

**MINUTES
FORT MADISON CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, December 17, 2013- 7:00 P.M.**

The Fort Madison City Council met in adjourned session on Tuesday, December 17, 2013, at 7:00 P.M. at the Municipal Building, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison. Presiding was Mayor Bradley A. Randolph with Council Members Chris Greenwald, Brian Wright, Kevin Rink, Neal Boeding, Travis Seidel, Jason Huppert and Mark Lair.

VISITORS AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS

There were none.

AGENDA

Seidel MOVED and Lair SECONDED to approve the agenda.

MOTION PASSED 7 AYES

CONSENT AGENDA

Boeding MOVED and Lair SECONDED to approve:

- Minutes of December 3, 2013, as written;
- Liquor License Renewal: La Casa Salsa, 4821 Avenue O, effective January 1, 2014 – Class C Liquor with Sunday Sales;
- Mayor's appointment of Linda Bruce, 1310 Avenue D, to the Historic Preservation Commission, filling the unexpired term of Kris Schoene, term expiring December 31, 2015;
- Mayor's reappointment of Sharon Scholl-Nabulsi to the SIRRC Commission, term expiring December 31, 2016;
- Mayor's reappointment of Moudy Nabulsi and Jacqueline Lumsden to the Fort Madison Revolving Loan Fund Loan Review Committee, terms expiring December 31, 2016;
- Resolution No. 2013-90, granting application for URTED to Fort Madison Health Center, 1702 – 41st Street (new addition and improvements);
- Resolution No. 2013-91, granting application for URTED to Jacob Lorton for property located at 407 – 7th Street (new home); and
- Payment of Claims.

MOTION PASSED 7 AYES

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Concerning the Status of Funded Activities for an American Battlefield Protection Program Grant

Mayor Randolph opened the public hearing at 7:04 p.m. Dr. Eugene Watkins, Old Fort Site Manager, said the purpose of this grant is to create a plan for the preservation and interpretation of the War of 1812 battlefield in Fort Madison. The site was part of a government factory post and military fort that existed between 1808 and 1813 and was the scene of much fighting between March 1812 and November 1813, at which time the military withdrew to St. Louis. Currently the area in question rests under a vacant parking lot (between 4th and 5th Streets and Avenues G and H) and has been the subject of a brief archeological survey conducted by the Office of the State Archeologist of Iowa in 2009. The area addressed in this grant is believed to have contained the contracting settlement and outer buildings associated with the fort, the post's cemetery and possibly Native remains from the fighting in 1813. It also contains the "spring branch," or ravine, used by attacking warriors in 1812 and 1813. The area was declared a viable archeological site by Iowa's state archeologist, Dr. John Doershuk. This grant will be used to fund research in an attempt to expand upon previous research to obtain a clearer picture of the area's physical appearance 200 years ago as well as events occurring in and around the site. The research will be used by a consultant to create a plan for the future preservation and interpretation of the site, not limited to but including, protecting it from development, returning the area as closely as possible to its original state, and designing an interpretive museum, signs and maps. The grant award was \$51,000. So far, \$1,167.69 has been spent for required training; \$12,832.31 is budgeted for research, travel and miscellaneous and \$37,000 is budgeted for the consultant.

There were no written comments.

At 7:10 P.M. Wright MOVED and Huppert SECONDED to close the public hearing.

MOTION PASSED 7 AYES

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

There were none.

OTHER

FIRE DEPT. UNION CONTRACT: Rink MOVED and Wright SECONDED to approve a Union Contract with the Fort Madison Firefighters Association, Local No. 607, effective July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2016.

City Manager Byron Smith said changes were made to bring all of the union contracts more in line with each other. Wage increases will be 2.7% in 2014 and 2.5% in 2015. Pay amounts for HAZMAT certification, paramedic, longevity and education were increased. Changes were also made to callback pay and to allow employees to use a portion of their sick leave as family sick leave. The employee contribution to health insurance was also increased.

MOTION PASSED 7 AYES

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. UNION CONTRACT: Greenwald MOVED and Seidel SECONDED to approve a Union Contract with the Public Professional and Maintenance Employees Local 2003 (Public Works) effective July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015.

This has the same increase for health insurance as the Firefighter's contract. A pay increase of .53 cents per hour for each employee averages to a 3% pay increase. Employees may also may earn a limited amount of comp time instead of collecting overtime.

MOTION PASSED 7 AYES

PURCHASE PULL BEHIND VAC UNIT (WATER): Greenwald MOVED and Boeding SECONDED to approve a bid of \$67,448.50 from Ditch Witch, Inc., of Davenport, Iowa, for a pull behind vac unit for the Water Department.

Public Works Director Larry Driscoll said this will be a new item for the City and will allow the City to exercise all water main valves. It can also be used underground utility lines when digging. Driscoll recommended Ditch Witch, Inc. over the other two lower-priced units. He said Trans Iowa does not have the valve exercising sleeve and VerMeer does not have the computerized version or the hydraulic overload.

It was questioned if this unit could be leased as it is needed. Driscoll said he has looked into that and the cost would be \$12,000 for two weeks.

MOTION PASSED 7 AYES

APPROVE ENGINEERING CONTRACT PIP 2013-03: Lair MOVED and Seidel SECONDED to approve the Mayor's signature on a contract for engineering services with HR Green for PIP 2013-03, Dry Creek Rehab (Avenue A to Richards Drive).

Driscoll said heavy rains in April washed out a retaining wall. A watershed study had to be done before FEMA would agree to fund the project. FEMA will supply 50% of the funding and SRF funds will also be used to fund all but \$80,000 of the project. The

remaining \$80,000 will be funded with money in a Dry Creek account set up 10 years ago. If needed, there are also funds in the Storm Water Utility account.

Notices have been sent to 44 residences for permanent easements. The project could begin this spring. The project will improve the retaining wall, clean out sedimentation in the creek and put in proper vegetation. He estimated this could be a year long project due to the large number of trees along the banks that will need to be removed.

**MOTION PASSED 6 AYES
1 NAY (Rink)**

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT FACILITY PLAN: Jay Brady, Stanley Consultants, highlighted the results of the study and facility plan. Suggested improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Plant are:

- Screening: Add new bar screen, add washer/compactor; remove original bar screen;
- Influent Pumping: Replace pumps, motors, piping, valves, electrical controls and components and replace Parshall flume with magnetic meter;
- Grit Removal: Replace single detritus unit with two mechanical vortex units, replace single grit pump with three new pumps and replace single cyclone and classifier with two new classifiers;
- Primary Clarification: Replace drive sprockets and chains, scum troughs, effluent weirs with fiberglass and drive motors;
- Biological Treatment: Replace air header, replace coarse bubble diffusers with fine bubble diffusers, replace on multi-stage blower with two smaller blowers and replace motors on two remaining blowers;
- Biological Improvements: Replace RAS pump with larger capacity units, replace centrifugal service water pump in kind and install two dedicated WAS pumps;
- Final Clarification: Replace clarifier drives, in-line rapid mixer and flocculation tank agitator; replace effluent weirs and launders with fiberglass and install fiberglass covers on new launders;
- Disinfection: Update chlorine gas equipment, install sodium bisulfide dechlorination system and replace both vertical turbine effluent water pumps;
- Primary Sludge Handling: Replace both plunger style pumps with two rotary lobe pumps, reconfigure sludge piping and extend site air piping to sludge holding tank;
- Solid Handling Pumping: Modify effluent channel for better flow split, replace three screw pumps in kind and install fiberglass covers over new screw pumps;
- WAS Thickening: Replace DAF with two RDTs, install polymer feed system and replace both horizontal split case TWAS pumps with two rotary lobe pumps or double disc style pumps;
- Solids Stabilization and Storage: Replace lime stabilization equipment and add additional aerated solids storage tank.

Other improvements include: changes to the HVAC, electrical and control systems; structural modifications - chlorination building, flotation thickener building and miscellaneous cracking/spalling; and installation of an earthen levee for flood protection.

At a question from Mayor Randolph regarding the need for \$1.1 million for storage tanks to store sludge, Driscoll said while this has only been an issue six times in 20 years the amount of solids lost was beyond what was allowed. If this occurred again the City could be fined heavily.

Smith said the state requires a facility plan on file. This is not a commitment to perform the work.

ACCEPT WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT FACILITY PLAN: Seidel MOVED and Boeding SECONDED a motion to accept the Wastewater Treatment Facility Plan prepared by Stanley Consultants and City Staff.

MOTION PASSED 7 AYES

APPROVE ENGINEERING CONTRACT FOR RR QUIET ZONE: Wright MOVED and Huppert SECONDED to approve the Mayor's signature on an engineering contract with HR Green for engineering services related to the establishment of a Railroad Quiet Zone in the downtown area.

Smith said this topic has been discussed many times but has never moved forward. Quiet zones were recently brought up in the comprehensive plan and also in conjunction with some economic development projects in the downtown area. A meeting was held with staff from the Federal Railroad Administration, a Burlington-Northern Railway representative and staff with the Iowa Department of Transportation Rail Division. An engineering study is the required first step. Smith solicited two different engineering firms and recommended HR Green as they have already performed similar studies for Fairfield and Burlington. The cost is not to exceed \$29,999.

At a question regarding the different railroad crossings in the City, Smith said this study will focus on the 6th Street crossing. There are three sets of tracks there – two mainline crossings with 60-80 trains per day and the coal train line crossing which has 2-3 trains per day. There would be a large reduction in noise if the quiet zone covered the mainline tracks but the study can look at other options. At a question if the quiet zone would extend to the bridge crossing, Smith said the BN representative has said BN does not like quiet zones and did not believe they would approve one there. The cost will not be known until the study has been completed but a rough estimate of \$1 million was suggested.

The procedure requires filing a notice with the Federal Railroad Administration of the interest in a quiet zone. The report should be done by spring and would give an estimated price. The project could be completed by summer if the City has the money to pay for it. Smith felt the urban renewal area might supply some of the funding but additional funding from the general fund reserve might be needed.

A discussion was held regarding how much difference there would be if the trains on the mainline tracks did not blow their whistles at the 6th Street crossing but continued to do so at the bridge and 20th Street crossings.

Smith said there is \$25,000 that was paid to the City to close the crossing gate at 19th Street. These funds must be used for railroad purposes and would fund most of the study.

Mike Chapman, 1617 Avenue B, questioned if the quiet zone would increase Fort Madison's liability. Smith said once BNSF signs off the liability would be the same. City Attorney Johnson said there will still be flashing red lights and gates at the crossing.

Smith said this does affect economic development. A proposed hotel in the downtown area relocated the hotel because of the cost of installing additional soundproofing to rooms. A quiet zone might attract more people to live in the downtown area.

Lair questioned if Smith had talked to Burlington or Fairfield regarding their projects and the costs. Smith said each situation is unique so it would be difficult to compare. He said this not be a total quiet zone through town but felt it would remove a major portion of the noise pollution.

Mike Killoren, 1708 Avenue F, said the bluff is a geographic feature unique to Fort Madison and needs to be taken into account. A whistle blown at one end of town can carry to the other end of town in the correct weather conditions. He would like to see a study including the 20th Street crossing. He expressed concern about appeasing an economic development area on the east end of town to make 18-28 apartments happy.

Bob Foss, 412 Avenue F, said since he moved here he and his wife have gotten used to the trains but the horns scared them at first. Amtrak is the only train to sound the horn the same way. The other trains all sound the horn differently. If they could all be consistent in the way they toot the horns it would solve a lot of problems. He said because of the way the Santa Fe Depot was constructed you do not hear the trains when you are in the building even though they are only 15 feet away.

At a question from Chapman about the possibility of eliminating the 6th Street crossing, Smith said the cost of a bridge might be \$5-7 million but the engineer could look at options, including eliminating the crossing.

Larry Smith, 828 Avenue D, said he was used to the sounds of the trains and horns, but his out of town guests have all made negative comments about the trains. This type of

noise pollution could make it hard to rent downtown apartments. He suggested the 20th Street crossing also be addressed.

Greenwald thought the City should proceed with the study since it does not commit the City to the project.

**MOTION PASSED 4 AYES
3 NAYS (Rink, Seidel, Lair)**

DISCUSSION ITEMS

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION CONCERNING FIRE AND POLICE DEPT.

MINIMUM STAFFING: Smith said under difficult financial times in 2007-2008, Council set staffing levels at a 3-man minimum for the Fire Department and 2-man minimum for the Police Department. This was done to reduce the overtime cost to cover shifts when more than one staff member was absent. He said the budget outlook is better now and, in discussions with the police and fire chiefs, he felt comfortable with their ability to maintain the overtime budget and increase the minimum staffing levels. Smith recommended increasing each department minimum by one man. If it was felt the overtime budget was getting out of line then internal controls could be instituted.

Greenwald noted the economy was still very fragile and did want the City to have to revisit the concern of layoffs as they did then. Mayor Randolph said he had met with the Fire and Police Chiefs about the matter. He told them they, as well as the captains, would need good oversight of the situation. He has asked City staff to provide Council with a report showing all overtime.

Greenwald **MOVED** and Seidel **SECONDED** to increase the minimum staffing levels to a 4-man minimum in the Fire Department and a 3-man minimum in the Police Department.

MOTION PASSED 7 AYES

GOAL SETTING UPDATE: Smith said there are only two goals left on the list that have not been accomplished. One is the Amtrak station platform which should go out for bid in April or May. The last item is an organizational goal to update job descriptions. This is currently in process. Another goal setting session will be held early next year.

PRESENTATIONS BY LIAISONS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Council members thanked Boeding for his service.

