

MAQUOKETA CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Monday, April 6, 2020

Mayor Schwenker called the regular session of the Maquoketa City Council to order at 6:02 p.m. with six members present via Zoom Chat.

Present: Kean, Woodward, Lyon, Collister, Barker and Holm      Absent: Kuhlman, entered at 6:10 p.m.

The group recited the pledge of allegiance.

Motion by Barker, seconded by Collister approving the consent agenda consisting of the agenda, March 16<sup>th</sup> minutes, bills, renewal class "C" liquor license and Sunday sales filed by La Casa De Pancho, renewal class "C" liquor license filed by The Decker Hotel and a new solid waste collector license application filed by Wapsi Waste. Motion Carried 7-0

Nic Hockenberry gave an update regarding the Rural Entrepreneurial Center. The Maquoketa Innovation Lab will provide entrepreneurial support services to the area. Groups and organization working to foster economic development within a community can be licensed as an Innovation Lab, which adds a set of innovation and entrepreneurship services to assist with business owners. The license program is designed to work alongside existing programs, operations and strategic goals. Nic stated the next step would be to secure a site and options for administrative support and funding for utilities and other bills. Rural sites were awarded \$15,000 for 2 years and the City has the commitment of \$5,000.

Holm questioned when this program will open.

Nic Hockenberry stated the program is being flexible given the state of things. The program is hoping to roll out the Summer of 2020 and then each quarter, so far, the communities are Bellevue, Monticello, Cascade, Dyersville and Maquoketa. Each community is at different stages of implementation.

Collister questioned the cost for the city.

Holm questioned if the contribution was one time or annually and if the city could opt out.

Nic Hockenberry stated the city has a \$5,000 commitment that is annually and for the seconded year there will be time to look at how viable and self-supporting the program is, then another agreement could be made, at that time the city could opt out.

Schwenker questioned if the city had to incur the cost or if JCEA would.

Nic Hockenberry stated the utilities, rent and staff, would have to find away for the funding.

Don questioned the thoughts for the agreement. All gave consensus but with hesitation for the future.

Will Cornelius addressed the council on the Together We Build Project. The project is a joint venture between the Fair Association and the Jackson County Extension, it is not the same project as FFA building at the high school. The Extension office has several areas of involvement; health and well-being, economic development, 4H, collect for kids, food/environment and the Fair Association, all of these are currently at the basement of the Court House and their isn't enough room and isn't convenient to host their events. The project is on the final push for the building plan and hopes to break ground after the 2020 Fair. The Together We Build Project is asking for \$25,000 over 5 years from the City.

Woodward questioned if the building would be open to the public.

Cornelius stated the building would be open to the public, the office would be ran by the Fair Board but the building would have offices for the extension. The building could be rented out and that can help pay for utilities and the target audience would be for business to host events in the gathering center.

Collister questioned the difference between the Lab of Nic Hockenberry and the Extension Building.

Kuhlman questioned the cost to rent the space.

Cornelius stated the cost would be to early to tell and was interested in speaking with Nic regarding his project to see if there could be collaboration between the two.

Kuhlman stated the budget is pretty tight and questioned if the monies could be budgeted.

Gerald Smith stated budgeting is doable and will need to be looked at.

Schwenker questioned why the city should contribute to the project with tax dollars to help another entity that is nontax dollars.

Cornelius stated the building will bring others to town and those people will do other things while they are in town, looking for the future the location could be a center hub for other extensions and can provide more opportunity to the county and community.

Schwenker thanked Will Cornelius for his time and stated the Project could be put on the next agenda.

Discussion was held for the Commercial Interior Grant.

Nic Hockenberry stated he has worked with Steve Nemmers on the Acquisition Grant and the next step would be the Commercial Interior Grant that is to help commercial business with internal structure of their buildings. The grant would help with the remodel of 114 S Main street for Nemmers Realty.

Collister questioned if this was monies the city put aside for grant purposes.

Gerald Smith stated yes.

Motion by Lyon, seconded by Barker approving Commercial Interior Grant application field by Steve Nemmers – Nemmers Realty for property at 114 S Main. Motion Carried 7-0

Mallory Smith stated changes were made to Title 5 by adding the Mobile Home section and the letters shifted creating two of the same lettering. The changes made were to help with consistency and how the document reads. There was no change in verbiage of the actual title.

