Sheldon, Iowa City Council August 7, 2019

The Sheldon City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, August 7, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. Mayor ProTem Hindt called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken. Present: Brad Hindt, Shawn Broesder, Wayne Barahona, and Tom Eggers. Absent: Pete Hamill. Also present: Lyle Bolkema, Curt Strouth, Sam Kooiker, and Angela Beckman.

A motion was made by Barahona and seconded by Eggers to approve the agenda with the additions of 5c Set Date and Time for Public Hearing on proposed Jinkinson Second Addition (Minor Subdivision) on East 9th Street and 5d a request for a controlled burn at Sheldon Livestock, located between C & D Street. Roll call was taken. Ayes, all. Motion carried.

Public comments: Rob Dixon, Airport Commissioner question item 3g on the consent to appoint Kellie Einck to the Airport Commission. Dixon stated that chairman Skip Tanner’s term was up in July, but Tanner wished to continue to serve on the commission and it was his understanding that the reason for Einck’s appointment was for diversity. However, he didn’t feel diversity should be a priority over experience. Terry Braaksma stated that citizens got their tax bill and the City taxes have increased and it’s due to the “spending by this group”.

A motion was made by Eggers and seconded by Broesder to remove the Airport appointment and approve the consent agenda with the following items:

1. Minutes of July 17, 2019, and the boards & commissions.
2. Summary list of city claims, with additional as presented, boards & commissions.
3. Resolution R19-4460 approving the transfers for fiscal year 2018-2019.
4. Approval of the beer permit renewal for Sheldon Plaza at 121 S 34th Avenue.
5. Approval of the new liquor license for Durangos at 926 3rd Avenue.
6. Approval of student SCAT applicants Haley Christians and Jack Bartz.
7. REMOVED FROM CONSENT
8. Approval of change order #3 in the amount of $4,514.80 for the Airport snow removal equipment building and pay estimate #4 in the amount of $2,675.30 to Larson Contracting for the Airport snow removal equipment building.
9. Approval of liquor license renewal for Cook’s Café/Langer’s Bar & Grill at 207 8th Street.

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

Barahona asked Dixon if he could confirm that Tanner wanted to serve another term. Dixon stated yes. Barahona asked if it was known prior to discussion of Einck’s appointment? Kooiker stated that at the June 11 Airport meeting they discussed making the commission more diversified. He added that this is a Council appointment, but the recommendation came from the Mayor. After discussion, a motion was made by Eggers and seconded by Barahona to table the Airport Commission appointment. Roll call was taken. Ayes, all. Motion carried.

Mayor Protem Hindt opened the public hearing at 4:43 p.m. on the first reading of the gas franchise ordinance with MidAmerican Energy. Terry Braaksma stated that he is opposed to a franchise fee and does not want any more money for this Council to spend and stated that they have not done a good job. Marv Van Riesen stated he was opposed to the franchise fee. He added that it is a tax and doesn’t trust Council to spend it they way they are supposed to. Van Riesen continued saying that people in town can’t afford to buy toilet paper. Barahona asked for clarification if Van Riesen is opposed to a franchise or a fee or both. Van Riesen stated he is opposed to both. Lori Anderson stated she is opposed to a franchise and a fee. She stated that many people in Sheldon are on a fixed income and agreed with Braaksma that Council doesn’t need any more of their tax dollars. Kerwin Sterler stated he is opposed to the franchise fee. He continued that the Council is elected to represent the people and they are not doing that. A motion was made by Barahona and seconded by Broesder to close the hearing at 4:52 p.m. Roll call was taken. Ayes, all. Motion carried. Mayor Geels arrived at 4:55 p.m. Kooiker stated that there are advantages to having a franchise. We have had a gentleman’s agreement for the last 32 years and it has worked, but an agreement should be done. The franchise fees that are being proposed are 2% for non-residential and 5% for residential, which would generate approximately $230,000. This would enable the City to bond for a water tower and major road repairs instead of using their bonding capacity for emergency service’s needs. Braaksma asked what benefits there are? He also encouraged the City not to give up bargaining without getting anything. He added that the City can’t keep adding staff and giving things away. Anderson stated that there are towns in the area that do not have MidAmerican Energy and are growing and succeeding, maybe the City should look at owning the municipality. A motion was made by Barahona and seconded by Eggers to pass the first reading of the ordinance on gas franchise with MidAmerican Energy. Roll call was taken. Ayes, all. Motion carried.

Mayor Geels opened the public hearing at 5:06 p.m. on the first reading of the electric franchise ordinance with MidAmerican Energy. Van Riesen stated that this needs to go to a vote. A motion was made by Hindt and seconded by Barahona to close the hearing at 5:06 p.m. Roll call was taken. Ayes, all. Motion carried. Kooiker gave examples of the benefits of a franchise. Braaksma stated that MidAmerican Energy does all those things now without a franchise. Kooiker asked Council if they wanted to approve the franchise agreement and remove the fees, then have MidAmerican step up and tell the community the benefits. A motion was made by Barahona and seconded by Hindt to pass the first reading of the ordinance on electric franchise with MidAmerican Energy. Roll call was taken. Ayes, all. Motion carried.

Preston DeBoer from American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) was present to propose the merging of the police and public works unions. Attorney Schreurs explained that if Council approves the stipulation to combine the 2 unions it would be submitted to Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) it would be approved in roughly 6 weeks. If the unions submit the request to combine unions without the stipulation, City representation will be called to Des Moines to explain to the PERB board why the two unions should not be combined. Braaksma and Van Riesen expressed that they were opposed to the merging of the unions. Braaksma also reminded City employees that because the state has limited the tax increase to 2% they won’t have a lot of room for increases and may need to cut city staff. No action was taken.

Kooiker reviewed the engagement agreement with Ahlers, Cooney Attorneys for urban revitalization. He explained that urban revitalization can only happen in non-urban renewal areas, which is a considerable part of the middle section of town. Homeowners that want to improve their property can apply for urban revitalization and their taxes would be froze at the time of application for a number of years. Eggers would like to have a workshop in urban revitalization and invite citizens so there is a clear understanding of this. After discussion, a motion was made by Eggers and seconded by Barahona to set a workshop for August 21, 2019 after the Council meeting to discuss urban revitalization and include Ahlers, Cooney Attorneys as a resource. Roll call was taken. Ayes, all. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Hindt and seconded by Barahona to approve Resolution R19-4461 A RESOLUTION APPROVING AGREEMENT WITH MUELLER PALLETS FOR TREE DUMP DISPOSAL. Roll call was taken. Ayes, all. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Hindt and seconded by Broesder to set August 21, 2019 for a public hearing on Jinkinson’s Second Addition (minor subdivision) on East 9th Street. Roll call was taken. Ayes, all. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Hindt and seconded by Eggers to allow Sheldon Livestock to have a controlled burn when weather permits pending notification to the fire department. Roll call was taken. Ayes, all. Motion carried.

Staff comments: None.

Council & Mayor comments: None.

A motion was made by Hindt and seconded by Barahona to adjourn at 6:19 p.m. Roll call was taken. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

 Angela Beckman, City Clerk