

MAQUOKETA CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, June 1, 2020

Mayor Schwenker called the regular session of the Maquoketa City Council to order at 6:00 p.m. with six members present and one absent via Zoom Chat.

Present: Kean, Woodward, Lyon, Kuhlman, Barker and Holm
Absent: Collister

Motion by Barker, seconded by Kuhlman approving the Consent agenda consisting of the agenda, May 18th Minutes, bills, renewal class "B" wine permit filed by Ohnward Fine Arts Center, Renewal class "B" wine permit, living quarters and Sunday sales filed by Make A Splash, new class "B" beer permit and outdoor sales filed by Maquoketa Firefighter's Association, cigarettes permit renewals for Fareway Stores, Inc. #639, Casey's General Store #2578, Casey's General Store #2846, Can City, KJ's Convenience & Deli, Kwik Star #212, Kwik Star #894, Main Street Tobacco, Perxactly's Bar & Grill, and Walmart #1509, and new Tree Trimmer license filed by Marty Calhoun. Motion Carried 7-0

Schwenker opened a Public Hearing regarding proposed Amendment No. 3 to the Maquoketa Amended and Restated Unified Urban Renewal Plan at 6:02 p.m. There were no written or verbal comments.

Motion by Barker, seconded by Kuhlman to close the Public Hearing regarding the proposed Amendment No 3 to the Maquoketa Amended and Restated Unified Urban Renewal Plan. Motion Carried 6-0

Schwenker opened a Public Hearing regarding proposed Western Avenue Residential Urban Renewal Plan at 6:03 p.m. There were no written or verbal comments.

Motion by Barker, seconded by Kuhlman to close the Public Hearing regarding the proposed Western Avenue Residential Urban Renewal Plan. Motion Carried 6-0

Schwenker opened a Public Hearing regarding intent to file a USDA RD application to provide assistance to make improvements to the sanitary and storm sewer and water main in conjunction with Platt Street Reconstruction Project at 6:04 p.m. There were no written or verbal comments.

Motion by Barker, seconded by Kuhlman to close the Public Hearing regarding the intent to file a USDA RD application to provide assistance to make improvements to the sanitary and storm sewer and water main in conjunction with Platt Street Reconstruction Project. Motion Carried 6-0

During the audience portion Rob Taylor spoke about The Recycling Partnership that is a national nonprofit that promotes recycling for many cities. It is used to support public recycling education for Cities.

Kuhlman asked how it will assist the City.

Taylor stated that a \$38, 400.00 grant would be used to support recycling working with City Staff and Dittmer.

Sara Hobbs gave an update regarding social distancing. She gave an update on Covid numbers in the State and in Jackson County. She stated that the Government is slowly reopening and she encourages all to continue to use protective practices. There is a 10 day quarantine for those with symptoms with the last 3 days having to be fever free. There is no longer a requirement for isolation for out of state travel, but there is a 14 day isolation for international travel.

Scott Warren stated that the Y is open now. Equipment has been distanced. Patrons are being asked to wipe equipment down before and after use. The pool is open for certain things. Swimming lessons have now started. If you are 15 years old or older you can use the facilities. If you are under 15, you must have a parent with you. They have also started registration for Youth Sports.

Motion by Barker, seconded by Lyon approving Resolution 2020-33 determining an area of the City to be an economic development and blighted area, and that the rehabilitation, conservation, redevelopment, development or a combination thereof, of such area is necessary in the interest of the public health, safety or welfare of the residents of the City; designating such area as appropriate for urban renewal projects; and adopting the Amendment No. 3 to the Maquoketa Amended and Restated Unified Urban Renewal Plan. Motion Carried 6-0

Discussion was held concerning amending ordinances No's 727, 739, 851, 910, 912, 933, 935, 942, 945, 971, 997, 1018, 1026, and 1151.

Holm questioned how long the amendment would last.

Heiar stated that most are 20 years but removing a specific section from a slum and blight area does not have a time limit. The area is what is known as the Tubbs area.

Woodward questioned where the Tubbs area is.

Schwenker stated that it was at Western and Summit.

