

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING

**October 18, 2021**

The Montezuma City Council met in regular session at Montezuma City Hall on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Jacki Bolen presiding.

PRESENT: C. Bolen, Willrich & Eichenberger

ABSENT: Boughton & Watts

ALSO, PRESENT: Erik Kriegel, Bret Warden, Todd Schuur, Austin Battreall, Mike Olster, Susan & Dan Gray

Councilmember C. Bolen made a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the following:

- Minutes from Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> & Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meetings
- Claims

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

The council had asked Tim Minner and Austin Battreall to attend the meeting to relay their building timelines for the lots they purchased at the South Diamond Development. According to the covenants for this area, construction must begin within twenty-four (24) months of the purchase date. Minner's purchase date for lots 4901 & 4903 Barnes City Road was November 4, 2019. Councilmember C. Bolen stated that Minner had spoken with him and explained that his original plans for the lots fell through and they are currently for sale. Austin Battreall purchased 4913, 4915, & 4917 Barnes City Road on December 27, 2019. He stated that he has been in touch with several contractors but is having issues getting anything lined up with the high lumber prices and lack of building supplies. Battreall would like to be able to give the council a better indication on his building plan within the next six months. Councilmember C. Bolen explained that the covenants are in place to ensure the subdivision continues to grow and expand in a timely manner. Mayor J. Bolen clarified that she understands the issues they are facing and asked Battreall to keep the city up-to-date with his plans moving forward as the Council is trying to abide by the covenants as close as possible.

Mike Olser, a representative from Macqueen Equipment, provided information regarding some of the new and used street sweepers they have available. The City's street sweeper caught on fire earlier this fall and Olser explained the unit was near the end of its lifespan as it was a 1995 with over 36,000 miles. Olser highlighted the importance of looking at the hours in use as well as the miles on the vehicle and that all Elgin Sweepers have a John Deere engine. Olser suggested Kriegel and Warden come look at one of the units to get a hands-on feel for one of the newer models. Councilmember C. Bolen made a motion to table this discussion until council can get more information from Hubbard regarding the funds available for this purchase. A second was made by Councilmember Eichenberger. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Dan and Susan Gray approached the council requesting forgiveness on the overage portion of their sewer bills for the past two months. The Grays had received a courtesy call from the utility billing clerk suggesting they may have a leak of some sort due to the large increase in their water usage. A Water Department employee came out and determined they had a leak between their house and the barn. The outside valves have since been turned off until the leak can be better located and repaired.

A motion to forgive the sewer overage portion of the bill in the amount of \$259.20 was made by Councilmember Willrich and seconded by Councilmember Eichenberger. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Mayor J. Bolen wanted to discuss making a change with the health insurance premiums and coming up with a plan to implement requiring employees to pay a portion of the health insurance premium for their dependents. Councilmember C. Bolen expressed that he has an issue with this knowing the renewal figures for December 2021 through November 2022 provided a significant savings to the city compared to what was already budgeted. Councilmember Eichenberger agreed. Mayor J. Bolen explained that she believes that the employee's premium should be covered completely, but the council should look into implementing the employees covering part of their dependent's premiums in the future. A motion to continue with the city paying the employee's health insurance premiums as well as their dependent's due to the decrease in premiums was made by Councilmember C. Bolen and seconded by Councilmember Eichenberger. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Councilmember Eichenberger informed the Mayor and Council that he is looking into purchasing the property located at 407 N 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. It is a dilapidated property located directly south of the school. He would like purchase the property, apply for the D&D Program offered by the City and then use the grant funds to have the house torn down. So far, this fiscal year, no one has applied for a D&D grant so there are currently still funds available.

Todd Schuur introduced himself to the council. He is running for the open council position as a write-in candidate for the upcoming November election.

Councilmember C. Bolen made a motion to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. It was seconded by Councilmember Eichenberger. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

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CITY CLERK

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MAYOR