Sheldon, Iowa City Council February 20, 2019

The Sheldon City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, February 20, 2018 at 4:30 p.m. Mayor Katricia Meendering called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken. Present: Pete Hamill, Brad Hindt, Shawn Broesder, Tom Eggers, and Greg Geels. Also present: Curt Strouth, Todd Uhl, Sam Kooiker, Lyle Bolkema and Angela Beckman.

Mayor Meendering stated that for good cause the agenda was amended this morning to add item 5e. to set the date and time of a public hearing for the Bolkema rezoning request. This item was inadvertently omitted from the original agenda, and it should be included on this agenda so both rezoning requests can be addressed simultaneously. A motion was made by Hamill and seconded by Geels to approve the agenda adding 5e set date and time for Bolkema rezoning request. Roll call was taken. Ayes, all.

Beckman administered the Oath of Office to Krista Bousema, reserve police officer.

Public Comments: None.

A motion was made by Hindt and seconded by Eggers to approve the consent agenda with the following items:

* 1. Minutes of January 29, 2019, January 30, 2019, February 6, 2019, and the boards & commissions
  2. Summary list of city claims, with additional as presented, boards & commissions.
  3. Financial reports for January 2019.
  4. Approval of street closure at Union Avenue & East 4th Street, as well as, 19th Avenue & East 4th Street on March 30, 2019 for the Sheldon High School prom.
  5. Approval of pay estimate #9 for the wastewater treatment facility in the amount of $493,433.02 to Hoogendoorn Construction.

Roll call was taken. Ayes, all. Motion carried.

Maintainer is requesting an additional driveway and to reduce the speed limit from 45 miles per hour to 35 miles per hour in front of their proposed expansion project on the RV Central property, along 2nd Avenue. A motion was made by Hindt and seconded by Hamill to grant the request from Maintainer to reduce the speed to 35 miles per hour on 2nd avenue going south past their new property (the old RV Central property). Attorney Schreurs will look into the process to do this. Roll call was taken. Ayes, all. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Eggers and seconded by Geels to set March 6, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. for a public hearing on the Budget for fiscal year 2019-2020. Marv Van Riesen asked Council to consider moving this public hearing to 7:00 p.m. in order for the public to attend the public hearing. Attorney Schruers stated that notices relating to other matters on the March 6 agenda may have already gone out, therefore it the meeting time was changed it would result in mailing notices with the change and could create confusion. Geels stated that we have always had these public hearings at 4:30 p.m. and no one comes, or if they want to be here, they find a way to be here. Roll call was taken. Ayes, all. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on making all Council seats at-large and no longer having wards. Kooiker pointed out that this was something that Council asked to address in the goal setting session, and it could spark interest for the upcoming election if there are no boundaries. Attorney Schreurs stated that this is something that needs to come in the form of a petition from the voters. Geels didn’t feel the wards should be changed. Hindt agreed and stated that you could end up with several people with one specific cause in mind and not the best interest of the City. Geels felt the Council did their due diligence in discussing it, but it was the consensus of the Council to leave the 3 wards the way they are. Hamill challenged the wards to find candidates to run for election.

A motion was made by Broesder and seconded by Hindt to set March 6, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. for a public hearing on the proposed McCabe addition and rezoning. Roll call was taken. Ayes, all. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Geels and seconded by Eggers to set March 6, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. for a public hearing on the Bolkema property rezoning. Roll call was taken. Ayes, all. Motion carried.

Staff comments: None.

Council comments: None.

Council went into workshop mode to look at the emergency services 15 year capital improvement plan.

Kent Lohrenz, reviewed their 15 year plan, stating that EMA doesn’t require a whole lot. He did plan for the possibility of needing to find somewhere to store the EMA vehicle, due to the possibility of SCAT needing a 3rd stall for a 3rd Ambulance.

Brad Hindt reviewed the fire’s 15 year plan. Some large items that were discussed was a live training facility and a fire station on the east end of town. Hamill asked where the nearest live training facility was. Hindt stated there is one in Fort Dodge and one in Sioux City. Hamill noted that the fire department has big dollar amounts across the board.

Lyle Bolkema reviewed the police department’s 15 year plan. He noted that he has a new patrol vehicle in every year, as well as upgrading radios, key systems, event logger, and computers.

Kevin Miller spoke about the 15 year plan for the ambulance. He noted that they have a new ambulance in every 3 years, various equipment, replacing carpet, fixing holes in the walls, purchasing a gator, and adding a full time employee every 3 years. Hindt thought it wasn’t feasible to purchase a gator to be used 10-12 times per year.

Geels stated asked if this 15 year plan was realistic and not just expenses to expend because we would potentially have franchise fee moneys available. Mayor Meendering stated that this was a vision for the next 15 years, but she would like to see this brought back, removing the ambulance full time employees, the gator; the fire dept’s east side station, and live training facility; the police department getting a vehicle every 2 years.

Marv Van Riesen thanked the volunteers but told the Council he didn’t think the City needs the franchise fees. He has always been opposed to using ambulance revenue for other emergency services. He stated that the City has been operating without a franchise fee for years and can continue to do so. He went on to say that years ago the police vehicles were purchased by the general fund, and asked what happened there?

Mayor Meendering recommended that the City go forward with the franchise agreement and look at the franchise fee structure, with all schools being exempt. Eggers stated he would like to see this done in 2 separate steps. First consider the franchise agreement, then after that, approach the franchise fee structure. Geels wants to make sure we can get the public notified and in agreeance with the franchise fees. He continued that he thinks the franchise fees are the right answer but wants to make sure the public agrees. He also said he can only support franchise fees if the community can give their input and be in favor of them. He asked at what point does the Council get input from the Community?

Council went back into meeting mode. Mayor ProTem Hindt took over the meeting. A motion was made by Eggers and seconded by Geels to approve the recommendation from the Crossroads Pavilion Board to recommend the hiring of Katricia Meendering at $53,625 per year. Roll call was taken. Ayes, all. Motion carried.

Mayor Meendering resumed. Mayor Meendering read her letter of resignation as the Mayor to fill the full time position of Crossroads Pavilion General Manager. Her last day in office will be March 6, 2019. A motion was made by Hindt and regretfully seconded by Geels to accept the resignation of Mayor Meendering effective March 6, 2019. Roll call was taken. Ayes, all. Motion carried.

Attorney Schreurs stated that on March 6, 2019 Mayor Meendering will call the meeting to order, do the pledge of allegiance, and once the agenda is approved, Mayor ProTem Hindt will chair the meeting.

Discussion was held on the mayoral vacancy. Council can choose to appoint within 40 days from March 6, 2019 or hold a special election. A motion was made by Geels and seconded by Hindt to have Attorney Schreurs prepare a notice to proceed with the appointment of Mayor. Roll call was taken. Ayes, all. Motion carried. Kooiker asked that if any Council are interested, to let him know sooner than later and would like to solicit letters of interest for the Mayor’s position.

A motion was made by Hindt and seconded by Broesder to adjourn at 6:47 p.m. Roll call was taken. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

Angela Beckman, City Clerk