

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

November 1, 2021

The Montezuma City Council met in regular session at Montezuma City Hall on November 1st, 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, Abby Hubbard, Joel Kercheval, James Frank, Travis Johannes & Austin Henry

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

- Minutes from the Oct. 18th, 2021 meetings
- Claims

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

Kriegel traveled to Ankeny to look at a 2011 Elgin street sweeper that will be available for purchase soon. The unit has 6,777 hours and 23,160 miles on it. The representative from MacQueen Equipment explained that all moving parts will be replaced before it is released for purchase. After looking the sweeper over, Kriegel reported that the sweeper is in great condition and they lowered the purchase price to \$107,000. Councilmember Eichenberger made the motion to move forward with the purchase of the 2011 Elgin street sweeper for the price of \$107,000. A second was made by Councilmember Willrich. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Fire Chief, Joel Kercheval, reached out to Mayor J. Bolen to discuss the ongoing issue of the lack of qualifying EMT's on the current roster. The present volunteers will not be able to staff the ambulance service the way they are required by law for much longer. More help is needed in order to keep the community covered. Mayor J. Bolen explained that it seems much harder to find people willing to commit to be a volunteer. Councilmember Willrich does not want to lose the ambulance service because he knows that minutes can make a big difference when it comes to response times. He also understands that four or five people can't be expected to cover all of the calls. A committee was compiled to look at the facts and figures relating to the EMT shortage. They will meet and discuss the issue and hopefully be able to report back to the council with some ideas to resolve the problem.

James Frank questioned the council about the possibility of starting a student work program so that students can job shadow him and get a better understanding of his role as a full-time EMT for the City of Montezuma. Councilmember Willrich agrees, and hopes that this could be an opportunity to spark an interest regarding the EMT/fire department volunteer roles. A motion to approve the student work program was made by Councilmember Willrich and seconded by Eichenberger. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Warden reported that Boomerang had been down to the sewer plant to cut a wall down to the correct height according to the plan specifications. There is still the issue with the old 12" pipe that was not upgraded or replaced, not being an adequate size to handle the flow. Warden believes that they should be able to make the pipe upgrade instead of waiting for Veenstra & Kimm to find a contractor willing to come in and make the repairs.

Mayor J. Bolen explained that she had received an email from the Iowa Auditor of State's office stating that Montezuma had received the Best Performing City for our sized town for their PIE program. The Public Innovations & Efficiencies (PIE) program serves as a guide to state and local governments on the steps they can take to save money and promote efficiency. On Friday, November 12, a representative from the auditor's office will be at City Hall from 3:40 – 4:10 p.m. They plan to meet with city officials to talk about the steps the city has taken to improve efficiency, discuss opportunities available for more improvement and to share a piece of pie.

Councilmember C. Bolen made a motion at 6:40 p.m. to go into closed session to discuss a city employee's ninety-day review, citing Iowa Code Chapter 21.5(i)

To evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session.

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

The council came back into open session at 6:50 p.m.

A motion to approve the 90-day review payroll increase of \$2,000/year for Gas Department employee, Austin Henry, was made by Councilmember C. Bolen. A second was made by Councilmember Willrich. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Councilmember Eichenberger made a motion to adjourn at 6:57 p.m. It was seconded by Councilmember C. Bolen. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

City Clerk

Mayor