

**MINUTES
FORT MADISON CITY COUNCIL
Tuesday, April 7, 2020**

Mayor Matt Mohrfeld presided with Council Members Rebecca Bowker, Kevin Rink, Mark Lair, Bob Morawitz, Chad Cangas and Rusty Andrews present. Council Member Tyler Miller was absent.

Mohrfeld noted an Electronic meeting was being held (pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.8) because a meeting in person was impossible or impractical for the health and safety of City Council, staff and the public presented by COVID-19.

VISITORS – There were none.

AGENDA

Morawitz MOVED and Lair SECONDED to approve the agenda.

MOTION PASSED 6-0

CONSENT AGENDA

Rink MOVED and Cangas SECONDED to approve the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of March 17, 2020;
- Liquor License Renewal: Walgreens, 2639 Avenue L, effective May 21, 2020 - Class C Beer, Class B Wine, Class E Liquor with Sunday Sales;
- Claims dated April 2, 2020, March Manual Claims, March Library Claims, and the March Financial Update;
- Setting public hearing at 5:30 P.M. on April 21, 2020, to rezone property located at 2324 and 2332 Avenue J, from R-4, One-Family Dwelling District, to B-4, Highway Business District; and
- Payroll: March 27, 2020.

MOTION PASSED 6-0

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS: Due to the COVID-19 crisis, some activities in the Police Department have been adjusted. The Police have not had to enforce any violation concerning the Governor's proclamation. Traffic is significantly down but the number of activities have remained consistent. The Fire Department is working on getting numbers and a proposal together to operate an ambulance service with the Keokuk Fire Department. Lee County Ambulance, the current service, is operating on a week-to-week basis. Their contract expires June 30.

The library staff is working on the summer reading program, catching up on paperwork and offering curbside pickup. Building permits and inspections are proceeding as normal. Rental inspections have been put on hold. Zoning is still proceeding but using Zoom meetings. The majority of nuisance abatements have been suspended during this time. Minor maintenance is being done in the City's parks. The Avenue H project is underway, the archeological dig has started there. Manpower at the water and wastewater departments are now operating on shifts.

Some questions were raised regarding the closing of park facilities following Governor Reynolds' announcement on Monday. It was noted property tax collection was down about 10% since the Governor waived penalties.

2nd READING, REZONE: Lair MOVED and Cangas SECONDED to approve the second reading of an ordinance rezoning property located at 1731 – 39th Street and adjoining alley between 38th and 39th Streets, and 1729 – 39th Street, from R-4, Single Family Dwelling District, to B-3, Service and Wholesale District.

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

MOTION PASSED 6-0

The Mayor then declared said Ordinance PASSED and APPROVED, this 7th day of April, 2020.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-20, SET P.H., BID LETTING: Cangas MOVED and Morawitz SECONDED to adopt a resolution ordering construction, setting public hearing and bid letting for Public Improvement Project 2020-02, Airport Runway Lighting Project.

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

MOTION PASSED 6-0

The Mayor then declared said Resolution ADOPTED and ENACTED, this 7th day of April, 2020.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-21, FIX DATE FOR \$1.6 MILLION SRF LOAN: Rink MOVED and Cangas SECONDED to adopt a resolution fixing date for a meeting on the authorization of a loan and disbursement agreement and the issuance of Not To Exceed \$1,600,000 Sewer Revenue Capital Loan Notes of the City of Fort Madison, Iowa, and providing for publication of notice thereof.

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

MOTION PASSED 6-0

The Mayor then declared said Resolution ADOPTED and ENACTED, this 7th day of April, 2020.

OTHER

BOARD/COMMISSION REAPPOINTMENTS: Morawitz MOVED and Lair SECONDED to approve the Mayor's appointment of Jody Schulte to the Southeast Iowa Regional Riverboat Commission, term expiring December 31, 2022; and Joel Amandus to the Planning and Zoning Commission, term expiring March 31, 2023.

MOTION PASSED 6-0

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION CONCERNING THE SHUTTLING OF SOME SERVICES AND POSSIBLE LAYOFFS DURING COVID-19 CRISIS: Mohrfeld said City Manager David Varley presented a budget projection last week showing the City wouldn't be able to pay bills in six months. Mohrfeld asked Council if they wanted to consider shuttling some services and furloughing staff. He presented the following: Wait until July to open the pool, the fort and the library. He noted there could be other items, he was just opening this up for Council discussion.

At a comment from Bowker, Mohrfeld pointed out he wanted to furlough instead of lay off employees. The benefits would continue and under COVID-19 employees could receive immediate unemployment and some incentives. The City could also layoff without benefits, terminate or pay as normal. Cangas questioned if there were limits on furlough time. Mohrfeld said he knows Macy's is furloughing their employees for three months and keeping their benefits intact.

Bowker asked if this is disrupting people's lives to save \$20,000. Mohrfeld said the pool closing would save \$11,000, the library \$82,000 and fort \$27,000. The library and fort figures include benefits. If there were capital projects Council didn't want to do right now these could be deferred.

Bowker asked if there was the possibility of voluntary time off for office staff. Mohrfeld said Varley will be talking with staff this week and they will put together staffing scenarios based upon the continuing restrictions, including what a total shutdown would be like and if the virus were detected in departments.

Varley noted some possible other savings based upon the lower cost of gasoline and not opening the pool until later in the season. He expressed concern about furloughing Eugene at the Fort and said he would almost rather fire him, buy out his vacation and hire him back later. He said Eugene owns about 50 to 60 percent of the Fort's exhibits.

Morawitz felt this was asking a small number of people to take a big hit. Canags believed if persons are laid off or furloughed as long as it is directly related to the COVID-19 crisis, because of the higher level of unemployment pay persons are receiving now it might not be a hit. Bowker felt the City needed to be reasonable and logical here. It was suggested to look into the unemployment benefits if employees were furloughed, including voluntary furloughs.

Cangas said there are persons who want to be at home now because they are concerned about the pandemic, they might be willing to take a furlough.

Andrews felt more information was needed. Furloughs may need to be looked at for non-essential employees. The City is going to lose income and it will affect every department. He asked what other towns are doing.

TO BE CONSIDERED AT FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS: None

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS – None

MAYOR ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:47 P.M., the regular meeting adjourned until Tuesday, April 21, 2020, at 5:30 P.M.

MANUAL CLAIMS & WARRANTS: See Claims dated April 2, 2020, in the amount of \$374,905.33, March Manual Claims in the amount of \$53,044.84; and March Library Claims in the amount of \$12,872.98.

PAYROLL	3/27/2020
General	\$179,784.65
Special Revenue	11,009.04
Road Use	27,123.88
Water	28,823.31
Sewer	39,166.91
Solid Waste/IWC	12,184.24
Airport	489.13
Storm Water	3,733.24
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	\$302,314.40

Matt J. Mohrfeld, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melinda L. Blind, City Clerk