

REGULAR MEETING NO. 21
Council Chambers, City Hall

August 1, 2023
5:30 O'Clock P.M.

The meeting convened at 5:30 P.M.

Present were Council Member Pope, Roe, Galloway, McAntire, Hull and Mayor Johnson.

Hull moved, seconded by Galloway to approve consent agenda items: Mins. from Special Mtg. No. 19 on July 17, 2023 & Regular Mtg. No. 20 on July 18, 2023 as presented; Re-appointment of Landon Allen to Parks Adv. Brd., term to expire 8/16/28; Civil Service Comm. Elig. Lists for July 19, 2023: Firefighter Entrance; Order Accepting Ack./Settlement Agt. between City of Ottumwa and Casey's #1678 (346 Richmond Ave.); Beer and/or liquor applications for: Elks – Ottumwa Lodge #347, 413 S. Iowa Ave; Wal-Mart Supercenter #1285, 1940 Venture Dr.; Owl's Nest, 116 S. Court, OSA for event on 8/12/23; all applications pending final inspections. All ayes.

Roe moved, seconded by McAntire to approve agenda as presented. All ayes.

City Admin. Rath shared news release from 7/31/23; Fire Fighter Investigation Results. The City is committed to a continuity of public service as we work through staffing changes and appreciate the community's support and understanding during this sensitive time.

Mayor Johnson inquired if anyone from the audience wished to address an item on the agenda. David Lock would like to discuss Item F-2 and Dave Stromgren wants to discuss Item I-3.

This was the time, place and date set for a public hearing approving plans, specs. form of contract and Est. cost for City Hall Improvements Project. Rath discussed change of scope for rebid; bids are due 8/23/23. No objections rec'd. Galloway moved, seconded by Pope to close public hearing. All ayes.

Roe moved, seconded by Galloway that Res. No. 119-2023, approving plans, specs., form of contract and Est. cost for City Hall Improvements Project, be passed and adopted. All ayes.

This was the time, place and date set for a public hearing on the matter of proposed reallocation of certain unspent proceeds of Gen. Obligation Capital Loan Notes, Series 2022A, of the City of Ottumwa, IA.

McAntire moved, seconded by Pope that Res. No. 121-2023, ratifying, confirming and approving publication of notice of Public Hearing for Reallocation of Not to exceed \$700,000 Gen. Obligation Capital Loan Notes, Series 2022A of the City of Ottumwa, IA, be passed and adopted. All ayes.

Rath explained, OCSO took responsibility of managing bidding process and overseeing construction of tennis courts; the City now needs to change classification of the Bonds that were originally requested for the project, to allow the City's portion (\$700,000 is the limit of reclassified bonds). The City currently has a sewer separation project (CSO) that has been ongoing for the past 19 years that is going through the site proposed for tennis court build. Scope and location of the tennis courts may need to change. The City is now looking at using some funds to rehab the current Staggs courts (which are on City property).

Galloway questioned the dollar amount; now we are looking at roughly \$1.2 Million for the combined projects when we originally agreed to bond for and contribute \$750,000 for the one project for new courts. Coming up with an extra \$500,000 is a lot of money; in the near future we are going to be asked to approve more funds for this project.

Roe asked, in the Master Park Plan that we recently adopted, where do the Staggs tennis courts fit into the plan? Rath answered, these tennis courts will not remain in the Master Park Plan; this area will be turned into softball & baseball fields; looking at 10-15 year build out. So, why would we spend upwards of a half million dollars to rehab tennis courts that will be demolished in the near future?

Mr. Lock added, tennis courts are a great idea, but the streets where you want to locate them are horrible; currently only a one-way street; have the costs for fixing the streets been factored into the project? Response from Rath, part of the CSO project includes street repair.

Roe moved, seconded by Galloway to close the public hearing. All ayes.

McAntire moved, seconded by Galloway to table Res. No. 122-2023, instituting proceedings to take additional action and approving the reallocation of certain unspent proceeds of the General Obligation Capital Loan Notes, Series 2022A of the City of Ottumwa, IA. All ayes.

Roe moved, seconded by Hull to pass first consideration of Ord. No. 3215-2023, amending Municipal Code of the City of Ottumwa, IA by repealing and replacing Sections 2-30 and 2-58 of Ch. 2 for the purpose of increasing compensation of the Mayor and City Council Members. All ayes.

Hull moved, seconded by McAntire that Res. No. 120-2023, approving Right-of-Way Agt. between City of Ottumwa and Citizens Mutual Telephone Cooperative (CMTC) and auth. Mayor to sign Agt., be passed and adopted. All ayes.

Roe moved, seconded by Galloway that Res. No. 123-2023, approve Leasing Agt. between GOVTEMPSUSA, LLC and City of Ottumwa for Provision of Finance Consultation Services, be passed and adopted. All ayes.

Hull moved, seconded by McAntire that Res. No. 124-2023, designating a portion of Minerva Ave. with Honorary Name – Trevor’s Way, be passed and adopted. Mr. Stromgren shared information about Trevor and his battle with cancer. All ayes.

Mayor Johnson inquired if anyone from the audience wished to address an item not on the agenda. Zachary Guiter – requests clarification on State Code vs. City Code in identifying certain species of snakes to be allowed within city limits; can you make City Code concurrent with IA Code and add Burmese Python?

Lester DenHartog – Clarification on why 1% LOST hasn’t dropped off of retail purchases; it was explained that 1% LOST did drop off of utility billing, but was replaced with 3% franchise fee; retailers are still allowed to charge LOST; and the county lost \$150,000 because of this.

Andrea Songer-Dudley – Purchased several bags of compost and put in her garden; had to contact USDA and Wapello County as the compost was laced with noxious weeds that have taken over her garden. Pig Weed is extremely toxic. They recommend burning all of the pulled weeds to keep it from spreading, but this is against City Code. Any way to examine Code to amend for any exceptions in case of emergencies?

Council recessed at 6:27 P.M.

Council reconvened at 6:36 P.M. in Room 108 for closed session proceedings.

Present were Council Member Pope, Roe, Galloway, McAntire, Hull and Mayor Johnson.

Roe moved, seconded by Galloway to enter closed session in accordance with IA Code Section 21.5(1)(i). (“To evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual’s reputation and that individual requests a closed session.”) for the purpose of discussing City Administrator’s performance goals that are tied to his evaluation and his employment contract. All ayes.

The meeting entered closed session at 6:37 P.M.

Roe moved, seconded by Galloway to return to open session at 7:16 P.M. All ayes.

There being no further business, McAntire moved, seconded by Pope that the mtg. adjourn. All ayes.

Adjournment was at 7:16 P.M.

CITY OF OTTUMWA, IOWA

Richard W. Johnson
Richard W. Johnson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Christina Reinhard
Christina Reinhard, CMC, City Clerk

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