

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING

May 18, 2020

The City Council of the City of Montezuma met in regular session at Montezuma City Hall on May 18, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor J. Bolen presiding.

PRESENT: Willrich, C. Bolen, Eichenberger & Webb

ABSENT:

ALSO, PRESENT: Abby Hubbard, Mark Ewing, Bret Warden & Mike Cox

ALSO, PRESENT ELECTRONICALLY: Derek Bates, Colin Watts & Oliva Patton

The Montezuma City Council held their meeting electronically due to the issues surrounding COVID-19. Chapter 21.8 of the Iowa Code does permit electronic meetings and with the Proclamation of Disaster Emergency ordered by Governor Reynolds on March 19, 2020, a suspension was issued on Iowa laws that would prevent the use of electronic meetings. The agenda and the City's social media source posted the instructions on how others could participate in the meeting allowing the public to be involved during this pandemic.

The Council first considered payment application #6 from Boomerang Corporation in the amount of \$769,970.78 as it was included in the claims for the consent agenda. Olivia Patton explained the charges listed and explained that the payment consisted of mainly materials as not much labor has taken place since late January 2020. Councilmember Webb made the motion to go forward with the submitted the payment to Boomerang. A second was made by Councilmember C. Bolen.

Councilmember Willrich made the motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of the following:

- Claims
- Minutes from May 4, 2020 meeting
- Liquor Licenses: The Depot Express
- Tax Abatement – Mike Johnston – 42'x42' Storage Shed

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

A public hearing concerning the budget amendment for fiscal year 2020 for the City of Montezuma, Iowa, was opened at 6:05 p.m. No one was present and the hearing was closed at 6:06 p.m.

Resolution #20-05-03: Resolution Approving the Budget Amendment for the Fiscal Year 2020 for the City of Montezuma, IA. Councilmember C. Bolen made a motion to approve Resolution #20-05-03 and it was seconded by Councilmember Eichenberger. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Resolution #20-05-02: Resolution Setting Time and Place for a Public Hearing Concerning the Amendment for the Rates for Gas Services for the Residential, Commercial & Industrial Customers for the City of Montezuma, Iowa. Mike Cox, the Gas Department's superintendent, explained that this amendment pertains to eliminating the five-tiered billing system and implementing a flat-rate fee instead. The engineer performed a study to determine the price and after Cox figured bills using both formulas, there was little difference using the new calculating system. The new procedure will also make figuring bills much easier. Cox also explained the \$7 minimum charge is being replaced with a \$7 customer charge. This fee will be utilized to upgrade and service the gas meters. Councilmember C. Bolen motioned to pay Resolution #20-05-02. A second was made by Councilmember Eichenberger. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Resolution #20-05-04: Resolution Authorizing the Director of Finance to make Transfers to the Appropriate Funds for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020 for the City of Montezuma, Iowa. Councilmember C. Bolen made the motion to approve Resolution #20-05-04 and Councilmember Eichenberger seconded the motion. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

K&J Tree Service submitted an estimate to help clear a city alley with three dead trees. The bid of \$1000 is for cutting down the trees only. Ewing and Warden will cut and haul away the rest of the lumber. Councilmember Willrich motioned to approve the tree removal bid and Councilmember Eichenberger seconded the motion. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Mayor Bolen explained that Governor Kim Reynolds is slowly reopening the state back up and asked the Council their thoughts on to proceed doing the same for the city. The library board made the decision to open on Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, but the doors to the city office are still closed to the public. Sanger explained that there hasn't been many issues accepting payments and other forms of communication through the drop box due to the locked doors. Councilmember C. Bolen explained that he would rather keep the doors locked for a while longer than risk anyone's health. Mayor J. Bolen stated that the offices would remain closed to the public until they revisited the situation at the June 1<sup>st</sup> council meeting.

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration was also up for discussion. Councilmember Willrich expressed his concern with wanting to encourage a lot of extra people coming into town for fear of spreading the virus. Sanger stated she would get in touch with Deb VerMeer to see what the Montezuma Business Boosters were contemplating. Bret Warden spoke for the MAG Group and explained that it is almost too late to try and bring in any kind of entertainment but he could see about a few smaller events if necessary. It was decided to hold off any final decisions on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration until a conversation could be held with someone from the business boosters.

Councilmember Watts and C. Bolen have both reviewed the junk vehicle ordinance and will review collaborate before presenting their changes/additions to the rest of the council at the next meeting.

Other items discussed were some properties that need mowing letters sent out, the parking lines on N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street being repainted wider and the sewer issue at the property located at 508 E. Main.

A motion to adjourn at 6:52 p.m. was made by Councilmember Webb with a second by Councilmember C. Bolen. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

---

City Clerk

---

Mayor