Motion by Lyon, seconded by Kuhlman approving Ordinance No 1171 amending Ordinance No's 727, 739, 851, 910, 912, 933, 935, 942, 945, 971, 997, 1018, 1026, and 1151 providing that general property taxes levied and collected each year on all property located within the amended Maquoketa amended and restated unified urban renewal area, in the City of Maquoketa, County of Jackson State of Iowa by and for the benefit of the State of Iowa, City of Maquoketa, County of Jackson, Maquoketa Community School District and other taxing districts, be paid to a special fund for payment of principal and interest on loans, monies advanced to and indebtedness, including bonds issued or to be issued, incurred by the City in connection with the amended Maquoketa amended and restated unified Urban and Renewal Area (Amendment No. 3 to the Maquoketa amended and restated unified Urban Renewal Plan) – first reading Motion Carried 6-0

Motion by Kuhlman, seconded by Barker approving Resolution 2020-34 determining an area of the City to be an economic development area, and that the rehabilitation, conservation, redevelopment, development or a combination thereof, of such area is necessary in the interest of the public health, safety or welfare of the residents of the City; designating such area as appropriate for urban renewal projects; and adopting the Western Avenue Residential Urban Renewal Plan. Motion Carried 6-0

Motion by Kuhlman, seconded by Lyon approving Ordinance No 1172 providing that general property taxes levied and collected each year on certain property located within the Western Avenue Residential Urban Renewal Area, in City of Maquoketa, County of Jackson State of Iowa, by and for the benefit of the State of Iowa, City of Maquoketa, County of Jackson, Maquoketa Community School District, and other taxing districts, be paid to a special fund for payments of principal and interest on loans, monies advanced to and indebtedness, including bonds issued or to be issued, incurred by the City in connection with the Western Avenue Residential Urban Renewal Area (Lot 1 Parcel – first reading
Motion Carried 6-0

Motion by Lyon, seconded by Holm approving Resolution 2020-35 USDA RD application to provide assistance to make improvements to sanitary and storm sewer and water main in conjunction with the Platt Street Reconstruction Project. Motion Carried 6-0

Motion by Lyon, seconded Holm approving Ordinance No 1168 adding Title VI Chapter 5D collection of solid waste and recyclable materials – third reading Motion Carried 4-2 Ayes-Barker, Holm, Kean, Lyon Nays-Woodward and Kuhlman

Motion by Barker, seconded by Lyon approving Ordinance No. 1169 amending Title III, Chapter 17 – civil penalty – of the code of ordinances of the City of Maquoketa – third reading Motion Carried 6-0

Motion by Barker, seconded by Kean approving Ordinance No. 1170 amending Title III, Chapter 6 (park regulations) of the code of ordinances of the City of Maquoketa – third reading Motion Carried 6-0

Discussion was held concerning removing a tabled item from being tabled.

Motion by Barker, seconded by Kean to make item amending the code of ordinances of the City of Maquoketa, Iowa, to establish a vacant building registration – first reading – an action item on this agenda Motion Carried 4-2 Ayes-Kean, Lyon, Barker, and Holm Nays-Woodward and Kuhlman

Discussion was held concerning the vacant building item.

Mallory Smith stated that the purpose of this item is to stop the number of failing buildings in Maquoketa. The urgency is that there are only 24 meetings a year and this item requires 3 readings. The idea is to be proactive.

Kean stated that if the public is interested, they can join a Council meeting via Zoom. It may be a long time before there is a Council meeting open to the public at City Hall.

Schwenker stated that many in Maquoketa may not have the ability to join a Zoom meeting.

Motion by Barker, seconded by Kean approving Ordinance No 1173 amending the code of ordinances of the City of Maquoketa, Iowa, to establish a vacant building registration – first reading
Motion Carried 4-2 Ayes-Lyon, Barker, Holm, and Kean Nays-Woodward and Kuhlman

Ordinance amending Title III, Chapter 10, junk dealer of the City of Maquoketa Code of Ordinances – first reading was tabled until a public meeting can be held in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Discussion was held concerning authorizing payment to 563 Design for 124 S Main upper story apartments. Kuhlman questioned whether the item was budgeted.

Gerald Smith stated that this money was already approved, this item is just to pay the bill.

Motion by Lyon, seconded by Holm to approve authorizing payment in the amount of \$17,883 to 563 Design for 124 S Main upper story apartments. Motion Carried 5-1 Ayes-Barker, Holm, Kean, Woodward, and Lyon Nays-Kuhlman

Motion by Woodward, seconded by Lyon approving contract amendment to include 114 S Main and 138 S Main Street in the Façade Improvement Project. Motion Carried 6-0

Motion by Kean, seconded by Lyon approving Resolution 2020-36 regarding the collection of payment for City costs to abate nuisances and enforce ordinances. Motion Carried 6-0

Motion by Kuhlman, seconded by Holm approving bid from Forever Green in the amount of \$3,100 for EAB insecticide treatment for Little Bear Park and Grove Street Ball Park. Motion Carried 6-0

Motion by Lyon, seconded by Woodward approving Resolution 2020-37 in support of the Iowa Economic Development Authority Community Attraction And Tourism (CAT) Grant Application for the Jackson County Fair Association Outreach Center Project. Motion Carried 4-2 Ayes-Woodward, Lyon, Holm, and Kean Nays-Kuhlman and Barker

Discussion was held concerning the resolution declaring necessity on proposed final plans for Platt Street Transformation Project.

