REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, April 6, 2020

The Cambridge City Council met in regular session on Monday, April 6, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at the Cambridge Community Center and via Zoom with the following council members present: Mayor Kovarik, Macki, Todd, Baxter, Thom, McBreen. Absent: None. Visitors: Dale Hennick, J.J. Caliguiri, Andrew Larson.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kovarik at 7:00 p.m. He led the council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Kovarik asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the March 9th and 16th meetings. A motion by Macki, seconded by McBreen, to approve the minutes as written. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Comments from the audience were asked for HPD Officer Caliguiri addressing the council concerning enforcement of public facilities and playground closures. Putting up signs and posting on social media was also discussed.

Andrew Larson, Ankeny Sanitation, addressed the council concerning this proposal to provide garbage service for the city. He stated that his company has been providing garbage services to the city and participating in community events for the last 15 years and they would like to continue. Todd asked him about providing recycling service. He indicated that it is available at an additional charge per household. Mayor Kovarik asked that a vote on the two proposals be held at the May regular council meeting to allow time for the council to review the proposals.

Public Works Director Dale Hennick reported that two evergreen trees need to be removed at the cemetery. The council discussed replacing the trees, but Hennick indicated they are too close to power lines.

Following is a summary of receipts for March: General Fund, $11,263.10; TIF Fund, $9,882.46; Road Use Tax, $4,192.08; Economic Development Fund, $2,887.33; Debt Service, $622.13; C.U.T. Fire Fund, $1.81; Library Fund, $51.48; Garbage Utility, $5,645.72; Water Utility, $11,799.06; Sewer Utility, $10,107.28. Total Receipts: 56,452.45.

Following is a summary of disbursements for March: General Fund, $20,769.46; Road Use Tax, $2,674.43; Economic Development Fund, $8,280.00; C.U.T. Fire Fund, $1,956.63; Library Fund, $1,121.99; Garbage Utility, $6,561.12; Water Utility, $2,036.55; Sewer Utility, $12,379.44. Total Disbursements: $55,779.62.

The following list of claims was presented to the council for April:

 AG SOURCE Analysis 787.50

 ALLIANT ENERGY Monthly Service 5,088.01

 ANKENY SANITATION Service-March 6,534.87

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 BAKER & TAYLOR Books, DVD’s 513.64

 CITY OF HUXLEY Police Contract 13,806.76

 CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT Fees, Costs 85.00

 DEMCO Bar Code Labels 241.10

 EFTPS Fed. & FICA W/H 2,737.88

 EMERGENCY MEDICAL Supplies 369.79

 PRODUCTS

 FEH DESIGN Fees – Opera House 14,559.00

 FIDELITY BANK Printed Checks 161.14

 FOX ENGINEERING Fees 3,511.83

 GATEHOUSE MEDIA IOWA Publishing 664.69

 HAWKINS, INC. Water Treatment 274.20

 HEARTLAND CO-OP Fuel 1,862.25

 HUXLEY COMMUNICATIONS Monthly Service 421.95

 INTERSTATE BATTERIES OF Batteries 260.90

 UPPER IOWA

 I P E R S Retirement 1,746.83

 JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL Supplies 205.78

 KEMPKER’S TRUE VALUE Supplies 146.54

 KOVARIK, STEVEN Reimb. Zoom Fee 517.41

 LEGARDE, CINDY Utility Deposit Refund 40.00

 MARCO Copier, Supplies 135.40

 MENARDS Inverter, Supplies 743.45

 MOLLY MAID OF ANKENY Cleaning Services 490.00

 RUSSELL, ANNA Reimb. For Supplies 19.98

 72 DEGREES Service Call, Repair 1,064.00

 SPORTS ILLUSTRATED Subscription 29.00

 STOREY KENWORTHY Utility Bills 274.61

 TIME VALUE HOLDINGS Utility Deposit Refund 100.00

 ULINE Supplies 56.32

 U.S. CELLULAR Monthly Service 72.93

 U.S. POSTMASTER Billing Postage 140.00

 VANWALL EQUIPMENT Parts 164.28

 VISA Supplies 182.87

 WAGES Net Wages 8,730.66

 WELLMARK BC/BS Health Premium 3,955.86

 TOTAL CLAIMS $70,696.43

After discussion, a motion by Macki, seconded by Thom, to accept the receipts and approve all claims for payment. Roll Call: All Ayes.

The treasurer’s report, budget balances report, bank reconciliation and list of outstanding checks, and police report were presented and accepted by the council.

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Reports from standing committees were asked for with the council discussing issuing courtesy notice for solid waste and parking violations during the pandemic. The council also discussing scheduling an appliance/scrap metal event this spring. Todd will look into it. Thom reported on the Story County Economic Development Group’s April 3rd meeting. Related to the pandemic, small business loans and grants were discussed. The sale of gift cards for local business through the Ames Chamber of Commerce was initiated. McBreen discussed making an application for a grant for an electronic sign. The council also discussed assistance available to citizens and governments through the federal CARES Act.

The first item under old business concerned the Wastewater Treatment System Project. The clerk reported that Fox Engineering and Simmering Cory are working together to resolve the easement issue and to reapply for a CDBG grant for the project. The clerk reported that a public hearing has been scheduled for May 4th to consider making an application for an SRF loan for the project and to present the finds of the environmental review.

The next item concerned the Cambridge Opera House project. The council discussed the estimate of costs, progress on the REDGL loan, and the schedule for bid letting. The clerk reported that the public hearing on amending the city’s urban renewal plan to include this project had been rescheduled for Monday, May 4, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at the Cambridge Community Center and via Zoom.

The next item concerned the budget for the city for fiscal years 2020/21. The clerk indicated that the public hearing for amending the FY2020 budget will be held at the end of May or first part of June.

The last item under old business concerned the review of the city code related to fireworks and building codes. The council reviewed the drafts that Todd had completed, and after discussion, will move forward with the code amendments.

The first item under new business concerned the contract for garbage service for the city. The current contract with Ankeny Sanitation will expire on June 30, 2020. Two proposals have been received. Mayor Kovarik will scan and send the proposals to the council for their review before the contract is awarded in May.

The next item concerned the year’s Firemen’s Days celebration. After discussion, a motion by Macki, seconded by Thom, to cancel the celebration for this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Roll Call: All Ayes.

The last item under new business concerned the hiring of an assistant public works director. Mayor Kovarik reported that the current assistant is planning to resign at the end of June. This is a part-time position, 25-30 hours per week. He will send the notice and job description used previously to the council for their review and updating.

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Resolution No. 20-09, “Resolution Setting Date for Public Hearing on Urban Renewal Plan Amendment”, was presented to the council. A motion by Thom, seconded by Macki, was made to approve the resolution setting the date for the public hearing for Monday, May 4, 2020. Roll Call: Ayes: Baxter, Macki, McBreen, Thom, Todd. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Mayor/Council comments were asked for with Mayor Kovarik relaying information he received at the county emergency management meeting last week related to the pandemic. These included statistics on losses, business closures and expansions. The council also discussed maintaining necessary city services. Macki discussed services to the elderly and school age children that he is assisting with, including food and educational services.

A motion by Todd, seconded by Thom, to adjourn the meeting. Roll Call: All Ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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Debra L. Thompson, City Clerk Steven P. Kovarik, Mayor