

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

October 5, 2020

The City Council of the City of Montezuma met in regular session at Montezuma City Hall on October 5, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor J. Bolen presiding.

PRESENT: Willrich, Eichenberger, Watts & Webb

ABSENT: C. Bolen

ALSO, PRESENT: Christy Sanger, Bret Warden, Mark Ewing, Travis Johannes, Mike Cox & Abby Hubbard

The Council reviewed the second pay application submitted by Dave Schmitt Construction for work on the 3rd Street Project. Councilmember Willrich moved to pay the claim in the amount of \$256,606.07. A second was made by Councilmember Watts. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Councilmember Webb made a motion to approve the consent agenda that consisted of the following:

- Minutes from the September 21st, 2020 meeting
- Claims

Councilmember Eichenberger seconded the motion. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

The Seaton Construction bill to remove the sludge from Cell #3 was presented again after Warden stated that he had communicated with Seaton about the charges. Seaton explained that he had to bring in two extra pieces of equipment in order to perform the task. This resulted in a higher cost than previously discussed. Veenstra & Kimm did not include this sludge removal in the initial project specifications and therefore it was not included in the initial bid. Warden also reminded the Council that Boomerang had requested this sludge be removed at the beginning of the project, but the engineers explained that it was not necessary and instead suggested that Boomerang should incorporate some of the sludge into their backfill. Boomerang did not do this leaving a large quantity of sludge still sitting in Cell #3. Councilmember Watts stated that Veenstra & Kimm should take some accountability for this bill due to not measuring the amount of sludge and including the removal in the original project specs. This oversight has resulted in an additional change order for the City. A motion to approve the claim for Seaton Construction in the amount of \$33,275 was made by Councilmember Watts with a second from Councilmember Eichenberger. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Insurance Agent, Tami Wilhelm, had previously met with the department superintendents to discuss the health insurance renewal options available. Wilhelm offered several plan possibilities for the Council to consider and Hubbard then provided a breakdown on projected costs. Councilmember Willrich made a motion to table the decision on coverage until more information could be provided. Councilmember Eichenberger seconded the motion. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Gas Superintendent, Mike Cox, presented the Mayor and Council with a service agreement between the Montezuma Gas Department and Mid-American Energy. Cox previously reviewed the agreement and discussed a section with the City's attorney, Gil Caldwell. Caldwell suggested that Cox request Section #15 in the agreement removed, but to inquire the Council's guidance before doing so. Both Councilmember Watts and Willrich agreed to pursue Caldwell's recommendation. A motion to remove Section #15 in the Mid-American agreement was made by Councilmember Watts and seconded by Councilmember Webb. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Joel Kercheval, Montezuma Fire Chief, was not in attendance but had advised Sanger that the department was needing to place an order for four new sets of fire gear. A sales representative will be present at their next business meeting to go over the available options. Sanger explained that if the gear is purchased by the end of October, the fire department can take advantage of this year's pricing. Sanger also reported that the department is making progress obtaining their 501C-3 status.

The Council went over the suggestions presented by legal counsel regarding the junk/abandoned vehicle ordinance. Sanger will make the appropriate changes to be reviewed before the next meeting on Oct. 19, 2020.

Other items discussed:

- A sidewalk connecting the school to the trailer park is being spearheaded by Dawn Driscoll.
- There is a public meeting being held to discuss economic effects due to COVID-19 and the derecho at the library on Tuesday, October 13th at 7:30 p.m.
- Hubbard explained the City would be receiving grant money to help recoup some of the costs related to COVID-19 and the derecho.
- Mayor J. Bolen stated she would be offering the position of the full-time public works employee and report back on the applicant's decision.

Councilmember Webb made the motion to adjourn at 7:07 p.m. with a second by Councilmember Watts. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

City Clerk

Mayor