

## OTTUMWA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING NO. 4  
Council Chambers, City Hall

January 21, 2020  
5:30 O'Clock P.M.

The meeting convened at 5:31 P.M.

Present were Council Member Stevens, Meyers, Berg, Roe and Mayor Pro Tem Dalbey.

Roe moved, seconded by Meyers to approve the following consent agenda: Mins. from Reg. Mtg. No. 1 on Jan. 7, 2020 and Special Mtg. No. 2 on Jan. 9, 2020 as presented; Acknowledge Dec. financial stmt. and payment of bills as submitted by the Finance Dept.; Purchase of a Traffic Signal Conflict Monitor Tester for the Electrical Dept., total net cost \$10,980; Purchase six (6) galvanized light poles in the amount of \$16,464 to replace the City's metal street light poles that are dated and rusting out at the bases; Res. No. 13-2020, setting Feb. 4, 2020 as the date of a public hearing for the consideration of the Max Property Tax Dollars for the City's proposed FY21 Budget; Beer and/or liquor applications for: El Rancho Grande, 232 E. Main St.; Iowa Liquor & Tobacco, 1021 E. Main St.; Hy-Vee Food Store #1, 1025 N. Quincy Ave.; Fareway Stores, Inc. #648, 1325 Albia Rd.; Dollar General Store #7179, 721 N. Quincy Ave; Dollar General Store #2898, 921 E. Main St.; Recovery Room, 1805 W. Second St.; The Keg, 622 Church St., with outdoor service area; all applications pending final inspections. All ayes.

Meyers moved, seconded by Stevens to approve the agenda as presented. All ayes.

Fire Chief Miller presented a Life Saving Award to Master Fire Fighter Jeff Box for his efforts on Oct. 8, 2018 when responding to an emergency near Turkey Island in dangerous floodwaters. Also receiving this award, Nate Ware, with Canadian Pacific Railroad, as he was instrumental in operating the crane to assist in the rescue.

Main Street Ottumwa Dir., Fred Zesiger, provided his first quarterly rpt. to Council. Main Street Ottumwa's 2020 Strategic Priorities include: continue working toward organizational efficiency and financial sustainability, support property owners, businesses, and residents – particularly those affected by the streetscape improvements project, strengthen partnership/activities that make downtown Ottumwa vibrant and active, and further efforts to better "tell our story" to local officials, develops, and the world. These Strategic Priorities will be met by the efforts of the following boards and/or committees: Brd. & Exec. Dir., Economic Vitality Committee, Design Committee, Business Promotions Committee, Social Promotions Committee and the Organization Committee. Our mission is to improve the social and economic wellbeing of the district by capitalizing on the unique identity, assets, and character of our downtown area using the comprehensive Main Street Four Point Approach™. The Main Street District includes 139 businesses (28% - retail, 55% - service, 15%-food/beverages) that employ 854 full time employees and 270 part time employees. 53 units were noted as upper story housing in 2006; up to 110 units in 2019. The assessed value in 2019 for the Main Street District was \$22,379,257 which is almost a \$300,000 increase. Introduction of Chairs: Brad Grefe, President; Blaire Seims, VP; Cladia Gates, AJ Gevock, Jake McCoy, Connie Ferguson, Tricia Smith and Kolby Streeby. Main Street Iowa Open for Business Competition is a grant opportunity for any business (that is either already in the Main Street District, or moving to the Main Street District) and has been around for at least 2 yrs.

Planner Simonson presented on the Healthy Neighbors Program that awarded 8 grants to property owners in the City last year. Projects included new paint, siding, windows, roof, front porch repairs, structural repairs, soffit and fascia repairs. Would like to continue this initiative for 2020.

Interim City Admin. Lazio stated we will hold a Special Wrk Session Jan. 28, 2020, at 5:30 P.M. in council chambers to discuss CSO Ph. 8, Div. 1 Project and Funding.

Mayor Pro Tem Dalbey inquired if there was anyone from the audience who wished to address an item on the agenda. Tom L. Johnson would like to speak on Item F-4 and Victoria Sentria wished to speak on Item H-5.

City Engineer Dohlman reported on FY 2021 Tier 1 Energy Efficiency Projects – Update Facilities Maint. Rpt. Council requested a listing of the energy efficiency projects that would be eligible for rebates. Shown are projects listed under Tier 1 that would be eligible for Alliant or MidAmerican rebates. Call your attention to the HVAC Schematic Design for City Hall. This provides options to consider replacement of our boiler system. I would consider setting up a special work session to discuss this list in greater detail.

Roe moved, seconded by Meyers to award the contract for the Beach Reno Ph. 4, RFP 6X Drainage Improvements to D.C. Concrete & Construction, LLC in the amount of \$22,455 and authorize the Mayor Pro Tem to sign the contract. Parks & Rec. Dir. Rathje reported four bids were received. The project will be completed by May 15, 2020, weather permitting. All ayes.

Meyers moved, seconded by Roe to maintain current policy for ownership and financial responsibility for repair of sewer laterals to City owned and maintained sewers as it was previously questioned at 1422 N. Elm St. from the mtg. on Jan. 7, 2020. PW Dir. Seals discussed that home owners have the option to purchase Homeserve insurance. Coverage level depends on the purchased plan. There is a 30 day activation period and it cannot be a known pre-existing condition to qualify. All ayes.

