

OTTUMWA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES Item No. B.-1.

REGULAR MEETING NO. 26  
Council Chambers, City Hall

August 18, 2020  
5:30 O'Clock P.M.

The meeting convened at 5:36 P.M.

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 Tues, Mar. 17, 2020, which has been extended through Aug. 23, 2020. Effective 8:00 a.m. on June 12, 2020, and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on Aug. 23, 2020: mass gatherings or events of more than 10 people in attendance may be held but only if the gathering complies with all other relevant provisions in the Proclamation with the following requirements: social distancing: the gathering organizer must ensure at least six feet of physical distance between each group or individual attending alone and implement reasonable measures under the circumstances of each gathering to ensure social distancing of gathering participants, increased hygiene practices, and other public health measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 consistent with guidance issued by the IDPH.

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

Meyers moved, seconded by Roe to approve the following consent agenda items: Mins. from Regular Mtg. No. 24 on Aug. 4, 2020 and Special Mtg. No. 25 on Aug. 12, 2020 as presented; Civil Service Commission Eligibility Lists for Aug. 12, 2020: Police – Comm. Specialist Entrance, Police Supv. – Sgt. Promotional, Police Lt. Promotional; Approve the appointment of Summer Street to the full-time position of Comm. Specialist for the OPD effective Aug. 19, 2020; Res. No. 184-2020, approving the contract, bond, and cert. of ins. for the Fox Sauk and N. Court Intersection Project; Beer and/or liquor applications for: Elks-Ottumwa Lodge #347, 413 S. Iowa Ave.; Ottumwa Golf and Social Club, with outdoor service area, 304 E. Golf Ave.; Wal-Mart Supercenter #1285, 1940 Venture Dr.; all applications pending final inspections. All ayes.

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

City Admin. Rath did not see Supt. McGrory for his report, so Fred Zesiger was introduced.

Fred Zesiger provided a Quarterly rpt. on Main St. Ottumwa. Two new brd. members started July 2020 – Holly Berg & Mike Dunlap; 2020 Priorities: Supporting Downtown Businesses, Fostering a strong Organization and Support System, Creating a Vibrant and Active Downtown; events cont. to be cancelled or postponed due to COVID-19; Four new jobs created yr. to date for the downtown area; 8 bldg. projects completed and 8 bldgs. sold; volunteer hrs 2,066; \$728,000 invested in projects; New events scheduled: Queen of the Green golf outing 9/26/20, Field to Fork 9/18/20 (delivered to your door); Shop Small Love Local event 8/29/20 to promote Main St. Businesses; SSMID Committee met today and includes the following downtown business owners: Anthony & Dee Christner, Rod Curtis, Claudia Gates, Fred Jenkins, John Helgerson, Tim Schwartz, Tom Schafer, Tricia Smith.

Lorraine Uehling Techel was introduced to speak for Ottumwas for Racial Justice. Also present: Walter Minogle, Patricia Ramos Galvan and Rachelle Chase. Ms. Uehling stated we would like to see a Human Rights Commission reintroduced to Ottumwa; to advance justice, promote equality and ensure the protection of civil rights for Ottumwa citizens; educate the community and investigate civil rights complaints brought forth to the commission; recognize patterns within the local complaints before they are routed off to DSM; revitalizing this commission is included in the City's Comp Plan that is up for approval tonight; celebrating the City's diversity is one of the four main goals in the Comp Plan. Council members Dalbey and Roe stated they would like to see this commission return as everyone deserves to be treated fairly and equally. Mayor Lazio stated staff will continue working on the city level for this item and it will come before Council for the final say; timeline hope to have sometime in late Sept. or Oct.

Mayor Lazio shared City Admin. Rath has been here 6 months now and Council members have an evaluation form sourced from the International City Mgr. Handbook for his review slated for next month; take a look at the five goals developed by City Admin. Rath and Council upon hire that were to be completed within his first six months of employment; please get the evaluation forms back to Mayor by next wk; Council member Roe stated this evaluation is quite lengthy and it may be hard to answer all questions based on only 6 months; followed by Council member Meyers stating we have not had opportunities to interact with City Admin. Rath like we should due to constraints placed upon us due to COVID-19.

Mayor Lazio inquired if there was anyone from the audience that wished to address an item on the agenda. Lorraine Uehling Techel, Dennis Willhoit and Rachelle Chase all wish to speak on the Comp Plan when it is presented.

Roe moved, seconded by Berg to reject bids received on the Apron Improvements Project at the Ottumwa Reg. Airport. Airport Supv. Cobler reported two bids were received that were much higher than engineer's est. from Kirkham Michael. Staff and the Airport Adv. Brd. recommend rejecting bids and rebidding the project next spring. All ayes.

Meyers moved, seconded by Roe to award the contract for the 2020 RFP#3, Sewer Lateral Repairs to Drish Construction, Inc. of Fairfield, IA in the amount of \$14,850 and authorize the Mayor to sign the contract. PW Dir. Seals reported three bids were received. All ayes.

Roe moved, seconded by Berg to approve the grant application for the Wapello County Foundation. Parks & Rec. Dir. Rathje reported the Ottumwa Parks Adv. Brd. requested that a grant application be submitted to the Wapello County Foundation to partially fund a new shower house and office bldg. for the Ottumwa Park Campground. This grant application was approved by the Park Brd. on Aug. 11, 2020. Grant amount requested \$50,000. All ayes.

