

REGULAR MEETING NO. 10
Council Chambers, City Hall

March 17, 2020
5:30 O'Clock P.M.

The meeting convened at 5:30 P.M.

Present were Council Member Dalbey, Roe, Stevens, Meyers and Mayor Lazio. Council Member Berg was absent.

Roe moved, seconded by Meyers to approve the following consent agenda: Mins. from Regular Mtg. No. 9 on March 3, 2020 as presented; Ack. of Feb. financial rpt. and pymt of bills as submitted by the Finance Dept.; Re-appointment of Ann Youngman to the Civil Service Commission, term to expire 4/5/24 and Donald Krieger to the Planning and Zoning Commission, term to expire 4/1/25; Proclamation of Kiwanis Day to be observed March 25, 2020; Proclamation of Arbor Day on April 24, 2020; Civil Service Commission Eligibility Lists of March 4, 2020: Fire Captain Promotional and Master Fire Fighter Promotional; March 11, 2020: Equip. Operator Entrance; Consideration of Ack./Stlmt Agt. between the City of Ottumwa and Elliott Oil Comp. d/b/a BP Station (1147 N. Jefferson); Approve Salvage Dealer's Lic renewals for: Courtney's Car Crushing & Scrap, 825 Hayne St.; Alter Metal Recycling, 404 N. Forest Ave.; Hill's Garage, 1002 Harvey; KARZ Salvage LLC, 430 N. Forest Ave.; and Rosenman's Inc., 902 E. Main St; all applications pending final inspections; Setting April 21, 2020 as the date of a public hearing on Ottumwa Transit's Consolidated Funding Application; Authorize and approve writing a 2019 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for a new fire apparatus; Authorize the City Clerk to submit Scope of Work to OPG-3 as ongoing capture and filing process for docs. mngd by the City Clerk for a total \$1,480, upon completion; Auth. the replacement of an over-head garage door on the east side of the PW Garage to Klodt Door Service for the best bid of \$7,158; Res. No. 46-2020, auth pymt for renewal of the City liability and property insurance for March 17, 2020 until March 15, 2021 in the amount of \$449,710.36; Res. No. 50-2020, approve the purch of a new 2019 John Deere Compact Tractor from Sinclair Tractor in Ottumwa, IA, for the Govt. State bid price of \$43,595 for the Ottumwa Airport; Res. No. 51-2020, approving the contract, bond and cert. of insurance for the 2020 Ottumwa St. Reconstruction Project; Beer and/or liquor applications for: Brenda's Bar & Grill, 618 Church St., 6 month seasonal license; Main St. Ottumwa, temp. license 4/18/2020 at the Ottumwa Theatre, 229 E. Main St.; all applications pending final inspections. All ayes.

Mayor Lazio stated these are unprecedented times and in order to protect the health and safety of our citizens and staff and mitigate the spread of COVID-19, we are following the Proclamation of a State Public Health Disaster Emergency issued at 12:00 P.M. on Tuesday, March 17, 2020. This plan shall continue for thirty days, or shall expire on April 16, 2020 unless sooner terminated or extended by Gov. Reynolds. Mass Gatherings or events of more than 10 people in attendance are hereby prohibited at all locations and venues. As a result, mtg. attendance will be limited to Elected Officials and Essential Personnel in Council Chambers. Comments and/or questions will be accepted in writing at the door on the Fourth St. entrance. Our City Admin. will continue to evaluate the impact of COVID-19 on our community and will follow the guidelines and requirements of Wapello County EMA, the IDPH, and the CDC. The City will continue to record and broadcast mtgs. of the City Council on the YouTube channel so they are accessible to the public.

Meyers moved, seconded by Dalbey to approve the agenda as presented. All ayes.

City Admin. Rath stated we will continue to update ways for citizens to access our services during this evolving pandemic.

Mayor Lazio inquired if there was anyone that wished to address an item on the agenda. Chris Cale, VP Ottumwa Assoc. of Prof. Firefighters Local 395, wished to discuss Item G-1, adoption of the FY21 City Budget. He also provided written stmts. from the following: Bryan Lee, Brian Ulin, Karina Cordova, Mel & Jolynn Messer, Braulio Flores, Jerry Lemeuse, Cole Owens, Clifford Kealey, Janette Caudron, Leslie LaRue, Kala LaRue, Ken LaRue, Aaron Tillman, Joel Fye, and Emma Ashlock.

Meyers moved, seconded by Roe to Auth. the City Admin. to draft a letter of support for IA Mission Of Mercy (IMOM) through the IA Dental Center to include with the RFP submission to bring services to Ottumwa. All ayes.

This was the time, place, and date set for a public hearing on the proposed adoption of the FY 2021 City Budget. Finance Dir. Mulder reported the City decreased the Transit and Trust & Agency levy and increased the Debt Service levy. The total tax levy will stay the same at \$22.4565 on non-agricultural property and \$3.00375 on agricultural property.

Taxpayers were heard for or against the FY21 budget: Oral comments were received from VP of the Ottumwa Assoc. of Prof. Firefighters Local 395, expressing objection to the budget Est, most notably the proposed budget cuts of six firefighters; seven phone stmts and ten written objections were received and provided to the Council, and made a part of the packet in its entirety.

Fire Chief Miller stated safety grants are going to open up with hardship stipulations that I'm hoping to apply for. And if the city cannot afford the 10% match, it can be waived.

City Admin. Rath stated he had an opportunity to attend the press conf. held last week by the firefighters and wanted to address some of the items mentioned. Public safety has been a number one priority of the City but is also a key piece of the puzzle that most people cannot afford on their own; we rely on the accumulation of taxes to help provide these services to our community. All parts of the puzzle need to be considered. Franchise fees – this has been a topic for a number of yrs. and we must follow procedures to implement; it will have some economic impacts to consider. We are looking for ways to generate new revenue and reduce expenditures. The budget is a planning doc to be used as our framework; it is not static and can be changed/amended accordingly.

Dalbey moved, seconded by Roe to close the public hearing. All ayes.

Roe moved, seconded by Meyers that Res. No. 45-2020, adopting the annual budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, be passed and adopted. Discussions followed by Council.

Councilman Roe provided a written stmt. which is included in the packet and is summarized: The decision before us is that of mathematics, shrouded in emotion and livelihoods; unfortunately, for this council, there is no win; we all place the utmost value in those who are sworn to protect us and preserving the employment and residence of each of our fellow Ottumwans in order to live safely and in prosperity; however, we are also sworn to protect our resources; we are tasked with doing far more with far less; this isn't about mismanaging funds or not caring, but about making a decision that will allow us to continue to operate; at our current pace, with no change, we are not sustainable; we all know that no matter the decision, there will be ramifications that will be felt for a long time.

Councilman Meyers stated he was surprised with the firefighter's union getting an increase of 3.25% for the first yr. and 2% for the following three yrs. when we were looking at a budget deficit. Why would we take the ambulance service away from the hospital? I think we need to move forward with the budget.

Mayor Lazio stated there is no evidence of mismanagement of funds. Our levy has been at the max rate for a number of yrs.; people don't understand that you cannot use other funds (sewer, roads) for public safety; we must serve the public in a sound way.

Councilman Dalbey stated he has always supported fire and all of public safety, but if you look across history, there have been other cuts and other real families losing their jobs too but the media hasn't been covering it; this is simply a mathematical prob. that we must decide on; our housing evaluations are stagnant which doesn't help revenue; now we are seeing one public safety entity tear the other one down; our fiduciary responsibility lies within this budget.

Councilman Stevens stated he agrees with everything that has been said and we have to realize that our taxes need to increase to make a difference; new homes, new industry.

All ayes. Motion passed.