Mr. Tom L. Johnson was called to the podium to discuss the petition he filed with the City Clerk on Dec. 19, 2019, requesting the removal of a German Shepherd dog located at 1443 S. Ferry St. The USPS stopped delivery of mail service to Mr. Johnson's residence due to the dog viciously attacking one of the mail carriers. He requests that the dog be removed from city limits in accordance with our City Code. This is an example of a dangerous animal which has demonstrated a propensity without provocation to attack or bite.

Police Chief McAndrew and Animal Control Officer Williams discussed this incident. Officer Williams investigated an incident involving a German Shepherd at 1443 S. Ferry St. that bit a mailman causing injuries to his face and chest requiring stitches on Dec. 1, 2019. The dog was not provoked. Officer Williams determined that the dog had been restrained inside a kennel; however, the dog was able to utilize a board that had been placed inside the kennel to escape over the kennel fencing. The board has since been removed and the kennel appears capable of properly restraining the dog. The Police Dept. has no credible reports of the dog running loose or the dog attacking anyone else; therefore advised the owners that the dog could stay in the City as long as it remained properly restrained. It would be removed from the City if the animal bites another person. It was further stated that the owners relinquished the dog to Heartland Humane to be adopted out to a residence outside of city limits.

A motion was made by Meyers to remove the dog from inside City limits. Seconded by Stevens. All ayes.

Roe moved, seconded by Berg to approve the addition of two counties (Appanoose and Lucas) to our Southeast Iowa Response Group (SIRG) 28-E Agreements, and make them a part of our Regional Haz Mat response team. Fire Chief Miller reported these two counties will be added July 1, 2020. They join the following counties: Clarke, Davis, Decatur, Jefferson, Van Buren, Monroe, Ringgold, Wapello and Wayne. All ayes.

Meyers moved, seconded by Berg that Res. No. 8-2020, approving Change Order No. 1, and accepting the work as final and complete and approving the final pay request in the amount of \$15,406.54 for the 2019 Sanitary Utility Access Program, be passed and adopted. PW Dir. Seals reported change order no. 1 increases the contract by \$4,683.54; making the new contract sum \$60,336.64. All ayes.

Roe moved, seconded by Berg that Res. No. 15-2020, authorizing the Mayor Pro Tem to execute a Pipeline License Contract between BNSF Railway Company and the City of Ottumwa for Preliminary work on CSO, Ph. 8, Blake's Branch, Div. 1 Project, be passed and adopted. PW Dir. Seals reported we were able to increase the agreement from 25 to 50 yr. lease agreement. The fee for processing the agreement is \$1,500. Staff recommends purchasing BNSF Railroad Protective Liability Insurance for \$1,266. All ayes.

Berg moved, seconded by Meyers that Res. No. 17-2020, removing a special assessment applied to a vacant lot on N. McPherson, on Res. No. 5-2008 and rescinding Res. No. 2-2020, be passed and adopted. Dir. of Hlth. Insp. & Planning Flanagan reported the vacant lot had two special mowing assessments, one from 2008 and one from 2018. The assessment from 2018 was paid leaving the assessment from 2008. The 2008 mowing assessment was in the amount of \$173 plus the county's \$5 admin. fee. The original assessment has since accrued penalties of \$353. All ayes.

Roe moved, seconded by Meyers that Res. No. 18-2020, approving applications for residential and commercial tax abatement under the Urban Revitalization Plan, subject to review with local assessor, be passed and adopted. Dir. of Hlth. Insp. & Planning Flanagan reported this resolution approves 6 residential and 2 commercial tax abatement applications subject to review by the local assessor. All ayes.

Meyers moved, seconded by Stevens that Res. No. 19-2020, continue operations at Ottumwa Transit Auth. with a fixed route system in the City of Ottumwa, be passed and adopted. Victoria Centria stated how she feels the 10-15 transit service is valuable to the City. It is important to clarify what prompted this change in services – it was driven by the IDOT to have both entities develop a MOU to not compete for services. The IDOT cannot justify double funding for the same services. Transit Dir. Silverio stated they will do whatever is required to make this work. We want to make sure we are taking care of those that were relying heavily on 10-15 for services (elderly, disabled) and more sensitive to the needs of the handicap/paratransit. Keeping these services in place provides an opportunity to move ahead with the strategic plans OTA wants to accomplish. Transit will bring monthly reports to Council. All ayes.

Mayor Pro Tem Dalbey inquired if anyone from the audience wished to address an item not on the agenda. There were none.


Interim City Admin. Lazio reminded everyone the City Admin. candidates are coming to Ottumwa this Friday and Saturday. There will be a dinner with Council on Friday at BVC, starting at 5:00 P.M. with a meet and greet following at 6:30 P.M. for the public to visit and ask questions. Sat. morning, interviews with the candidates will start at 8:30 A.M. in council chambers at City Hall. Candidates will be interviewed by Council, Dept. Heads, and a Public Forum as they move throughout City Hall. Council will eventually go into closed session to discuss the candidates.

Finance requests feedback and direction from Council on their main goals for the upcoming fiscal year. There will be some tough decisions to make with the budget.


There being no further business, Berg moved, seconded by Stevens that the meeting adjourn. All ayes.

Adjournment was at 7:07 P.M.

CITY OF OTTUMWA, IOWA

  
Matt Dalbey, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

  
Christina Reinhard, City Clerk