

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 7, 2022

The Montezuma City Council met in regular session at Montezuma City Hall on February 7, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. with Mayor Jacki Bolen presiding.

PRESENT: Willrich, C. Bolen, Schuur, Eichenberger & Watts

ABSENT: none

ALSO, PRESENT: Christy Sanger, Erik Kriegel, Abby Hubbard, Austin Henry, Travis Johannes, Bret Warden, James Frank & Deedee Lehman

Councilmember Watts made a motion to approve the consent agenda which consisted of the following:

- Minutes from meeting: January 17, 2022
- Claims

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

The council had previously discussed putting the Dangerous & Dilapidated Program on hold along with the Private Rehabilitation Grant. A motion to withhold funding for the either program for Fiscal Year 2023 was made by Councilmember C. Bolen and seconded by Councilmember Watts. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Gas Department Superintendent, Travis Johannes, presented a quote for new gas meters. Johannes explained the meters currently still in use are in working condition but they make retrieving electronic readings very difficult. A motion to approve the meter purchase was made by Councilmember Willrich and seconded by Councilmember Eichenberger. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

At a previous meeting, Johannes discussed making a few necessary changes to the existing gas rebate program. He explained the changes and a motion to approve the updates was made by Councilmember C. Bolen. A second was made by Councilmember Watts. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Resolution #22-02-04: Resolution Authorizing the Filing of a 657A.10B Petition for Ownership of Property at 401 E. Jefferson, in Montezuma, Poweshiek County, Iowa. Sanger updated the council on the required steps to deem this an abandoned property and what still lies ahead to acquire it. A motion to approve Resolution #22-02-04 was made by Councilmember C. Bolen and seconded by Councilmember Willrich. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Resolution #22-02-01: Resolution Setting Time and Place for a Public Hearing Concerning the Proposed Tax Levy for Fiscal Year 2023 for the City of Montezuma. Councilmember Willrich made a motion to approve Resolution #22-02-01. A second was made by Councilmember Watts. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Resolution #22-02-05: Resolution Setting Time and Place for a Public Hearing on the Adoption of the Proposed "Code of Ordinances of the City of Montezuma, Iowa". A motion to approve Resolution #22-02-05 was made by Councilmember C. Bolen and seconded by Councilmember Schuur. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Kriegel provided an updated quote for the replacement of the city's mower. Lowry stated that they currently have the new unit in stock, but cannot guarantee any more will come in this spring. Councilmember Schuur looked at the Kubota website and noted that there might be a \$300 rebate that the city could use. Sanger said she would inquire about the rebate before she cuts the check. Councilmember C. Bolen made the motion to approve the new mower purchase and trade-in. A second was made by Councilmember Eichenberger. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

James Frank, the city's full-time EMT, explained that he had talked with the mayor and Hubbard to better clarify his working hours. He also discussed two possible new EMS students that would like to take part in the upcoming class starting on February 21st. Because of the time change for today's meeting, neither candidate could take time off to

attend and talk to the council. Councilmember Watts reiterated the importance of the applicants to be present and speak to the council regarding their motivation and willingness to commit to the class and becoming a volunteer for the Montezuma Ambulance Service. A motion was made by Councilmember Eichenberger to go ahead and approve the reimbursement for Braydon Henning and Lori Eickhoff making sure they sign the payback contract before the first class. A second was made by Councilmember Willrich. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Mayor J. Bolen informed the council that currently, the city does not have a work from home policy and wanted to know if there is a need to develop and adopt one. Due to the COVID outbreak, the city purchased Sanger a laptop to have in case of a quarantine issue although, Sanger explained that she requires many office files on a daily basis and that working from home is not really feasible for a long period of time. Councilmember Watts expressed his concern about working from home pointing out that city employees need to be available to the public and in the office during regular working hours. Councilmember Eichenberger also voiced the importance of the city's public positions being accessible during office hours. Deedee Lehman described her experience with this type of policy and offered some insight on a few key topics to keep in mind when considering developing a work from home policy. After some discussion, it was decided to have Sanger reach out to other cities to see if they have work from home policies in effect and to take a look at the wording and requirements they used. Sanger will provide her findings at a later meeting. A motion to table this topic until further information can be obtained was made by Councilmember Schuur and seconded by Councilmember Watts. Aye: all, Nays: none.

Other items discussed:

- Warden reported that he had not heard anything further from Veenstra & Kimm regarding the UV Treatment issues at the sewer plant.

At 12:36 p.m., Councilmember Eichenberger made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to:

Review of Employee Professional Competency in Closed Session

a. Closed Session Pursuant to 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.*

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

Councilmember C. Bolen made a motion to adjourn the regular session at 12:37 p.m. It was seconded by Councilmember Eichenberger. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

City Clerk

Mayor