

DUNKERTON CITY COUNCIL met in regular session, **February 8, 2021**, in the City Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Michael J. Schares presiding. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Council members present: Brian Roquet, Ron Reichen, Derek Shaner, Allison Baugher, and Monica Smith. Quorum present. Mayor Schares led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Due to public health concerns related to COVID-19, as authorized by emergency proclamation of the Governor of the State of Iowa, this meeting of the City Council was conducted electronically, pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.8, as holding the meeting in person was impossible or impractical. Residents could participate via an online session at Zoom.us by entering meeting ID: 837 0188 1374 and password: 851919. Residents could also participate via audio by dialing 1.312.626.6799 and entering the meeting ID and password listed above.

Unless otherwise noted, all actions were passed by affirmative and unanimous vote of the council members present.

Consent agenda: Reichen moved, Baugher seconded to approve the Consent Agenda by one motion a) February 8, 2021 Agenda, b) January 11, 2021 Council Minutes Regular Mtg; January 20, 2021 Special Meeting; January 28, 2021 Special Meeting c) Jan 2020 Monthly Reports: Clerk Financial Reports, Bank Reconciliation, UB Reconciliation, Ambulance, Police, Building Permits, Library reports for December and January, new ambulance member Blake Fisher, and Bills Resolution 2021-7.

Department Head Reports:

- Library Director Wheeler mentioned there will be Valentine's Day Craft packs for area children and the summer reading program theme will be "Reading Colors Your World".
- Ambulance Chief Nesbit stated there will be 3 new members enrolled in EMT training in March. The city may receive grant dollars to help offset class fees if funds are available.
- Police Chief Stafford wanted to alert the council and residents of a social security scam. Chief Stafford said the scammers may call or stop by a resident's home.
- Clerk Steffen stated there were no additions to her written report.
- Public Works Director Loftus mentioned in addition to staff plowing snow, lawn mowers are being prepared for spring mowing.

Mayor Schares opened the public hearing for the maximum tax levy rate required by State of Iowa statute 384.15A. Mayor Schares asked if the City had received any comments either for or against the proposed tax levy rate of \$11.11164. Clerk Steffen stated the City had not received any comments either for or against the proposed tax levy rate. Mayor Schares then asked those in attendance and those attending via Zoom if there were any comments for or against the proposed tax levy rate. Hearing none, moved by Roquet, seconded by Shaner to close the public hearing.

The council discussed levy rates for property and liability coverage, FICA & IPERS, and other employee benefits. Moved by Roquet, seconded by Smith to approve Resolution 2021-8 setting the property tax levy rate at \$8.94426 with a maximum property tax dollar amount of \$290,923.

Moved by Baugher, seconded by Reichen to approve setting the public hearing date for the FY2022 proposed budget for March 8, 2021.

Moved by Reichen, seconded by Shaner to accept and place on file the Iowa Certified Municipal Finance Officer designation for Sheila Steffen, City Clerk. The council congratulated Clerk Steffen on her accomplishment.

The council discussed a wellness reimbursement option for city staff. Fire department Training Officer Blake Fisher has been in conversation with Dunkerton Community Schools about use of their fitness center for fire fighters and possibly all city staff. Council members Ron Reichen and Brian Roquet

along with Mayor Scharles, Mr. Fisher, and PW Director Daniel Loftus will research wellness center options for city staff and report their findings to the council.

The council discussed a request by the Tollgate Café and Restaurant for a reduction in their utility bill. Council member Roquet felt the city should help offset the sewer fees from the water pipe break since the water did not infiltrate the sewer system. Moved by Roquet, seconded by Smith to approve a one-time credit of \$500 for the Tollgate Café and Restaurant. Let the record show that Council Member Reichen requested to abstain from the vote due to a conflict of interest and Mayor Scharles approved the request.

Moved by Reichen, seconded by Roquet to approve renewal of the Kwik Star liquor license.

Moved by Baugher, seconded by Shaner to approve renewal of the Tollgate Café and Restaurant liquor license.

Public Comments:

- None

Mayoral and Council comments:

- Mayor Scharles thanked Clerk Steffen and the council for their work on the FY2022 budget. Mayor Scharles also thanked the Public Works staff for the many hours of snow removal that they have endured and the wonderful job that they have done.
- Council member Smith read a draft of an article to be submitted to the Dunkerton News.

With no further discussion, Reichen / Shaner to adjourn at 7:51 pm.

Michael J. Scharles, Mayor

ATTEST: Sheila K. Steffen, City Clerk