Meyers moved, seconded by Roe to auth. submission of the application to the IA Dept. of Public Safety for the UCR Tech Specification Subaward Solicitation funding, for the OPD, and auth. the Mayor and Police Chief to sign any related docs. as required. Police Chief Farrington reported the FBI requires all states to be NIBRS certified; this is achieved by submission of good quality data from the police dept. Computer Information Systems, Inc. (CIS) quoted \$14,100 to implement the software changes mandated by this certification. This application is for reimbursement of expense. All ayes.

This was the time, place and date set for a public hearing on approving a three-yr Lease Agt. between the City and the Ottumwa Community School District for the use of the Beach Ottumwa facilities. City Admin. Rath reported the Agt. contains a sliding annual fee structure for 400 hrs. of usage each year. Both the Parks Adv. Brd. and the Ottumwa Community School Brd. approved the proposed agt. Commencing July 1, 2020 and terminating June 30, 2023. No objections were received. Berg moved, seconded by Dalbey to close the public hearing. All ayes.

Roe moved, seconded by Meyers that Res. No. 180-2020, approving a three-yr Lease Agt. with the Ottumwa Community School District for the use of the Beach Ottumwa facilities, be passed and adopted. All ayes.

This was the time, place and date set for a public hearing for the purpose of passing and adopting *Our Ottumwa* Comprehensive Plan and the future land use map. Planner Simonson introduced Chris Shires of Confluence to present *Our Ottumwa* Comp Plan. This plan is meant to guide growth, investment and

development in the community in a responsible and efficient way; the plan includes a clear set of goals with measurable action steps and policy considerations; it also includes a new future land use map to guide priorities for zoning, development and growth. Public input helped shape a variety of items within the plan; which guided planners toward a vision stmt. with four key elements: housing, growth, community character and celebrating diversity. The Planning & Zoning Commission unanimously recommended adopting the proposed plan. Lorraine Uehling Techel spoke on behalf of Ottumwans for Racial Justice. Planner Simonson met with our group and it's great to see some of our ideas included in this Plan; would also like to see an appointment of a Police oversight commission to progressively review police policies. Dennis Willhoit stated he and the local art community celebrated the addition of arts and culture to the plan; Ottumwa takes a first step in recognizing that arts and culture are essential for building community, supporting development, nurturing health and well-being, and contributing to economic opportunity. Rachele Chase mimicked what Ms. Uehling stated and appreciates that the plan includes actual actionable items to address diversity challenges in the community; would also like to see changes addressing emphasis on celebrating diversity and making it a bit broader. No objections were received. Council members would like to see the discussed changes included in the final plan. Dir. of Hlth. Insp. & Planning Flanagan suggested yearly work sessions to review where we are in the Plan. Berg moved, seconded by Meyers to close the public hearing. All ayes.

Roe moved, seconded by Meyers to pass Res. No. 183-2020, *Our Ottumwa* Comprehensive Plan for the City of Ottumwa, IA contingent upon changes to be presented at the next regular City Council mtg. to be held on Sept. 1, 2020. All ayes.

Roe moved, seconded by Berg that Res. No. 186-2020, approving matching funds for the Main Street IA Challenge Grant Application to rehabilitate 307 E. Main St., be passed and adopted. Planner Simonson reported Main St. Ottumwa is submitting a Main St. IA Challenge Grant application on behalf of RG Property, LLC in the amount of \$75,000 to help pay the cost to rehabilitate 307 E. Main St. The Challenge Grant is a one-to-one cash match grant and the committee gives a strong preference to applications that include matching funds from the City. All ayes.

Meyers moved, seconded by Dalbey that Res. No. 187-2020, award the contract for the 2020 RFP#4, K Ave. Repairs, and authorizing the Mayor to sign the Contract, be passed and adopted. PW Dir. Seals reported K-Ave was in part funded with a RISE grant which requires the City to maintain the Street for at least 20 yrs. from the roadway opening date (9/4/2008). As part of the RISE grant program, IADOT completes periodic monitoring inspection throughout the 20 yr. period and makes recommendations for repairs. To address the noted deficiency this RFP was let. Four bids were received and the low bidder is Christy Construction of Ottumwa, IA, in the amount of \$28,610.50. All ayes.

Roe moved, seconded by Dalbey that Res. No. 188-2020, providing for the financial support of the Area 15 Regional Planning Affiliation (RPA 15), be passed and adopted. City Admin. Rath reported RPA15 has been designated to provide transportation planning to its members; with est. financial support to the City of \$526,417; in return the City is requested to contribute a proportional share of the local match for the planning grant \$4,659 for FY21. Council Member Berg abstained from voting as she is employed by Area 15 RPC. Ayes: Dalbey, Roe, Stevens, Meyers. Abstain: Berg. Nays: None. Motion carried.


Mayor Lazio inquired if anyone from the audience wished to address an item not on the agenda. There were none.

Closing comments by Mayor Lazio: stopped by Blackbird corp. office last week to discuss the project; lack of communication has affected their credibility; they do plan on being back on site this year; met with IT to discuss dark fiber and broadband options.

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

Adjournment was at 7:09 P.M.

CITY OF OTTUMWA, IOWA

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom X. Lazio, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Christina Reinhard, City Clerk