Meyers moved, seconded by Roe that Res. No. 43-2020, removing a special assessment applied to a vacant lot located at 1744 Mable, Parcel No. 007411000061000 on Res. No. 286-2016, be passed and adopted. Dir. of Hlth., Insp. & Planning Flanagan reported this will remove the orig. assessment of \$100 in mowing fees plus accrued penalty of \$49 and \$5 county admin. fee, for a total removal of \$154. All ayes.

Dalbey moved, seconded by Roe that Res. No. 44-2020, fixing an amount for abating a nuisance against certain lots in the City of Ottumwa, IA, totaling \$18,621.56, be passed and adopted. Dir. of Hlth., Insp. & Planning Flanagan reported nuisance abatement costs for 1022 Plum total \$1,810 and \$16,811.56 for 137 S. Van Buren. All ayes.

Roe moved, seconded by Meyers that Res. No. 47-2020, award reroofing bldg. No. 34 at the Ottumwa Airport to T&K Roofing & Sheet Metal, Inc., of Ely, IA, in the amount of \$30,575.52, be passed and adopted. Airport Supvr. Cobler reported eight bids were rcvd. T&K Roofing & Sheet Metal, Inc. has provided the necessary contract, bonds and cert. of insurance for the project. All ayes.

Meyers moved, seconded by Stevens that Res. No. 49-2020, award CSO, Ph. 8, Blake's Branch, Div. I Project to Langman Construction, Inc. of Rock Island, IL in the amount of \$11,742,070, be passed and adopted. PW Dir. Seals reported three bids were opened by Veenstra & Kimm on March 10, 2020. Engineer's estimate \$12,100,000. All ayes.

Roe moved, seconded by Dalbey that Res. No. 55-2020, award Milner St. Reconstruction Project to Iowa Civil Contracting, Inc., of Victor, IA, in the amount of \$2,492,052.72, be passed and adopted. PW Dir. Seals reported four bids were rcvd and opened by the IDOT on Feb. 18, 2020. All ayes.

Dalbey moved, seconded by Meyers to pass the first consid of Ord. No. 3172-2020, Amending Chp. 2, by deleting Section 2-79, entitled Conditions of employment for City Admin. and Inserting New Section 2-79 of the Municipal Code of the City of Ottumwa, IA. City Attorney Keith reported this amends the City ordinance requiring a two-thirds vote or a super majority (4 votes) of the full council to remove the city admin. No objections were received. All ayes.

Roe moved, seconded by Meyers to waive the second and third consid, pass and adopt Ord. No. 3172-2020. All ayes.

Roe moved, seconded by Dalbey to pass the first consid of Ord. No. 3173-2020, Repealing and Replacing the Sidewalk Café Ord. No. 3143-2018 of the City of Ottumwa, IA and as set forth in Ch. 32 of the Municipal Code – City of Ottumwa, IA by Repealing and Replacing Sections 32-275. Dir. of Hlth., Insp. & Planning Flanagan reported this ordinance broadens the ways in which restaurants can share the sidewalk with pedestrian traffic and tightens up language about what the city expects from business owners using the sidewalk. No objections were received. All ayes.

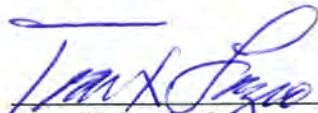
Meyers moved, seconded by Stevens to waive the second and third consid, pass and adopt Ord. No. 3173-2020. All ayes.

Mayor Lazio stated the One Ottumwa celebration was successful during Family Fun Fest at BVC on March 7, 2020. Ottumwa has been awarded a statewide award for our collaboration with our various community partners.

There being no further business, Roe moved, seconded by Stevens that the meeting adjourn. All ayes.

Adjournment was at 6:42 P.M.

CITY OF OTTUMWA, IOWA



Tom X. Lazio, Mayor

ATTEST:



Christina Reinhard, City Clerk