

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES FORT MADISON CITY COUNCIL Tuesday, May 18, 2021

The City Council met in regular session at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, at City Hall, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison. Mayor Matt Mohrfeld presided with Council Members Rusty Andrews, Mark Lair, Rebecca Bowker, Tom Schulz, Kevin Rink, Donna Amandus and Chad Cangas present. Council Members Cangas and Amandus participated electronically.

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: Jan Garza, 2023 Avenue H, requested the trees/bushes be trimmed at the intersection of 15th Street and Avenue F (SE corner).

Jeraine Hofer, 4611 Avenue L, complained about a large pine tree on the southeast corner of 40th Street and Avenue L that is interfering with the vision of drivers.

AGENDA

Amandus MOVED and Rink SECONDED to approve the agenda.

MOTION PASSED 7-0

CONSENT AGENDA

Bowker MOVED and Amandus SECONDED to approve the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of April 20, 2021;
- Liquor License Renewal: Casey's #2319, 1428 – 38th Street, effective July 1, 2021 – Class E Liquor, Class C Beer, Class B Wine and Sunday Sales;
- Liquor License Renewal: Casey's #2023, 1208 Avenue H, effective July 1, 2021 – Class E Liquor, Class C Beer, Class B Wine and Sunday Sales;
- New Five-Day License: River Rocks Bar & Grill for Downtown Summer Market, 7th Street to 9th Street, effective July 11, 2021 – Class B Beer w/Outdoor Service;
- Claims dated May 15, 2021 and April Financial Report; and
- Payroll: May 7, 2021.

MOTION PASSED 7-0

PRESENTATION: Bob Chesnut, Chairman Fort Madison Municipal Airport, reported the Runway Lighting Project has been delayed because of supply issues. The required match for this grant has been removed because of COVID stimulus funding. The hangar door was replaced at the former Sheaffer hangar at a cost of approximately \$28,000. The Airport received a stimulus payment of \$20,000 to pay for this. The renter of the hangar paid the remainder.

A second stimulus payment of \$9,000 is being used to provide matching funds for another grant. This project will sand or waterblast the buildings and paint them. The Commission is looking into a grant for fencing for the runway as there is an issue with deer on the runway.

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Chesnut noted the Commission was previously challenged by Council a few years ago to become as revenue neutral as possible. The airport manager had his hours reduced and some electric matters were dealt with that lowered the Airport's electricity costs.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Police Chief Mark Rohloff has met with the Fort Madison School Superintendent concerning a new contract for the school resource officer. Traffic monitoring equipment is on Avenue E and shows an average of 5,873 cars per a day. At some questions regarding the detour route, it was noted the detour route was chosen by IDOT. The City was able to review and make some recommendations.

Rain has slowed down the 6th-10th Street project. The Rodeo Park Trail construction has had a lot of concrete poured this last week. There are some issues with Gethsemene Cemetery and they are working on resolving those issues. The Santa Fe platform renovation project has been pouring 50 feet of platform a day.

Bowker questioned what projects the City has that are "shovel ready". Public Works Director Mark Boussetot said the One-Way Pair project and filter expansion at the water plant. The 10th Street Sewer Separation project is being engineered now as well as the marina project.

Lair questioned some drainage issues at Gethsemene. Boussetot said the County opened up a culvert there that had been plugged. He believed there was an additional plugged culvert but the County is waiting until the trail is finished before they unplug it.

Approximately 11% of the spring clean-up vouchers were used. The cost is about the same as last year but the usage is up slightly. The average load is \$5.59 which puts the cost at about \$8.18 per voucher. It was questioned if the City should continue to use the vouchers or revert back to picking items up at resident's homes.

Hofer said the vouchers do not cover items such as tires. Garza said some people are unable to take items because they don't transportation or a truck.

PUBLIC HEARING

Concerning the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget Amendments

Mayor Mohrfeld opened the public hearing at 6:31 P.M. There were no written or oral comments. At 6:32 P.M., Mohrfeld closed public hearing.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-28, 2020-21 AMENDMENTS: Amandus MOVED and Cangas SECONDED to adopt a resolution approving the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget Amendments.

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

MOTION PASSED 7-0

The Mayor then declared the Resolution ADOPTED and ENACTED this 18th day of May, 2021.

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ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-29, FUND TRANSFERS: Schulz MOVED and Andrews SECONDED to adopt a resolution authorizing fund transfers for Fiscal Year 2020-21.

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

MOTION PASSED 7-0

The Mayor then declared the Resolution ADOPTED and ENACTED this 18th day of May, 2021.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-30, URTEG: Lair MOVED and Rink SECONDED to adopt a resolution granting property tax exemption for Myles/Barbara Asay for property located at 1717 Avenue H (general improvement).

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

MOTION PASSED 7-0

The Mayor then declared the Resolution ADOPTED and ENACTED this 18th day of May, 2021.

OTHER

CO #2, PIP 2020-08: Lair MOVED and Cangas SECONDED to approve the Mayor's signature on Change Order No. 2 for Public Improvement Project 2020-08, Phase 2, Parking Lots.

MOTION PASSED 6-1

CO #3, PIP 2019-05: Bowker MOVED and Amandus SECONDED to approve the Mayor's signature on Change Order No. 3, for Public Improvement Project 2019-05, Amtrak Station Platform Improvements.

MOTION PASSED 7-0

REAPPOINTMENTS: Rink MOVED and Amandus SECONDED the Mayor's reappointments of Shirley Hoenig and Mary Hitchcock to the Fort Madison Housing Authority, terms ending June 2, 2023.

MOTION PASSED 7-0

OPEN DISCUSSION/FUTURE MEETINGS AGENDA ITEMS/COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS:

Amandus said there has been recurring damage at Old Settlers Park to the bandstand. Hoping to curb the vandalism, the Parks Board voted to place surveillance cameras at Old Settlers Park at their last meeting. It was noted the Parks Board can make a recommendation and the request would be reviewed. The Mayor and City staff discussed this matter and believed lighting should be enhanced first and then the situation be re-evaluated. It was pointed out there are many issues with installing cameras because a certain level of connectivity is needed and cameras do not always provide the information needed to apprehend the vandals. In addition, the area must have the right lighting for the cameras to work.

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City Manager David Varley said there are two separate issues. Even with a camera there will still be vandalism. The City can take on the burden of repairing the damage instead of the Old Settlers' Association.

Cangas noted there was a similar problem at the old Eagles Nest playground. If the lighting is low enough where kids are prone to be vandals, they will swarm to the spot. Mohrfeld said going right to cameras is not the best first step. First, increase the lighting and the efforts of the Neighborhood Watch group. If that doesn't work, then it is time to look at cameras. Bowker said the Parks Board could apply for the Governor's broadband connection grant and then a camera could be connected to free wifi.

Mohrfeld wanted to put a discussion regarding the hotel/motel tax on the agenda. The City does have obligations and hasn't talked about the ramifications of the hotel/motel tax collection being down 40% because of COVID-19.

ADJOURNMENT: At 7:16 P.M., the regular meeting adjourned until June 1, 2021, at 5:30 P.M.

MANUAL CLAIMS & WARRANTS: See Claims dated May 13, 2021, in the amount of \$1,458,816.49.

PAYROLL	5/7/2021
General	\$ 189,639.00
Old Fort	3,267.50
Road Use	28,203.24
Tourism	816.94
Water	29,346.09
Sewer	34,498.81
Solid Waste	11,726.24
Airport	312.77
Storm Water	3,801.47
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	\$301,612.06

Matt J. Mohrfeld, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melinda L. Blind, City Clerk