

**Adel City Council**  
**December 5, 2023 - Meeting Minutes**

The Adel City Council met in special session at Adel City Hall, 301 S. 10th Street, Adel, Iowa on Tuesday, December 5, 2023. At 6:00 p.m., Mayor Peters called the meeting to order. The following answered roll: Christensen, McAdon, Miller, Selby, and Ockerman.

Staff Present: Deputy City Administrator/Finance Director Sandquist, City Clerk Erickson, and Public Works Director Overton.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

- 1.a. Public Hearing on Authorizing the City of Adel to Acquire Property By Eminent Domain for the Evans Park Trail Connections Project

**Motion by Miller, seconded by Ockerman, to open the public hearing.**

**Roll: Ayes - Unanimous. Motion Carried.**

**No written or verbal comments were received.**

**Motion by Christensen, seconded by Miller, to close the public hearing.**

**Roll: Ayes - Unanimous. Motion Carried.**

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

**NEW BUSINESS**

- 3.a. Consider Approval of Resolution No. 23-78, Authorizing Acquisition of Land Through Use of Eminent Domain

**Motion by Christensen, seconded by Ockerman, to approve Resolution No. 23-78.**

**Roll: Ayes - Unanimous. Motion Carried.**

- 3.b. Discussion / Possible Action on Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant

**Deputy City Administrator/Finance Director Sandquist asked the Council for guidance on moving forward with bringing on a full-time Fire Chief before current Fire Chief Braden Nemechek and Dallas County Emergency Management Director AJ Seely move forward with preparing the SAFER grant. The SAFER grant is a hiring grant for a fire department employee covering their salary and benefits for a three-year period. No match is required from the City and there is a 180-day recruitment period. The grant begins once 180 days has transpired or once someone is hired. Applications are due in the February/March timeframe with decisions on awarding the grant announced summer 2024. Discussion ensued concerning the need to move forward with this grant as the needs at the fire department are growing beyond the scope of the volunteer fire staff. Calls are increasing and without paid staff over 50% are going without response from the current volunteer department. A full-time Fire chief would also help prepare for the construction of a new fire station, implementing a paid fire staff, and developing an emergency response plan. Some Council members shared concerns about this grant being a premature step as the City does not have a full needs assessment for a full-time staff and a new fire station. Other Council members shared that applying for the SAFER grant will propel Council and staff to move forward on a project that has been discussed for a long time and we will develop a needs assessment as we are working towards the job description and expectations for a full-time Fire Chief.**

**Motion by Ockerman, seconded by Miller, to direct current Fire Chief Nemechek and Dallas County Emergency Management Director Seely to write and submit the SAFER grant with the intention of accepting the grant if awarded and moving forward with the hiring process for a full-time Fire Chief.**

**Motion by Christensen, seconded by Miller, to amend the main motion to also direct the Public Safety Committee to create an implementation plan for City staff to follow when going through the process of hiring a full-time Fire Chief. An implementation plan should be completed by the SAFER grant submission deadline.**

**Roll: Ayes - Christensen, Miller, Selby and Ockerman. Nays - McAdon. Motion Carried.**

**Motion by Ockerman, seconded by Miller, to direct current Fire Chief Nemechek and Dallas County Emergency Management Director Seely to write and submit the SAFER grant with the intention of accepting the grant if awarded and moving forward with the hiring process for a full-time Fire Chief. Amended to also direct the Public Safety Committee to create an implementation plan for City staff to follow when going through the process of hiring a full-time Fire Chief. An implementation plan should be completed by the SAFER grant submission deadline.**

**Roll: Ayes - Christensen, Miller, Selby and Ockerman. Nays - McAdon. Motion Carried.**

3.c. Discussion / Possible Action on Farm Lease with Phil Lautner

**Deputy City Administrator/Finance Director Sandquist presented the Council that a three-year lease with Phil Lautner for the farmland where the possible future Water Tower Park will be located is up for discussion at the following Council meeting on December 12, 2023. Sandquist noted that if there is any development of Water Tower Park in the coming three years then adjusting the term of the lease should be considered. Council Member Christensen suggested that we adjust the terms of the lease to be a one-year lease with the option to extend the lease in years two and three.**

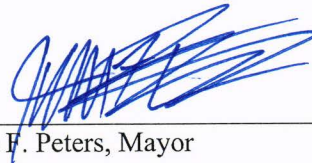
**Motion by Christensen, seconded by Selby, to direct staff to adjust the terms of the current lease to a one-year lease with the option to continue the lease in years two and three.**

**Roll: Ayes - Unanimous. Motion Carried.**


**OTHER BUSINESS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.



James F. Peters, Mayor

Attest:   
Carrie Erickson, City Clerk