

DUNKERTON CITY COUNCIL met in regular session, **December 14, 2020**, 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: Roquet moved, Reichen seconded to approve the Consent Agenda by one motion a) December 14, 2020 Agenda, b) November 9, 2020 Council Minutes Regular Mtg; c) Nov 2020 Monthly Reports: Clerk Financial Reports, Bank Reconciliation, UB Reconciliation, Ambulance, Police, Building Permits, Library, Park Board Minutes for July and Sept 2020, resignation of Ambulance Chief Jim Stanton, addition of new ambulance member Daniel Loftus and Bills Resolution 2020-78.

Department Head Reports:

- Police Chief Stafford stated he did not have any additions to his written report.
- Clerk Steffen stated the city has received \$20,177.81 from the COVID Relief Reimbursement Fund.

Council member Smith read a birthday proclamation for past resident Darlene Snyder congratulating her on her 98th birthday.

Council member Smith read a birthday proclamation for current resident Harriet Wheeler congratulating her on her 90th birthday.

Mayor Schares opened the public hearing for the State Revolving Fund Environmental Review for the water filtration plant. Mr. Lucas Elsbernd from Fehr Graham Engineering read an environmental impact statement declaring the project will have no significant environmental impact on the City of Dunkerton. Mayor Schares asked Clerk Steffen if the city had received any comments either for against the water filtration plant and its environmental impact. Clerk Steffen stated the city had not received any comments either for or against the proposed project. Mayor Schares then asked those in attendance and those attending via zoom if they had any comments either for or against the environmental impact of the project. Hearing none, moved by Smith, seconded by Shaner to close the public hearing.

Mayor Schares asked Mr. Elsbernd to share a timeline of the water filtration project. Mr. Elsbernd stated he anticipates having a bid letting in March with possible construction starting in April or May. Mr. Elsbernd estimates construction taking approximately 6 months.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Roquet to approve Resolution 2020-79 approving and adopting a 0% Revenue Purpose Statement for Expenditures of Fee Revenues from proposed electric and natural gas franchise fees. Mr. Mark Reinders from MidAmerican Energy stated the city may elect to implement franchise fees up to 5% for electric and natural gas services at a future date. However, the city cannot receive both Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) and franchise fees on electric and natural gas services. To clarify, Mr. Reinders mentioned the City of Waterloo receives franchise fees for residential utilities and receives LOST funds for all other taxable sales.

Mayor Schares opened the public hearing on a proposal to renew a 25-year non-exclusive electric supply, operation, and maintenance franchise with MidAmerican Energy Company which may include franchise fees. Mayor Schares asked Clerk Steffen if the city had received any comments for or against the electric franchise renewal. Clerk Steffen stated the city had not received any comments either for or against the franchise renewal. Mayor Schares then asked those in attendance and those attending via zoom if they had any comments either for or against the electric franchise renewal. Hearing none, moved by Reichen, seconded by Baugher to close the public hearing.

Moved by Roquet, seconded by Reichen to approve the first reading of amended ordinance #204 Electric Franchise.

Moved by Reichen, seconded by Shaner to waive the second and third reading of amended Ordinance #204 Electric Franchise.

Moved by Roquet, seconded by Reichen to pass amended Ordinance #204 Electric Franchise updating the Code of Ordinances of the City of Dunkerton, Iowa 2018.

Mayor Schares opened the public hearing on a proposal to renew a 25-year non-exclusive natural gas supply, operation, and maintenance franchise with MidAmerican Energy Company which may include franchise fees. Mayor Schares asked Clerk Steffen if the city had received any comments for or against the natural gas franchise renewal. Clerk Steffen stated the city had not received any comments either for or against the franchise renewal. Mayor Schares then asked those in attendance and those attending via zoom if they had any comments either for or against the natural gas franchise renewal. Hearing none, moved by Reichen, seconded by Smith to close the public hearing.

Moved by Baugher, seconded by Shaner to approve the first reading of amended Ordinance #205 Natural Gas Franchise.

Moved by Reichen, seconded by Roquet to waive the second and third reading of amended Ordinance #205 Natural Gas Franchise.

Moved by Baugher, seconded by Reichen to pass amended Ordinance #205 Natural Gas Franchise updating the Code of Ordinances of the City of Dunkerton, Iowa 2018.

Moved by Roquet, seconded by Shaner to approve Resolution 2020-80 appointing Russ Nesbit as Ambulance Chief following the resignation of Ambulance Chief Jim Stanton.

Moved by Reichen, seconded by Baugher to approve Resolution 2020-81 appointing Pat Smith to the Park Board. Ms. Smith will be joining current Park Board members Zach Pierce, Brian Robinson, Cathy Rigdon and Aubin Reed. Park Board member terms expire 12/31/2021.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Roquet to set the Community Garden plot fee to \$40.00 for each 20x30 ft plot beginning in 2021.

Moved by Baugher, seconded by Reichen to approve a \$600 contribution to the Upper Wapsi Watershed Management Authority for FY2022.

Moved by Reichen, seconded by Shaner to approve a one-time reduction of the Dunkerton Community School / Early Learning Center water bill. Dunkerton Community Schools had contacted the city about high consumption over a long weekend. Council approved reducing the utility bill from \$1,451.60 to \$317.89 (an average monthly bill for that water meter). The city would like to stress that this is a one-time reduction and will ask the school to have janitors check for any running water during their rounds.

Moved by Roquet, seconded by Reichen to approve writing off the following utility accounts: 199005 – \$7.98, 303002 – \$285.87, 310001 – \$171.00, 1002501 - \$157.00, 1002502 – \$78.00, 1002504 – \$147.00, 1002505 - \$140.00, 1002506 - \$260.00, 1002507 - \$536.00, 1002508 - \$120.00. Per the Black Hawk County Treasurer, some of these accounts had suspended taxes and therefore, any special assessments would never be paid.

Moved by Reichen, seconded by Baugher to accept and place on file the Department of Natural Resources Water Supply Sanitary Survey for the City of Dunkerton Public Water Supply.

The council discussed sidewalks and driveway approaches for the Chapman Addition lots around the library. Four need to complete sidewalks and/or driveway approaches. Moved by Baugher, seconded by Roquet to send certified letters to those homeowners stating sidewalks and driveway approaches must be completed by May 15th, 2021 or the city will complete the sidewalks and driveway approaches and assess those costs to the property owners.

Mayor Schares asked the council to consider drafting a sign ordinance that includes a sunset date for political signs. Council member Smith will help draft an ordinance for council consideration.

Public Comments:

- None

Mayoral and Council comments:

- Mayor Schares stated he would like to begin budget work sessions on January 5th, 2021 at 5:00 pm.
- Council member Smith read a draft of an article to be submitted to the Dunkerton News.

With no further discussion, Reichen / Roquet to adjourn at 8:25 pm.

Michael J. Schares, Mayor

ATTEST: Sheila K. Steffen, City Clerk