

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

June 1, 2020

The City Council of the City of Montezuma met in regular session at Montezuma City Hall on June 1, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor J. Bolen presiding.

PRESENT: Willrich, C. Bolen, Eichenberger & Watts

ABSENT: Webb

ALSO, PRESENT: Abby Hubbard, Mark Ewing, Bret Warden, Travis Johannes, Mike Cox, Deb VerMeer & Roger Allen

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.

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

- Claims
- Minutes from May 18, 2020 meeting
- Liquor Licenses: Monte Spirits

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

The Council first considered an application from Gary and Tammi Quinlan for the City of Montezuma's Dangerous and Dilapidated Program. They are requesting the grant for private demolition for the property they purchased at 504 S. 4th Street. This address has been a constant nuisance to the City for the past several years. A motion to approve the Quinlan's grant application was made by Councilmember C. Bolen with a second from Councilmember Watts. Ayes: all, Nays: none. The second private demolition application was presented by Tim Coleman to remove a garage located at 104 Harrison Street. Sanger explained that this property was on the nuisance list, but no letter had gone out yet. Councilmembers Watts and Eichenberger were both concerned with the bid for tear-down of the garage as it seemed high compared to some of the other bids that had been received to remove larger structures.

Councilmember Watts made a motion to request a second quote for tear-down from Coleman before decision is made on his application. Councilmember Eichenberger seconded the motion. Ayes: all, Nays: none. Mayor J. Bolen revisited the option of suspending the other grant option for private rehabilitation due to the lack of funds the City will receive because the COVID-19 pandemic. Councilmember C. Bolen made the motion to put a hold on the private rehabilitation portion of the grant and have it be looked at again later once more funding numbers are available. A second was made by Councilmember Willrich. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

A public hearing concerning Ordinance #69 – Amending Provisions Pertaining to Gas Utility Rates, was opened at 6:07 p.m. No one was present for the public hearing. The first reading of this ordinance also took place. The public hearing was closed at 6:09 p.m.

As the Governor eases up restrictions, the City has been able to slowly open areas as well. As of June 1st the parks can be utilized again but the doors to the City offices have remained closed. It was decided to unlock the front door to the public but limit the inside area to one customer/resident at a time. No one will be allowed past the second door until the situation has been re-evaluated at the June 15th meeting.

The 4th July Celebration was up next for discussion. Deb VerMeer explained that the boosters are willing to comply with whatever plans the City decides upon. Lion's member, Roger Allen, clarified that his group might not be able to get the chickens this late in the game and the aging affiliates are also very aware of the threat of the Corona Virus could have on their wellbeing. Mayor J. Bolen does not want to cancel but would rather see if postponing the "Let Freedom Ring" celebration would be sufficient. Holding the festivities in September was brought up as an option and

Sanger asked about the possibility of joining with the school combining homecoming with the 4th of July events. Hubbard will contact the school to see if the homecoming date listed on the website is correct. VerMeer and Allen will both report back to their committees to see if they would be interested in this collaborated effort for a city celebration.

Councilmembers Watts and C. Bolen presented their corrections/additions/cancellations of Burlington's Junk Vehicle Ordinance. Councilmember C. Bolen motioned to table discussion until the June 15th meeting giving the Council more time to review the possible changes. A second was made by Councilmember Watts. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Sanger received a letter from Vera Worrall, who resides at 604 E Cass Street. She explained that the stream running behind her house needs cleaned out so that when there is a large rain, the water can flow downstream instead of pooling up in the yards that border the water source. Warden and Ewing explained that a concrete ditch could be put in, but they would need to see about the current cost of concrete to see if it is feasible at this time.

Councilmember Eichenberger inquired if any further quotes from Manatt's or LL Pelling had been received. Hubbard explained that only Manatt's had been back to look at the streets again and that no numbers had been submitted.

Sanger has been in contact with the attorneys and they requested to have Veenstra and Kimm write a letter to Boomerang Construction explaining that the City would be standing by the July 3, 2020 Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvement completion deadline. At that time any liquidated damages will be assessed. In addition, the City may also proceed with any other legal claims available to them as a result of Boomerang Construction's failure to timely perform its contractual obligations. Sanger will report back with more information when she has it.

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

City Clerk

Mayor