

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES FORT MADISON CITY COUNCIL Tuesday, December 1, 2020

The City Council met in regular session at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, December 1, 2020, at City Hall, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison. Mayor Matt Mohrfeld presided with Council Members Mark Lair, Rebecca Bowker, Rusty Andrews, Tom Schulz and Donna Amandus present either in person or electronically. Council Members Chad Cangas and Kevin Rink were absent.

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: Chris Sorrentino, 412 Avenue D, felt Council should look at ways to aid the police department so they can combat the larcenies occurring in Fort Madison.

AGENDA

Lair MOVED and Amandus SECONDED to approve the agenda.

MOTION PASSED 5-0

CONSENT AGENDA

Schulz MOVED and Lair SECONDED to approve the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of November 17, 2020;
- Claims dated November 24, 2020 and November 19, 2020 Library Claims; and
- Payroll of November 20, 2020.

MOTION PASSED 5-0

COMMUNITY UPDATES: Justin Pieper of Group Benefit Partners, reported the City's Blue Cross/Blue Shield health insurance premiums are going down by 1.53%. The City continues to partially self-fund the Plan and the Plan is performing well from a financial standpoint.

Pieper presented a proposal for a wellness plan from Health Solutions of Cedar Rapids. The estimated annual fees would be about \$10,000 and would include onsite health screenings (biometrics and labs), post screening consultations for high risk members, and health promotion support. The biometrics and lab work could be done by FMCH.

Another proposal was presented for an Employee Assistance Program from Employee and Family Resources of Des Moines. This would be a City-provided benefit of \$28.80 per employee, approximately \$2,600 a year. Some items covered under this proposal include unlimited telephonic assess to trained counselors with assistance to help them through difficult times and up to 6 face-to-face visits with local counselors if referred by the plan. This would be for employees and their family members.

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The City also offers vision and dental which are voluntary benefits fully paid by employees. The City's current vision plan, Eye Med, does not include all eye care providers in Fort Madison. A proposal was presented showing vision and dental rates from Principal/Eye Med, Principal and MetLife.

Finance Director Peggy Steffensmeier said there are 20-30 employees who use the vision or dental.

DENTAL/VISION INSURANCE: Bowker MOVED and Schulz SECONDED to approve MetLife as the City's provider for dental and vision insurance.

MOTION CARRIED 5-0

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: Bowker MOVED and Schulz SECONDED to move forward with the employee assistance program as proposed.

MOTION CARRIED 5-0

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: The Police Department will be exhausting the current eligibility list for the fourth time in 18 months and will still be down two officers. They are looking at the possibility of incentives for certified officers. An anonymous donor has offered to match up to \$5,000 in donations for the City Cemetery Restoration project if the donations are received by December 31. Since the announcement was made, more than \$3,000 in donations have been received.

The 2nd to 6th Street project is still proceeding with paperwork. The 6-10th project has been submitted to the Iowa Department of Transportation for a February bid letting. The wet weather has slowed down the Phase III PORT Trail project. The Rodeo Park connector trail is still moving along. The contractor is still working on the 8th and Avenue F parking lot project.

Approximately 70% of the rental properties in Fort Madison renewed their registrations by the November 15 deadline. The Fire Department has been responding to a large number of medical calls. The Library is getting estimates for some facelifts at the library.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

3rd READING, PARKING PROHIBITED: Bowker MOVED and Amandus SECONDED to approve the third reading of an Amendment to Title 9, Traffic, Chapter 7, Stopping, Standing, Parking, Section 6, Parking Prohibited.

Amandus noted she has heard from a lot of people regarding this matter. She has talked to the police chief and city manager and did not see any better solution than what is proposed. She said this proposal is not going to make everyone happy.

Schulz was concerned regarding why Council was looking to inconvenience persons to solve a problem that is limited to a specific area. He felt the problem was greatly exaggerated with the detour.

Bowker firmly believed safety issues supercedes convenience. She pointed out parking is restricted on one side of the street in numerous communities throughout Iowa.

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Police Chief Mark Rohloff reported that Terry Knoke (engineer, formerly of Poepping, Stone, Bach and Associates) handled the original project and said the guidelines presented to the City recommended the street widening, but they didn't want to remove the many large trees lining the street, and didn't want to outright prohibit parking. Each time a 2-4 block design was submitted to IDOT, the City had to request an exception be made to rebuild at current width.

