REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, December 6, 2021

The Cambridge City Council met in regular session on Monday, December 6, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at the Cambridge Community Center with the following council members present: Mayor Steven Kovarik, Barb McBreen, Michael Macki, Whitney Baxter, David Thom. Absent: None. Visitors: Dona Cowman, Crystal Hughes, Dana Accola, Bobby Chubbic, David Hilgenberg, Mat Kahler, Mark Benson, Dale Hennick, Riley Harper, Haley Harper, Taylor Bassett, Joe Marchesano, Caroline Hurst, Nick Chrisopolis.

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.

Riley Harper was sworn in by Mayor Kovarik to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Tricia Todd. He will complete the two years remaining in her term, or until the next regular city election. He joined the council at this time.

Mayor Kovarik asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda for this meeting, or the minutes of the November 1st meeting. A motion by Thom, seconded by Macki, to approve the agenda and accept the minutes as written. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Comments from the audience were asked for with David Hilgenberg addressing the council with concerns related to the Heartland Co-op. He indicated that the noise from the new grain bin blowers was creating a serious noise issue at this home, and a decrease in his property values. He also expressed concerns about the potential increase in traffic and dust related to the expansion of the Cambridge site. He is asking that the Huxley P.D. issue a citation for the noise ordinance violation. Mayor Kovarik indicated that he had spoken to Bill Chizek with Heartland Co-op about the noise issues, and he is eager to work with the city and property owners to alleviate the issues, including installing a concrete barrier and/or baffles on the blower fans. Dana Accola and Caroline Hurst also expressed concerns with the noise and increased dust and traffic. Mayor Kovarik discussed zoning for the property, and stated that no citations would be issued at this time. He would like to give the Co-op the opportunity to address the issues.

Mat Kahler and Mark Benson, Cambridge Volunteer Fire Department, addressed the council with an update on the fire station remodeling project, and covering emergency calls for Maxwell. New EMT’s are in the process of being trained in Maxwell, and this should alleviate this issue.

Following is a summary of receipts for November: General Fund, $4,610.96; TIF/Special Revenues Fund, $42,465.71; Road Use Tax, $7,258.70; Debt Service, $884.24; C.U.T. Fire Fund, $1.82; Library Fund, $4,452.00; Garbage Utility, $6,592.82; Water Utility, $11,320.19; Sewer Utility, $13,442.58. Total Receipts: $91,029.02.

Following is a summary of disbursements for November: General Fund, $19,408.39; TIF/Special Revenues Fund, $7,159.34; Road Use Tax, $31,328.55; C.U.T. Fire Fund,

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$21,852.16; Library Fund, $870.64; Garbage Utility, $6,641.06; Water Utility, $16,482.61; Sewer Utility, $27,029.02. Total Disbursement: $130,771.77.

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

 AG SOURCE Analysis 529.50

 ALLIANT ENERGY Monthly Service 4,513.54

 AMES OUTDOOR SUPPLY Filters 93.06

 ANKENY SANITATION Service-October 6,671.06

 BAKER & TAYLOR Books, DVD’s 274.44

 BAXTER, WHITNEY Salary – Council 390.00

 C.U.T. FIRE FUND Matching Funds, 17,321.37

 Radios Payment

 CAMBRIDGE VOL. FIRE DEPT. Fire Station Remodel Project 18,000.00

 CEDAR RAPIDS BANK & Interest Payment-City Center 10,177.50

 TRUST

 CITY OF AMES Solid Waste Contract 4,342.00

 DUBBERKE, WENDY Reimb. for Expenses 269.34

 DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP Legal Services-SRF 7,500.00

 EFTPS Fed. & FICA W/H 2,851.94

 FOX ENGINEERING Fees 1,145.00

 GATEHOUSE MEDIA IOWA Publishing 165.12

 HAWKINS, INC. Water Treatment 1,047.15

 HAZEL, LAURIE Reimb. for Expenses 145.53

 HEARTLAND CO-OP Fuel, Oil 1,865.08

 HUXLEY COMMUNICATIONS Monthly Service 422.51

 IOWA FINANCE AUTHORITY Interest Payments - 7,174.41

 Water/Sewer Bonds

 IOWA RURAL WATER ASSN. Annual Dues 225.00

 I P E R S Retirement 1,857.72

 JPZ PRODUCTS Install Light Bar 1,400.00

 KEMPKER’S TRUE VALUE Supplies 101.46

 KOVARIK, STEVEN Net Salary – Mayor 1,385.25

 MACKI, MICHAEL Salary – Council 360.00

 MAIN STREET DESIGNS Supplies 94.16

 MARC Chemical 616.00

 MARCO Copier Rental, Supplies 181.33

 MCBREEN, BARB Salary – Council 390.00

 MOLLY MAID OF ANKENY Cleaning Services 250.00

 ROBERTS, TRACEY Clean Comm. Center 50.00

 SCHULING HITCH CO. Light Bar 217.01

 SOUTH STORY BANK & TRUST Interest Payments - 18,737.81

 Fire Truck, Opera House

 STORY COUNTY AUDITOR Election Expense 754.37

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 THOM, DAVID Salary – Council 300.00