Gerald Smith stated that this was just a formality

Ellenz stated that it is a formality required because this is a federal project.

Motion by Lyon, seconded by Barker approving Resolution 2020-38 declaring necessity on proposed final plans for Platt Street Transformation Project. Motion Carried 6-0

Discussion was held concerning the submission of a recycling grant application.

Woodward questioned whether Dittmer was taking care of this.

Holm stated that Dittmer was and that this is the grant that was discussed earlier.

Gerald Smith stated that this is the grant that would be used for education and bins.

Motion by Barker, seconded by Holm approving Resolution 2020-39 the submission of a recycling grant application with the recycling partnership and authorization approving the execution of the grant agreement.

Motion Carried 6-0

Discussion was held concerning authorizing the Mayor to execute the Solid Waste & Recycling Collection Agreement with Dittmer Recycling.

Woodward stated that he thought that this was a bad idea.

Motion by Lyon, seconded by Kean authorizing Mayor to execute the Solid Waste & Recycling Collection Agreement with Dittmer Recycling. Motion carried 5-1 Ayes-Barker, Holm, Kean, Lyon and Kuhlman Nay-Woodward

Motion by Lyon, seconded by Woodward approving downtown incentive grant application for property at 100 N Main. Motion Carried 6-0

Motion by Lyon, seconded by Barker approving downtown incentive grant application filed for property at 120 E Pleasant St. Motion Carried 6-0

Motion by Lyon, seconded by Woodward authorizing Mayor to sign letter of support for submission of Workforce Housing Tax Credit application for Mitchell-Maskrey Reuse project. Motion Carried 6-0

Gerald Smith questioned whether the Council would like to have future Council meetings begin at 6:00 and not have Council of the Whole meetings since committees are now meeting.

Kuhlman questioned what would be done if a Council of the Whole meeting was needed.

Gerald Smith stated that the item could be rolled into the Council meeting or a committee meeting. If it became necessary could be held before or after the regular Council meeting.

Schwenker stated that he just wanted to make sure that all items necessary were covered.

Kuhlman stated that he was fine with 6:00 meetings as long as the time didn't keep jumping around.

It was the Consensus of the Council to hold future meetings at 6:00 p.m.

Schwenker stated that in lieu of all of the unrest in the news he would like the citizens of Maquoketa to be safe and alert and not antagonistic.

Discussion was held concerning future Council meetings and City Hall.

Schwenker stated that not everyone could do Zoom meetings. Communication breaking up has also been a problem. We need a plan.

Kuhlman stated that maybe we should follow the County or a week or two behind them.

Holm stated that he would be wearing a mask.

Barker stated that she was not sure what she would be doing. Because of job, if she is in a room with more than 10 people, she must stay at home for 14 days. She is leery of in person meetings.

Holm questioned whether we could have Barker Zoom and others in person.

Schwenker stated that he wanted a plan.

Barker stated that Gerald Smith emailed a detailed plan. Kean agreed that Gerald Smith had sent a plan that would be working toward reopening.

Gerald Smith stated that a lot more cleaning would be involved.

Kuhlman suggested a opening date of around July 4th.

Holm stated that if by the first part of July, things aren't better, we won't open.

Schwenker stated that it's pointless to have a part Zoom meeting and part live meeting.

Kuhlman stated that it was frustrating having the conversations cutting in and out.

Erica questioned what the point of having an in-person meeting if only 5 citizens can attend?

Schwenker said citizens could wait in the corridor and Koranda could act as bailiff. He doesn't want to exclude people who don't have the technology.

Kuhlman questioned whether we could have some Council phone in like we have in the past.

Holm suggested putting screens between Councilpersons.

Gerald Smith stated that changes have been made in the Council Chambers and invited the Council to come in and look at the Chambers.

It was the consensus of the Council that the next Council meeting will be at City Hall.

Barker suggested a plan for opening City Hall to the public and phase the Chamber opening into the plan.

Gerald Smith stated that a motion was not necessary for the plan for reopening City Hall and Council Chambers. He will make a plan and get back to the Council.

It was the Consensus of the Council to have Gerald Smith draft a plan and get back to them.

Motion by Kuhlman, seconded by Woodward adjourning at 7:23 p.m. All Yes

Don Schwenker, Mayor

ATTEST:

Gerald Smith, City Manager