Sheldon, Iowa City Council September 4, 2019

The Sheldon City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, September 4, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. Mayor Greg Geels called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken. Present: Brad Hindt, Shawn Broesder, Wayne Barahona, Tom Eggers, and Pete Hamill. Also present: Todd Uhl, Micah Schreurs, Sam Kooiker, and Angela Beckman.

A motion was made by Hindt and seconded by Hamill to approve the agenda and adding item 3e. Approval of alley closure for St. Pat’s School on 09/14/19 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Roll call was taken. Ayes, all. Motion carried.

Public comments: Marv Van Riesen update Mayor Geels on the amounts of people in Sheldon that are in need financially. He stated that the schools have 46% of the students on free or reduced lunches, 11.2% of Sheldon’s population is below poverty, the backpack program at school is “huge” and there are ladies’ groups that collect money to pay people’s medical copays. Scott Stevenson, DA Davidson gave an update on the City’s bonds and debt capacity. He stated that Sheldon is at 65% of their debt limit, which is good. There are not any loans callable until 2023. He also noted that our good bond rating is due to Sheldon managing their debt well.

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

1. Minutes of August 21, 2019, and the boards & commissions.
2. Summary list of city claims, with additional as presented, boards & commissions.
3. Appointment of Curt Strouth as the City’s representative to the Northwest Iowa Regional Housing Authority.
4. Resolution R19-4464 Resolution to establish policies regarding the residential anti-displacement and relocation assistance plan (RARA); a procurement policy of goods and services; a code of conduct; the prohibition of the use of excessive force; an affirmative fair housing policy; and an equal employment opportunity during the execution of federally assisted projects.
5. Approve closing the alley between 3rd Avenue and 4th Avenue between 10th Street and 11th Street for St. Patrick’s Church on 09/14/19 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

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

Mayor Geels opened the public hearing at 4:42 p.m. on the third and final reading of the gas franchise ordinance with MidAmerican Energy. Fred Grein stated that he was disappointed that Council took out the franchise fees. He continued to say that he supports a franchise agreement with MidAmerican Energy. Marv Van Riesen objects to the franchise agreement with MidAmerican Energy. He stated that we have operated all these years without one, why do we need it now? He asked Attorney Schreurs if he would recommend for one of his clients to waive their right to a jury. Attorney Schreurs stated that if the Council had a question for him, he would answer it. Carolyn Marshall stated that Council represents the citizens and the 93% of communication is nonverbal. When she watches Council’s body language and faces it tells citizens how you feel. Mark Reinders of MidAmerican Energy stated that for the past 10 years he has contacted the City Manager of Sheldon trying to get a gas and electric franchise agreement. He also read a statement from Craig Van Meeteren, operations supervisor with MidAmerican Energy which stated that Sheldon is his hometown and he and his family have invested in the community. The Council thanked MidAmerican Energy and felt the two worked well together. Eggers thanked community members for their comments but wanted to assure them that there is nothing underlying. A motion was made by Broesder and seconded by Barahona to close the hearing at 5:07 p.m. Roll call was taken. Ayes, all. Motion carried. A motion was made by Hamill and seconded by Barahona to approve Ordinance O19-3243 instituting a gas franchise agreement with MidAmerican Energy. Roll call was taken. Ayes, all. Motion carried.

Mayor Geels opened the public hearing at 5:02 p.m. on the third and final reading of the electric franchise ordinance with MidAmerican Energy. Marv Van Riesen thanked Mark Reinders on clearing up some things that no one else would answer. He stated that the City doesn’t have enough money to fix their current streets and he wants a commitment from MidAmerican Energy to put electrical lines underground. A motion was made by Hindt and seconded by Barahona to close the hearing at 5:07 p.m. Roll call was taken. Ayes, all. Motion carried. A motion was made by Hindt and seconded by Broesder to approve the Ordinance O19-3244 instituting an electric franchise agreement with MidAmerican Energy. Roll call was taken. Ayes, all. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Hindt and seconded by Hamill to approve hiring Krysten Haan as emergency medical technician/paramedic coordinator. Roll call was taken. Ayes, all. Motion carried.

Staff comments: None.

Council & Mayor comments: Hindt thanked the SCDC and all of the volunteers that helped make Celebration Days a success again this year. Mayor Geels agreed and also thanked Pat Meester for her time serving on the NW IA Housing Authority.

A motion was made by Hindt and seconded by Barahona to adjourn at 5:11 p.m. Roll call was taken. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

 Angela Beckman, City Clerk