Motion by Barker, seconded by Kuhlman approving the first reading of Ordinance No 1164 entitled "An Ordinance amending Title 5 Land use Regulation to correct inconsistencies (no change in substance)." Motion Carried 7-0

Motion by Barker, seconded by Kuhlman suspending the rules and proceeding to the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 1164. Motion Carried 7-0

Motion by Woodward, seconded by Kean approving the second reading of Ordinance No 1164 entitled "An Ordinance amending Title 5 Land use Regulation to correct inconsistencies (no change in substance)." Motion Carried 7-0

Motion by Kean, seconded by Kuhlman approving the third reading of Ordinance No 1164 entitled "An Ordinance amending Title 5 Land use Regulation to correct inconsistencies (no change in substance)." Motion Carried 7-0

Mallory Smith stated the off-street parking came from the upper story development project for downtown. The Planning and Zoning Board met to study the parking in the Central Business District. Their recommendation along with Police Chief Brad Koranda would be to develop a Core Central Business District and the parking would go to primarily the public and have no off-street parking.

Motion by Kean, seconded by Holm approving the first reading of Ordinance No 1165 entitled "An Ordinance amending Title 5 Land Use Regulation to require no off-street parking for an area defined as the core central business district." Motion Carried 7-0

Frank stated the previous budgets had the amount of \$46,000 for salt and Public Works uses about \$50,000 to \$51,000. The city uses about 7,000 tons of salt a year. This approval would make the budget more accurate.

Motion by Collister, seconded by Barker to approve the raising the preapproved public works reoccurring salt expense to the budgeted amount of \$51,000. Motion Carried 7-0

Kuhlman stated he has heard from the public they are worried about how they are going to pay their bills during this time and would like to table the raise until after the virus.

Schwenker questioned why the amount of so high.

Gerald Smith stated smaller towns in the area have a flat fee that is much higher than the cities, the penalty would be more of a deterrent and provide incentive to pay on time.

Schwenker suggested if this is tabled it could be taken to a Council of the Whole to discuss further.

Motion by Kuhlman, seconded by Woodward to table the motion to raise the current utility bill penalty from 1.5% to 10.5% as well as to raise the door hanger fee from \$20.00 to \$30.00. Motion Failed 3-4. Ayes: Kean, Woodward, Kuhlman Nays: Lyon, Collister, Barker, Holm.

Kean questioned if the city was posting penalties and shutting off water during the virus time.

Gerald Smith stated not during this time, the state is not allowing penalties. The cost is shifting the work of the city staff from having to spend time on late notices to more involvement in city duties.

Collister stated the 10.5% is still the minimum bill if you assign a flat fee it is still the same. Citizens should be paying their bills on time.

Motion by Collister, seconded by Barker approving to raise the current utility bill penalty from 1.5% to 10.5% as well as to raise the door hanger fee from \$20.00 to \$30.00. Motion Carried 2-5. Ayes: Kean, Lyon, Collister, Barker, Holm Nays: Woodward, Kuhlman

For the City Manager Report, Gerald Smith gave a COVID 19 update. Staff at city hall are staggering their days and shift. There is no declaration from the Governor, the state is exercising individual responsibility instead of the mandate. Smith encourages everyone to stay safe and continue to exercise social distancing.

For the Mayor and Council Report, Mayor Schwenker stated if you must go out go out with a purpose and get home. Businesses seem to be a gathering place for people, the public should go into business with

minimal purpose and not linger around. Schwenker encourages everyone to stay safe and continue to exercise caution.

Kuhlman questioned if the city could put out a press release regarding the garbage. He is getting a lot of phone calls from the public about this concern.

Schwenker stated the garbage subject hasn't gone to the public works committee so nothing has been done.

Lyon stated the garbage and recycling may cost a residential \$17.00 a month for pick up and understands the concerns of the citizens but the data hasn't come in and committee hasn't met yet.

Schwenker stated the big concern he is hearing is that people are being told what to do and have no say. He stated there will be public hearings where the public can speak. He encouraged groups of people to get a spokes person so the council can hear what the public has to say but not be flooded with the same thing. He wants the public hearings to be efficient.

Kuhlman asked if there was a way to Grandfather in Rockwells, let them keep their customers for the next couple years until they retire and give the winning bid the other parts of town. Then once they retire the winning bid can get 100%.

Lyon stated Rockwell's didn't submit a bid.

Barker asked when the Public Works Committee will be held.

Gerald Smith stated no date has been set but will let everyone know when it is.

Motion by Barker, seconded by Kean adjourning at 7:16 p.m.

All Ayes

---

Don Schwenker, Mayor

ATTEST:

---

Gerald Smith, City Manager