

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, January 6, 2020

The Cambridge City Council met in regular session on Monday, January 6, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall with the following council members present: Todd, Mayor Kovarik, Macki, McBreen, Thom, Baxter. Absent: None. Visitors: Dale Hennick, Dustin Ingram, Joyce Williams, J.J. Caliguiri, Mike Manoch, Ned Miller, Zach Pelz, Sara Spohnheimer, Don Seymour.

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.

The first item on the agenda was the swearing in of newly elected council members. Whitney Baxter and Tricia Todd were sworn in by Mayor Kovarik to serve 4-year terms.

The next item was the appointment of the Mayor Pro-Tem, City Attorney and Standing Committees for the 2020 calendar year. A motion by Macki to nominate Thom as Mayor Pro-Tem, seconded by McBreen. Roll Call: All Ayes. A motion by Macki to nominate Michael Lewis, Lewis Law Firm, as city attorney, seconded by Thom. Roll Call: All Ayes. The following council appointments to standing committees were made: Water-Thom; Sewer/Solid Waste-Todd; Road-Baxter; Cemetery/Park/Library-Macki; Finance/Economic Development-Thom; Communications-McBreen.

Mayor Kovarik asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the December 2nd meeting. A motion by Macki, seconded by Thom, to approve the minutes as written. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Ned Miller, Safety Coordinator for Ballard Schools, and Mike Manoch, Ballard East Principal, addressed the council concerning the use of the City Center as the gathering point for students in care of an emergency requiring evacuation of the school. They discussed options for accessing the building, which would be completed at no cost to the city. Mayor Kovarik indicated that the building currently does not have a back-up generator and are pursuing grants and other sources of funding for this upgrade. After discussion, the council had no objection to the use of the City Center by the school.

Sara Spohnheimer, representing J. Von Gutenbosen Corp., 119 Water Street, gave the clerk the certificate of liability insurance for the new year, and discussed the status of roof repairs for the building. She indicated that they are bringing in an engineer to evaluate the roof structures and make a recommendation of repairs needed.

Joyce Williams, 518 Main Street, addressed the council with a complaint about fireworks on New Year's Eve. She felt the noise and duration were excessive. Mayor Kovarik indicated that he had received several complaints, and that the city currently follows state code but would be reviewing that. Ms. Williams also discussed improving the appearance of the city, and asked if an electronic sign could be purchased to replace the existing sign at the corner of 3rd and Water Street.

Dustin Ingram, Ames Chamber of Commerce, introduced himself to new council members, and discussed the work he has been doing with the council, including the application for a derelict building grant for the Cambridge Opera House project. He also discussed plans by the county to conduct a housing needs assessment for each community in the county, not just the larger ones.

Zach Pelz, Cambridge/Union Township Fire Department, provided a report to the council of the department's activities for 2019. He also discussed the purchase of new radios, and announced that Union Township has agreed to pay for half of the cost of them. They will be presenting a check at their next fire department meeting.

Following is a summary of receipts for December: General Fund, \$14,669.57; TIF Fund, \$17,431.50; Road Use Tax, \$6,554.02; Debt Service, \$1,104.71; C.U.T. Fire Fund, \$8,061.01; Library Fund, \$996.31; Garbage Utility, \$7,442.68; Water Utility, \$10,645.92; Sewer Utility, \$8,247.76. Total Receipts: 75,153.48.

Following is a summary of disbursements for December: General Fund, \$16,751.26; TIF Fund, \$15,910.38; Road Use Tax, \$9,855.23; Debt Service, \$2,274.71; C.U.T. Fire Fund, \$790.12; Garbage Utility, \$6,534.87; Water Utility, \$18,236.72; Sewer Utility, \$4,504.15. Total Disbursements: \$74,857.44.

