

OTTUMWA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING NO. 8
Council Chambers, City Hall

March 2, 2021
5:30 O'Clock P.M.

The meeting convened at 5:30 P.M.

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

Roe moved, seconded by Meyers to approve the following consent agenda: Mins. from Regular Mtg. No. 6 on Feb. 16, 2021 as presented; Civil Service Commission Eligibility List for Feb. 24, 2021 – Firefighter Entrance; Approve purchase of 2021 Vermeer SC802 Stump Grinder for the Parks Dept. for \$54,775; Res. No. 47-2021, setting March 16, 2021 as the date of a public hearing on the disposition of City owned property at 210 S. Van Buren; Res. No. 51-2021, approving contract, bonds, and cert. of insurance for Johnson Ave Reconstruction Project; Beer and/or liquor applications for: Noe's Bar & Grill, 101 S. Madison Ave; MAD Ave Quick Shop, 405 S. Madison Ave.; all applications pending final inspections. All ayes.

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

City Admin. Rath reported on the Strategic Plan from Council Retreat and an update on the status of Human Rights Commission. Working towards a plan that will be thoughtful and sustainable for long term. Will present to council for future adoption.

Mayor Lazio inquired if there was anyone from the audience who wished to address an item on the agenda. The following addressed the council on Item F-3, rejecting FBO and proceed with assuming as municipal operation.

Joe Wilson, 6010 Cliffland Rd. – five yrs. ago, council was given the option to pick between two companies for FBO services and you made the right decision; Archangel did exactly what they said they would do; the more commercial flights that come in to an airport, the FAA awards points and Archangel increased the fuel flowage; an FBO is a service industry for the City and the community; I believe this decision should not be hurried and left in the private sector.

Steve Palen, 25 Schwartz Dr. – presented a proposal for FBO – Sociable Air, Inc.; the ultimate goal of all of us is to better the airport; what path will we take? Ask any pilot and they will tell you that there is a difference from a city ran airport to that privately ran by FBO – you can feel it as soon as you land; I want to make Ottumwa more than just another flyover airport; what you will see tonight are my numbers compared to city numbers; if you decide to venture off and go down a different route, I will still be here and would love the opportunity.

Meyers moved, seconded by Roe to approve the Ottumwa Fire Dept. to hire part-time firefighters. Chief Miller reported OT costs greatly increased when 20% of staff was reduced. We need a minimum daily staffing of six firefighters and if we can hire part-time staff, it would save on OT costs. Both Deputy Chief Bengé and I visited with Fire Dept. in the DSM Metro area that currently employ part-time staff to see how the process works; we are looking for council approval to begin this process. We will keep 26 FT staff, and hire PT to help fill gaps in coverage. Will put in front of Local #395 Union for negotiations on wages, benefits. These part time positions will not be civil service sanctioned. A formal proposal will be brought to council for approval prior to any hiring. Council members were not comfortable in keeping this item as stated and amended said motion.

Meyers moved, seconded by Roe to amend Item F-1 to read as: Explore opportunity for the Fire Dept. to research and develop a plan to hire/employ part time firefighters. All ayes.

Dalbey moved, seconded by Berg to approve the Ottumwa Fire Dept. to sell both 2010 Chevy Rescue Squad Trucks from their fleet. Chief Miller stated he has brought this item to council before. It worked to have both trucks when we had 10 person crews and operated with 3 vehicles (3/2/2) so if another call came in, part of the crew could leave to take care of it. When cut to 6 person crews, we are 3/3 in two vehicles and do not need a third one. Anytime we drop below 6 in a crew, we will not have the manpower to run an add'l vehicle. Council is concerned with potential hiring of part time employees, could we see a need for the third vehicle? Chief Miller stated the trucks were great when we had larger crews but now, we are not using them to their full advantage, and we have an interested buyer already. Council amended the motion.

Meyers moved, seconded by Roe to amend to approve selling the higher mileage 2010 Chevy Rescue squad truck (Unit 301) and to retain the 2010 Chevy Rescue squad truck (Unit 304) with lower mileage. All ayes.

Dalbey moved, seconded by Roe to reject all proposals recd for RFP for Fixed Base Operator (FBO) services at the Ottumwa Reg. Airport and proceed with assuming operations internally. City Admin. Rath stated on Jan. 5, 2021, the City Council auth. staff to proceed with the re-solicitation of proposals for FBO services. Based upon the receipt of a single proposal at a much higher cost than anticipated in the initial process, city staff examined the possibility of assuming operations internally. The second time around, the City recd two proposals; however, there is still a general concern that neither would be financially sustainable. Of the two proposals, the Airport Adv. Brd. has recommended that of Sociable Air. The proposed cost to the Airport for this proposal is \$63,850 per yr. (assuming a new agt. with Musco.) City staff is confident that this operation could be absorbed into the structure of the City. That would provide greater flexibility for long-term financial stability.