The 2018 IDOT Traffic count from three fixed monitoring points on Avenue E after the project was completed in 2018, showed the "Annual Average Daily Use" was 3,190 vehicles. He noted there have been 26 reported collisions so far this year. The 10-year average is 15. The collisions this were six rear-end collisions, six broadside, 11 swidewipe and one single car accident. None were speed related but can readily attributed to congestion.

Andrews questioned if any of these collisions were due to distracted drivers. Chief Rohloff said that anywhere along this street you will have vehicles parked on opposite sides which creates a choke point and that creates a rear end collision.

Schulz was concerned about losing the parking along Central and Old Settlers Parks. Rohloff noted the data is present to support the decision. He said to make good decision like this is not necessarily what people want, you have to look at the greater good for the community.

Sorrentino said Avenue E is getting worse and something has to be done. He said when driving on Avenue E you lose count of how many times you have to stop for oncoming traffic.

Terri Schneider, 523 - 3rd Street, did not agree. She is a member of St. John's United Church of Christ and their handicapped parking space is on the south side of Avenue E. The church is also used by the End of the Month Meal program. Due to COVID 19, they are using a drive-up system on the south side of Avenue E for meal distribution. She felt there was a lack of available parking spaces on 10th Street.

Bowker recommended Schneider and someone else from the church meet with Rohloff and herself to discuss different options and ideas.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Bowker, Lair, Amandus
NAYES: Andrews, Schulz

MOTION FAILED 3-2

Note: Ordinances require a majority of Council, a minimum of four "ayes" to pass.

2nd READING ELECTRIC FRANCHISE: Lair MOVED and Andrews SECONDED approve the second reading of an ordinance repealing the current electric franchise, granting a new franchise to Interstate Power and Light, and imposing a franchise fee.

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

MOTION PASSED 5-0

The Mayor then declared the second reading of said Ordinance PASSED and APPROVED this 1st day of December, 2020.

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2nd READING GAS FRANCHISE: Bowker MOVED and Amandus SECONDED approve the second reading of an ordinance repealing the current gas franchise, granting a new franchise to MidAmerican Energy Company, and imposing a franchise fee.

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

MOTION PASSED 5-0

The Mayor then declared the second reading of said Ordinance PASSED and APPROVED this 1st day of December, 2020.

VACATE R-O-W: No action was taken on this matter due to a question regarding the address.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-70, PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION: Schulz MOVED and McVey SECONDED to adopt a resolution granting property tax exemption to Gary E/Barbara S McVey, Trustees Under McVey Living Trust, for property at 902 – 28th Street (garage).

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

MOTION PASSED 5-0

The Mayor then declared said Resolution ADOPTED and ENACTED this 1st day of December, 2020.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-71, ACCEPT PIP 2020-04: Lair MOVED and Andrews SECONDED to adopt a resolution accepting Public Improvement Project 2020-04, Henry Laydn Sewer Relocation.

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

MOTION PASSED 5-0

The Mayor then declared said Resolution ADOPTED and ENACTED this 1st day of December, 2020.

OTHER - None

DISCUSSION ITEMS: None

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS: At a question regarding budget preparation, Steffensmeier said staff is working on their budgets now. The Fort Madison Beautification Foundation is holding a window display contest in Fort Madison. HPC is working on a grant application with Lee County to replace the lettering on Lee County Courthouse in Fort Madison.

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MAYOR ANNOUNCEMENTS: There were none.

ADJOURNMENT: At 7:09 P.M., the regular meeting adjourned until Tuesday, December 15, 2020, at 5:30 P.M.

MANUAL CLAIMS & WARRANTS: See Claims dated November 24, 2020, in the amount of \$1,598,134.07 and November Library claims in the amount of \$7,242.40.

PAYROLL	11/20/2020
General	\$183,563.07
Old Fort	2,775.21
Emp. Benefits	6,300.17
Road Use	26,133.87
Tourism	1,529.66
Water	29,872.10
Sewer	41,059.74
Solid Waste	11,581.97
Airport	312.77
Storm Water	<u>3,734.26</u>
	\$306,862.82

Matt J. Mohrfeld, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melinda L. Blind, City Clerk