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

AG SOURCE	Analysis	765.50
ALLIANT ENERGY	Monthly Service	5,018.35
AMES OUTDOOR SUPPLY	Mower, Snow Blower Repair	795.70
ANKENY SANITATION	Service-December	6,609.87
BAKER, KERRY	Utility Deposit Refund	100.00
BROWN SUPPLY CO.	Culvert	444.00
CAMB. MEMORIAL LIBRARY	Reimb. Bank Fees	56.00
CITY OF HUXLEY	Police Contract	13,806.76
EFTPS	Fed. & FICA W/H	2,985.45
EMERGENCY MEDICAL PRODUCTS	Supplies	547.52
FEH DESIGN	Fees-222 Water	46,706.19
FOX ENGINEERING	Fees	13,344.00
GATEHOUSE MEDIA IOWA	Publishing	508.15
HACH	Testing Supplies	341.52
HAWKINS, INC.	Water Treatment	269.10
HUXLEY COMMUNICATIONS	Monthly Service	421.80
I P E R S	Retirement	1,742.28
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	Supplies	161.94
KEMPKER'S TRUE VALUE	Supplies	257.98
MENARDS	Air Compressor, Supplies	708.82

MOLLY MAID OF ANKENY	Cleaning Services	485.00
PRECISION UNDERGROUND	Repair Water Main	687.50
UTILITIES		
72 DEGREES	Service Call	89.00
SIMMERING-CORY	CDBG Survey, Grant Writing	4,950.00
STOREY-KENWORTHY	Utility Bills	257.06
THOMPSON, DEBRA	Reimb. Office Supplies	54.55
U.S. CELLULAR	Monthly Service	73.14
U.S. POSTMASTER	Billing Postage	140.00
WAGES	Net Wages	8,334.22
WELLMARK BC/BS	Health Premium	<u>3,955.86</u>
TOTAL CLAIMS		\$114,540.32

After discussion, a motion by Thom, seconded by Todd, 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.

Reports from standing committees were asked for Todd discussing the process for issuing notices for parking and solid waste violations. The council also discussed whether a code change should be considered to clarify definitions and penalties for violations. Don Seymour, FEH Design, discussed with the council the proposed plans for the Cambridge Opera House Project. He reviewed the scope of the project, the phasing plan for bidding and construction, the probable cost, and a schedule for the project. He also discussed areas where they had been able to scale down the finishes and mechanicals to lower the project cost. The council scheduled a public hearing to consider the sale of Lot #4 in the Cambridge Industrial Park for Monday, January 20, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. The council also discussed sledding at the cemetery, a potential hearing date for the REDLG loan, and the budget workshop the clerk and McBreen attended last month.

The first item under old business concerned the Wastewater Treatment System Project. An email from the IDNR indicates that more field work may be required related to the new sewer outfall. They need to be sure that the area has not been previously undisturbed. This will likely delay the project moving forward. IDNR approvals were received for the Antidegradation Alternatives Analysis and for Amendment 1 of the Facilities Plan.

The last item under old business was the health and dental insurance renewals for city employees. The clerk reported that she was able to work with the city's agent and modify the policy for a rate of \$3,955.86. This represents a saving of approximately \$7,000 per year. A motion by Macki, seconded by McBreen, to approve the renewal at the new rate. Roll Call: All Ayes.

The first item under new business concerned the budget for the fiscal years 2019/20. The clerk discussed with the council the addition of another step in the budget process by the state legislature. This step requires a public hearing and resolution to establish a maximum property tax levy. This will need to be done before the rest of the budget can be prepared. This is being done to inform property owners of a potential increase in the property tax dollars they could be paying. The council scheduled the first budget work session for Monday, January 20th at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, and the public hearing to establish a maximum property tax levy for Monday, February 3, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Mayor/Council comments were asked for with the council discussing the fireworks complaints.

A motion by Macki, seconded by Todd, to adjourn the meeting. Roll Call: All Ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Debra L. Thompson, City Clerk

Steven P. Kovarik, Mayor