the applicant can make that request.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-59, TAX EXEMPTION FOR 411 AVENUE G: Rink MOVED and Cangas SECONDED to adopt a resolution granting property tax exemption for Asay Properties, LLC for property located at 411 Avenue G (bathroom addition, new kitchen, windows, general cleanup).

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

MOTION PASSED 6-0

The Mayor then declared said Resolution ADOPTED and ENACTED, this 6th day of October, 2020.

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RESOLUTION NO. 2020-60, WAIVE SUBDIVISION REQUIREMENTS: Cangas MOVED and Andrews SECONDED to adopt a resolution accepting the submitted plat of survey and waiving subdivision requirements for Shane Zumdomo for property located west of 2479 – 235th Street (Faeth).

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

MOTION PASSED 6-0

The Mayor then declared said Resolution ADOPTED and ENACTED, this 6th day of October, 2020.

OTHER

ELIGIBILITY LIST: Cangas MOVED and Rink SECONDED to accept the Civil Service Commission's Entry Level Officer eligibility list.

MOTION PASSED 6-0

ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT: Rink MOVED and Cangas SECONDED to approve the Mayor's signature on an Engagement Agreement with Ahlers & Cooney, P.C., for services related to the renewal of Gas and Electric franchises.

Finance Director Peggy Steffensmeier said the City's attorney, Patrick O'Connell, is unable to represent the City in this matter as his firm represents Alliant and MidAmerican Energy.

MOTION PASSED 6-0

REAPPOINTMENT: Cangas MOVED and Lair SECONDED to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Kristi Roach to the Construction Board of Adjustment and Appeals, term expiring September 30, 2023.

MOTION PASSED 6-0

AMENDMENT #1 – HENRY LAYDEN DRIVE PROJECT: Bowker MOVED and Miller SECONDED to approve the Mayor's signature on Amendment #1 of the Iowa Department of Transportation – Utility Reimbursement Agreement for the relocation of the sanitary sewer along Southbound U.S. Highway 61.

MOTION PASSED 6-0

DISCUSSION - None

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS: Cangas reported on the Public Safety Work Group. He said a lot of work has been done by the Police Chief and City Manager on it. He believed the City Manager was preparing some information on traffic patterns, site triangles and IDOT regulations. It has been found traffic volume and the increase in accidents is not proportionate. Most of the issues with Avenue E are the road is not wide enough so does not meet the criteria to have parking on both sides of the streets and traffic going both ways. The group came up with several options including doing nothing, changing parking patterns, alternating parking on the north and south sides or removing parking on the south side of the street. The last option is what is recommended.

Andrews said he just received a text that a vehicle struck the side mirror on a truck parked in front of City Hall. The Mayor requested this item be placed on the agenda for the October 20 meeting.

MAYOR ANNOUNCEMENTS: He reported he has spoken to the Lee County Health Department regarding safe practices for Beggar's Night. He announced Fort Madison's Beggar's Night will be October 31 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. The Marina Stakeholder Group is investigating the possibility of putting together a public /private partnership for the marina. They had an initial contact with a group regarding a feasibility study. He plans to ask the Parks Board to develop a five-year plan for the Parks. Bowker would like see a playground area for 1-4 year old children added in at least one of the parks as a well as a splash pad.

ADJOURNMENT: At 6:56 P.M., the regular meeting adjourned until Tuesday, October 20, 2020, at 5:30 P.M.

MANUAL CLAIMS & WARRANTS: See Library Claims dated September 17, 2020 in the amount of \$5,886.40; Manual Claims dated September 30, 2020 in the amount of \$166,438.89, and Claims dated October 2, 2020 in the amount of \$422,169.58.

PAYROLL	9/25/2020
General	\$183,467.67
Emp. Benefits	7,015.38
Marina	636.49
Old Fort	3,820.64
Road Use	25,998.80
Tourism	1,146.30
Water	30,127.74
Sewer	40,857.08
Solid Waste	11,754.15
Airport	315.07
Storm Water	<u>3,742.20</u>
	\$308,881.52

Matt J. Mohrfeld, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melinda L. Blind, City Clerk