

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 18, 2021

The Montezuma City Council met in regular session at Montezuma City Hall on January 18, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor J. Bolen presiding.

PRESENT: Willrich, C. Bolen, Watts & Webb

ABSENT: Eichenberger

ALSO, PRESENT: Christy Sanger, Abby Hubbard, Christine Grimm, Nicole VerMeer, Travis Johannes & Erik Kriegel

Councilmember Willrich made a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the following:

- Minutes from January 4, 2021 meeting
- Claims

A second was made by Councilmember C. Bolen. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Councilmember C. Bolen made a motion to approve Tammi Quinlan, Marie Boulton, Bridgette Miller, Brent Holland and Kelsey Boughton to the Planning and Zoning Commission. A second was made by Councilmember Watts. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Hubbard explained to the Council that the Montezuma Ambulance Service is in need of weekend coverage and is considering adding a contract employee to cover two weekends a month. No benefits would be required to be paid out for this position. A motion to table until the chief, Joel Kercheval, could answer more questions about this hire was made by Councilmember Watts and seconded by Councilmember Webb. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Two bids were obtained to replace the park mower. The bids were submitted as follows:

Lowry Equipment	\$12,900
John Deere	\$13,000

Councilmember C. Bolen made the motion to accept the lower bid of \$12,900 from Lowry Equipment. A second was made by Councilmember Watts. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

The Urban Renewal Agreement between Poweshiek County and the City of Montezuma was approved on a motion by Councilmember Willrich and seconded by Councilmember Webb. Ayes: all, Nays: none. Mayor J. Bolen made sure to express the need to future councilmembers and mayors to be aware of this agreement so that the City and Poweshiek County can continue making improvements.

The Law Enforcement 28E Agreement between the County of Poweshiek and the City of Montezuma was approved on a motion from Councilmember Webb and seconded by Councilmember C. Bolen. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Resolution #21-01-01: Resolution Proposing Conveyance and Authorizing a Public Hearing on Transfer of Limited Easement for Ingress and Egress for the McDonald property be held on Monday, February 1, 2021. A motion to approve this resolution was made by Councilmember C. Bolen and a second from Councilmember Watts. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Sanger inquired about the need to post "employee parking only" signs on the west side of city hall in order to make sure city employees have enough parking during working hours. Councilmember Watts made the motion to have the signs installed making the west side parking of city hall for city employee parking only Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A second was made by Councilmember C. Bolen. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

The budget for the Montezuma Library was discussed. Librarian, Christine Grimm, and board member, Nicole VerMeer, presented the Mayor and Council will their proposed budget numbers for the upcoming 2022 fiscal year. Mayor J. Bolen explained that even though the library is not expected to generate revenue, the City still has to be fiscally responsible for their expenditures as well. Grimm and VerMeer explained that they would be applying for some grant money in order to help offset some of their costs for a new printer/copier and work computers. A "Friends of the Library" 501C3 is being formed to help utilize the donations and memorial funds handed over to the library. Councilmember C. Bolen made the motion to approve the presented library budget with a second from Councilmember Watts. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Mayor J. Bolen discussed the proposed land sale by the American Legion Blakely Stevens Post 169 known as "Scoutland". In 1947 a group of Montezuma residents and a few local business owners purchased a piece of land by Lake Ponderosa. The land was put in a trust to be used by the Boy Scouts for their scouting and camping activities. It states in the Declaration of Trust that; *"in the event that all scouting shall cease to exist in Montezuma, Iowa, for a period of five years, to the Community Hospital in Montezuma, Iowa, or in the absence of such or similar institution, the convey the same wholly and absolutely to the Town of Montezuma, Iowa."* A motion from an American Legion Blakely Stevens Post 169 meeting had been recorded at the Poweshiek County Courthouse inciting a vote that the Scoutland *"cannot be sold as long as the Legion Post exist."* At the time of the meeting, Mayor J. Bolen had not been able to find the documents affirming that any representative from the City of Montezuma had ever signed off on the release of the Scoutland. Several Councilmembers inquired how the land could be sold when the sellers didn't own the land. It was decided to set-up a special meeting and invite the Commander and any members of the American Legion Blakely Stevens Post 169 to come and discuss the issue. Councilmember Watts made the motion to have Sanger send an invitation to the Commander and all American Legion members to attend the special meeting to be held on Monday, January 25, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall in chambers. A second was made by Councilmember Webb. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

A public hearing regarding the status on funded activities for the Montezuma Meals on Wheels project was opened at 7:13 p.m. The follows items were discussed:

1. Need for the CDBG project. Montezuma Meals on Wheels has a negative fund balance and is in need of assistance.
2. Description of the CDBG funded project & activities. CDBG is reimbursing up to \$16,000 in expenses to help keep this program running.
3. The amount of CDBG funds for the project \$16,000.
4. Estimated amount of CDBG assistance that will benefit low- and moderate-income persons. 100%
5. The location of project activities. Montezuma, Iowa
6. Any relocation that will have to take place as a result of the CDBG project (This will be not applicable but will need to still be addressed at the public hearing). N/A
7. City/ County contact information for residents to contact with concerns or complaints regarding the project. City of Montezuma – 641.623.5617
8. Community Development and Housing Needs of low to moderate persons in the city/ county and any planned or potential activities to address these needs.
(Note: The City/County should ask for public input on this item and include public comments in the minutes)
N/A – Nobody present to address concerns.
9. Other Community Development and Housing needs and any planned or potential activities to address these needs.
(Note: The City/County should ask for public input on this item and include public comments in the minutes).
N/A – Nobody present to address concerns.

The public hearing was closed at 7:17 p.m. with no one present for any further discussion.

Councilmember C. Bolen motioned to table the L.L. Pelling quote until more of the snow has melted and they can get a better determination on the status of the city streets. Councilmember Watts seconded the motion. Ayes; all, Nays: none.

Councilmember Willrich made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m. with a second from Councilmember Webb. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR