

Committee of the Whole
April 6, 2021 – Meeting Minutes

Due to public health concerns related to COVID-19, and as authorized by emergency proclamation of the Governor of the State of Iowa, this meeting was conducted electronically, pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.8, as holding the meeting in person is impossible or impractical. Interested persons could participate in the meeting via videoconference or by phone. Christensen called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Members present: Christensen, McAdon, Miller, Ockerman, and Selby. Others present: City Administrator Brown, Finance Director Sandquist, Public Works Director Overton, Parks & Recreation Director Schenck, Library Director Jayne, and Parks Superintendent Waddingham.

NEW BUSINESS

~~a) January 5, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes~~

b) Water Projects Engineering Contract Amendment

Brown stated that the original water contract, from October 2018, anticipated these projects concluding in January 2021. Brons stated that the timeline is now the end of 2021, which changed to accommodate favorable bid pricing. Miller asked to clarify about the roles of on-site McClure staff. Brons noted that, with this amendment and the other projects, the overall USDA-RD loan amount is still under budget.

Christensen motioned, seconded by Miller, to recommend this contract amendment to the full council. Motion carried unanimously.

c) Southbridge Lift Station Update

Brown stated that several factors have increased the potential cost of the Southbridge Lift Station since it was estimated in September 2019. Brons provided an overview of the project and noted that material and labor costs, as well as an expanded scope, have contributed to the increases. Brons noted that the expanded scope will also require the City to pay for a portion of the project. The project is under a development agreement with Cramer & Associates, Inc., though it will need to be amended. McAdon asked whether federal COVID-19 stimulus funds could be used. Christensen noted that official guidance is forthcoming.

d) Potential Improvements to HWY 169 / Nile Kinnick Drive South

Christensen stated that he, Selby, and Mayor Peters had a productive discussion with the DOT recently. The DOT indicated it is open to traffic lights at the Fareway / high school intersection if the appropriate warrants are met. The DOT is planning to draft a HWY 169 plan for the corridor later this summer. Schug stated a grant could be available for the traffic lights. That project would involve sidewalks and storm sewer. Miller asked about the speed limits. Christensen stated that the DOT is reviewing the speed limit process.

e) Island Park Campground Lease and Operations Proposals

Brown stated that two proposals were submitted for the Island Park Campground RFP: one from Don McKeen and Leon Meiners, and one from Rowdy Merial and Charlie Merial. Schenck stated that the first group expressed interest in making repairs to the site, whereas the second group would like to negotiate whether the City or it completes the work. The second group indicated it has a longer-term vision for the campground. Schenck noted that flooding will be a major factor in the park regardless. Waddingham noted that the City would need to be involved with either group, though in different capacities.

Selby noted that the Merial group has run successful businesses. Miller stated that their proposal noted additional services besides basic camping. Ockerman stated that more information is needed before he can support either proposal. Christensen stated that he would prefer a longer-term vision but that the contract needs to identify more expectations and specifications.

f) Revised City Clerk Job Description

Miller stated that several discussions have focused on taking time to find a new City Clerk. McAdon stated that the position should report to one department head.

g) In-Person Meeting Timeline for Committee and Council Meetings during COVID-19

Brown stated that the City may be able to resume in-person meetings now that the vaccines are available to the public. The committee agreed on a June timeline, using a larger space like the library, and still offering audio and visual connection options.

h) Extension of Federal COVID-19 Leave (FFCRA)

Brown stated that the City’s voluntary extension of the federal COVID-19 leave ended last month. Several cities have extended this leave again. Sandquist stated that some City staff would prefer to be fully vaccinated before this leave ends. The City has now offered all employees an opportunity to receive the vaccination. The committee agreed to let the expiration stand for now.

i) Additional Storm Sirens – Utilize Grant Process or Budget Amendments

Brown stated that one or two additional storm sirens are needed south and east of town. City staff has obtained a quote for this work, though there is also a grant process that could take three years. Ockerman asked for the storm siren contractor to analyze the radius requirements. The City does collect a small storm siren fee from developers. The committee agreed that the storm sirens should be installed soon.

OTHER BUSINESS

- 1. Selby asked about trash in the Southbridge area. Overton stated he has informed the developer.**

ADJOURNMENT – 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Anthony Brown, City Administrator