Council members voiced concerns with customer service, hospitality and marketing abilities with assuming operations internally. Citizens do not want another tax levy. City Admin. Rath stated these are things we are working on – to hire someone who is an expert in the aviation field and respected among pilots; collaborate with IHCC for maintenance operations. Councilman Dalbey stated he would rather see things like this remain in private hands but the financials don't add up; we have to do what makes the best financial sense for the city; this is the safe route for now and can see how things go. Councilman Roe agreed from a financial perspective, this makes sense; however, looking at FY25 when the cash balance dips to \$13,000, what is the plan if we have a catastrophic event and not enough funds to cover? Additionally, our Comp Plan describes our airport as a diamond in the rough for this region and it is needed as an economic driver. What is the real plan to make sure the airport is successful? Councilman Meyers stated we are being asked to accept a city plan that is not fully developed. City Admin. Rath stated the only time constraint is working on the official hiring of employees, acquiring the necessary equipment for operations and working out any negotiated arrangements with utilities and other entities; we want to be able to provide FBO services as soon as possible. Vote taken. Ayes: Dalbey, Roe, Stevens. Nays: Meyers, Berg. Motion Carried 3-2.

This was the time, place and date set for a public hearing for the purpose of considering options for the nomination process for selection of City Representatives in Ottumwa. Attorney Stone presented the following options per IA Ch. 376, City Elections. Currently, the default provision is a primary election and is what Ottumwa follows. When you have more than twice the number of candidates of the positions to be filled, the primary is held 4 wks. before the general election and will put the top two candidates on the ballot. Ch. 376 allows to choose a runoff process instead of a primary. If neither of these are what the

city wants, Ch. 44 allows for Caucus Convention Process, or Ch. 45 is nomination by petition. You can also allow runoffs with both of these options. If a runoff is selected, this is held 4 wks. after the city election and positions remain unfilled because of non majority vote. To change the election process, the City would need to adopt by ordinance, the process they wish to utilize. You need to have the changes in place at least 90 days prior to the election in Nov. 2021.

Mary Stewart of the IA League of Women Voters stated at this point of time in history, anything to do with elections and voting is a matter of great seriousness and consequence. I encourage council and city leadership to consider very carefully any nomination process and research all of your options; consider pros/cons of each process before making a decision. Roe moved, seconded by Dalbey to close the public hearing. All ayes.

Attorney Stone stated the most common procedure that she has seen is the petition process as outlined in Ch. 45. Council person Berg stated this could be a cost savings for our citizens if we decide to move away from the primary process.

This was the time, place and date set for a public hearing on the renewal of a five yr lease agt with Musco Sports Lighting, LLC for the south half of Bldg. No. 23 at the Ottumwa Reg. Airport, Ottumwa, IA. City Admin. Rath reported on Feb. 25, 2016, the City and Musco entered into a 5 yr. lease for a hangar at the airport. This agt. expires Feb. 28, 2021 and contains a renewal clause for an add'l five yrs. upon mutual consent of both parties. In general, this arrangement has been working well and Musco has requested to continue with the lease. The only potential issue was identified during the current search for a FBO and the way the language is structured related to rent and fuel pricing. Musco has agreed to continue conversations as the FBO search is resolved.

Don Wasson, Chair, Airport Adv. Brd. asked for clarification on the terms of the lease we are extending; if we looked at the square footage, is this a comparable rate to what everyone else has to pay in rent? City Admin. Rath explained we are requesting to move forward with the lease renewal in order to still receive the minimum amount of revenue. We will look at rental terms/rates and negotiate for the future.

No objections were recd. Meyers moved, seconded by Dalbey to close the public hearing. All ayes.

Roe moved, seconded by Dalbey that Res. No. 53-2021, authorize the renewal of a five yr. lease agt. with Musco Sports Lighting, LLC for the south half of Bldg. No. 23 at the Ottumwa Reg. Airport, Ottumwa, IA, be passed and adopted. All ayes.

Meyers moved, seconded by Roe that Res. No. 8-2021, approve Change Order #10R, in the amt of \$61,613.04 for the Main St. (Downtown Streetscape) Reconstruction Project, be passed and adopted. PW Dir. Seals reported new contract sum \$5,302,787.23. All ayes.

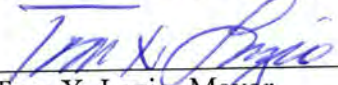
Dalbey moved, seconded by Berg that Res. No. 52-2021, award the contract for the Woodland Ave Reconstruction Project to Drish Construction of Fairfield, IA in the amount of \$857,279.65, be passed and adopted. PW Dir. Seals reported two bids recd. All ayes.

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

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

Adjournment was at 7:23 P.M.

CITY OF OTTUMWA, IOWA



Tom X. Lazio, Mayor

ATTEST:



Christina Reinhard, City Clerk