 TODD, TRICIA Salary – Council 300.00

 U.S. CELLULAR Monthly Service 88.46

 U.S. POSTMASTER Billing Postage 120.00

 WAGES Net Wages 8,785.61

 WELLMARK BC/BS Health Premium 3,891.53

 KING KNUTSON Pay Request #6 & #7 - 201,637.56

 CONSTRUCTION CO. Opera House

 HARPER, RILEY Salary – Council 30.00

 BIG BANG CONSTRUCTION Roof Repairs – 2020 Derecho 4,000.00

 TOTAL CLAIMS $330,671.82

After discussion, a motion by Macki, seconded by Baxter, 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 with Public Works Director Dale Hennick reporting that there was another leak in the filter tank. He will contact Fox Engineering for advice on resolving these issues. He also reported that the UV light for the wastewater project would be coming this week. The council also discussed the fine schedule for solid waste and parking citations, and nuisance abatement. Macki discussed sledding at the cemetery and skating at the pond, both of which will not be allowed. He, Dona Cowman, and Crystal Hughes discussed with the council the issues they are having with hiring a library director. They would like to offer the position to the interim director, and proposed a salary increase and more hours that she would need in order to accept the position. After much discussion, a motion by Macki, seconded by McBreen, to offer the interim director, Laurie Hazel, the position of Library Director at a salary of $20/hour for a maximum of 29/hours per week, effective January 1, 2022. Roll Call: Ayes: Harper, Macki, McBreen. Nays: Baxter. Abstaining: Thom. Motion carried. The council also discussed the financing of the fire station remodeling project, and McBreen asked for contact information for the new mayor and council members to update the city’s website and facebook.

The first item under old business concerned the wastewater treatment system improvements project. The council discussed the UV light update.

The next item concerned the Cambridge Opera House project. Pay Requests #6 and #7 to King Knutson Construction Co. in the amount of $201,637.56 was submitted to the council. A motion by Macki, seconded by Thom, to approve the pay requests and add them to this month’s list of claims. Roll Call: All Ayes. Thom discussed the purchase of appliances for the apartment units. He submitted a quote of $18,274.01 from Lowe’s. After discussion, a motion by Thom, seconded by Macki, to approve the purchase. Roll

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Call: All Ayes. Thom also discussed with the council the progress that has been made on the project, the anticipated completion date, and repair of the alley and parking area for the hair salon that has been done.

The next item under old business concerned the 2020 Derecho storm and FEMA grant. Mat Moore, Big Bang Construction, has submitted a quote of $9,000.00 plus materials to do the repairs to the roofs damaged in the storm. After discussion, a motion by Macki, seconded by McBreen, to hire Moore to do the repairs at a cost of $9,000.00, and to authorize a down payment of $4,000.00 to be paid immediately, and the remaining $5,000.00 at the completion of the project. Roll Call: All Ayes. The council also discussed the adoption of three federally required policies that would need to be done in order to receive funds from FEMA for storm related expenses.

Other items discussed under old business concerned the results of the city election last month, and the city’s application for Story County ARPA grant funds for storm sewer drain. Mayor Kovarik indicated that the Board of Supervisors will consider all of the applications they have received during their budgeting process.

The first item under new business was an application for renewal of their liquor license for the Tattered Toad. A motion by Macki, seconded by Thom, to approve the license renewal. Roll Call: All Ayes.

The next item concerned the contract from the City of Huxley for law enforcement services for FY2022. After discussion, a motion by Macki, seconded by Baxter, to approve the contract with the City of Huxley at a cost of $57,691.00. Roll Call: All Ayes.

The clerk submitted the FY2021 City Street Finance Report for the council’s review. A resolution accepting the report is no longer required. It was accepted by the council.

The next item under new business was notice of a 2% rate increase from Iowa Regional Utilities Association (Rural Water) effective January 1, 2022. IRUA provides emergency back-up for the city’s water system.

The next item was notice of a budget workshop for Story County Emergency Management. Mayor Kovarik will attend the meeting. Story County Planning and Development has initiated a questionnaire for the cities to complete concerning their interest in sharing a code enforcement officer. This would be a new paid position under the jurisdiction of the Board of Supervisors.

The last item under old business was the announcement of a new entity, Mid-Iowa Planning Alliance for Community Development. They will be offering grant writing and regional planning services to central Iowa communities.

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Mayor/Council comments were asked for with Macki discussing this year’s Toys for Tots campaign, and a memorial to be placed at the natural trail.

A motion by Macki, seconded by McBreen, to adjourn the meeting. Roll Call: All Ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

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