

MAQUOKETA CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, October 5, 2020

Pro Tem Mayor Erica Barker called the regular council session of the Maquoketa City Council to order at 6:00 p.m. with six members present via Zoom Chat.

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

Motion by Collister, seconded by Lyon approving the consent agenda consisting of the agenda, September 21, 2020 regular minutes, September 28, 2020 special meeting minutes, bills, Renewal of Tree Trimmers license filed by Countryside Landscaping and a sidewalk obstruction permit filed by Nora Sheehan at 116 E Platt Street.
Motion Carried 6-0

Wendy McCartt stated there would be a RAGBRAI update. The City of Maquoketa was planning on being an overnight host town for RAGBRAI in 2020 and because of COVID 19 it was cancelled. The Chamber of Commerce on behalf of the City is asked each year to apply to become a host town, for 2020 the city was excited for the opportunity because it was 10 long years to be chosen again. She wanted to have the conversation about having RAGBRAI in 2021 but there were some hurdles and projects to take into consideration: Platt Street Construction, S Main Bridge, and the Jackson County Fair. Wendy thinks its important to note that the city welcomed the opportunity for 2020, this would be a great opportunity for local businesses and the community, welcoming visitors to increase tourism and give the city a chance to show off the work they have done. On the other hand it is just as important to take into consideration to be in the position to put our best foot forward when we have this many visitors come to our town including the rides, the charters and spectators all have a good time and be able to keep them safe. The intent was to let the director of RAGBRAI to know what the contractor's timeline would be happening and what the logistics of that many people would be. The contractor is delayed, and it is important to "not burn the bridges" with RAGBRAI and give them plenty of time to work around scheduling.

Barker asked if there was a drop-dead date they would have to know by.

Wendy McCartt stated there is no date yet as they are still working on gathering information and still too many unknowns and questions still out there.

Frank Ellenz commented on the scheduling of projects. The S Main Bridge would not start construction until 2022 and Platt Street would start on the West side of town.

Wendy McCartt stated another obstacle would be volunteers. With Fair going on at the same time some key volunteers would be pulled away from RAGBRAI to continue their FAIR duties.

Barker stated no fairgrounds as a camping option poses the question of the riders that would need to be accommodated, safety, lack of volunteers and all the other unknowns are big concerns of hers and she would not be on board for the 2021 year.

Kean stated she would not be on board with RAGBRAI for 2021 due to it being hard to find volunteers, not sure the state of COVID and the challenges with the Fair. She feels it is important to stay in good standing with the RAGBRAI board and feels it would be best to welcome them in 3 or 4 years to show off the new Maquoketa.

Dan Holm stated Barker and Kean's' comments were well said and agrees with not having RAGBRAI in 2021.

Woodward commented on the hotel accommodations being challenges for Fair and RAGBRAI.

Lyon questioned if RAGBRAI would always be scheduled during Fair, 2020 the events did not fall on the same timeline.

Wendy McCartt stated the in 2004, Fair and RAGBRAI went on at the same time.

Brad Koranda stated the possibility of having school grounds available would be a big asset. In 2004 the town used a lot of the school grounds; the medical and security tents were found in the same area that made it easier for control.

Collister stated he would be on board with the council decision.

Barker stated at this time RABRAI for the 2021 year would be a no.

Kean stated it is hard to say know but would want to have a great show for RAGBRAI and not disappoint.

Wendy McCartt stated the Chamber would hope to get it for 2022 or 2023.

Motion by Kean, seconded by Woodward approving the third reading of Ordinance No. 1177, entitled, "An Ordinance to Amend the Code of Ordinance of The City of Maquoketa, Iowa By Amending Provisions Pertaining to Signs". Motion Carried 6-0

Motion by Collister, seconded by Kean accepting Jerry Bowen's Resignation from The Zoning Board of Adjustment. Motion Carried 6-0

Motion by Collister, seconded by Lyon Appointing Ken Cottrill to The Zoning Board of Adjustment Vacancy. Motion Carried 6-0

Motion by Woodward, seconded by Holm approving Resolution 2020-71 entitled "Resolution Regarding the Collection of Payment for City Costs to Abate Nuisances and Enforce Ordinances." Motion Carried 6-0

Collister questioned if the truck was tied into a specific loan.

Frank Ellenz stated the agenda is misleading and the truck is already purchased and approved from council in August of 2019 and this is a motion to pay for it.

Motion by Collister, seconded by Holm Approving the Purchase of A 2020 Freightliner Plow Truck from Truck Country in The Amount Of \$85,196.00. Motion Carried 6-0

Mark Schneider stated the city was awarded the two-million-dollar contract for the Storm water improvement. The contract requires compliance issues and reported to be applied. The monetary as other meetings with the EDA are required and will happen any time works is done for the contract justification in addition to any changed orders that are requested.

Motion by Lyon, seconded by Kean approving Resolution 2020-72 entitled "Resolution of The City of Maquoketa Approving the Contract For 2020 Eda Stormwater Improvements Project Grant Administration to East Central Intergovernmental Association" Motion Carried 6-0

Motion by Holm, seconded by Woodward to table until Wednesday October 7, 2020 at 7:30 a.m. a Resolution Approving Submission of CDBG Homebuyer Assistance Application. Motion Carried 6-0

Motion by Kean, seconded by Woodward to table until Wednesday October 7, 2020 at 7:30 a.m. to approve The CDBG Homebuyer Assistance Grant Administrative Plan Amendment. Motion Carried 6-0

Motion by Collister, seconded by Lyon to approve the Downtown Maquoketa Incentive Grant Program Acquisition Grant Application for 105 N Main St. Motion Carried 6-0

Dave Heiar stated a little background for the item. The developers are proying to invest over \$5 million; they are asking for a TIFF rebate for 15 years and to do that two things need to happen. The Urban Renewal plan needs to be amended and a public hearing needs to be held, which is on the 19th as well. This can be somewhat challenging and not expecting a decision to be made until the tenant is named and is hoping to have a press release for the proposed tenant.

Motion by Collister, seconded by Kean approving Resolution 2020-73 entitled "Resolution Fixing Date for A Public Hearing on The Proposal to Enter into A Development Agreement with BR2 Development LLC". - October 19, 2020
Motion Carried 6-0

Gerald Smith gave an update for a soft opening for City Hall set for October 12th. There will be guideline and rules for the public to follow. The council meeting to be held on October 19th will be hybrid for chambers and Zoom. The other question for the council would be the decision for Halloween.

Collister stated to let the public decide those that want to participate can and those that do not want to do not.

Lyon asked if a date needed to be set, Collister responded with it is always on the 31st

Kean suggested that if the City is going to publicizing the date and time as an official city event that language is included for social distancing encouraged and masks are recommended.

Motion by Collister, seconded by Lyon adjourning at 6:36 p.m. All Ayes

Erica Barker, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

Gerald Smith, City Manager