

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
June 6, 2022

The Montezuma City Council met in regular session at Montezuma City Hall on June 6, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Jacki Bolen presiding.

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

ABSENT: none

ALSO, PRESENT: Christy Sanger, Bret Warden, Erik Kriegel, Travis Johannes, Steve Audas, Kevin Kudart, Tammi Quinlan, Ron Hensel, Dennis Latcham, Austin Henry & Deedee Lehman

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

- Minutes from the regular meeting held on: May 16, 2022
- Claims

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

Kevin and Monica Carl presented a Tax Abatement Application for their new home located at 1001 East Main Street. Councilmember Schuur made a motion to approve the abatement and it was seconded by Councilmember Eichenberger. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Resolution #22-06-01: A Resolution Approving the 2022 IAMU Operations & Maintenance Plan and the Emergency Plan & Procedures for the Montezuma Gas Department. Councilmember C. Bolen made a motion to approve Resolution #22-06-01. It was seconded by Councilmember Willrich. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Sanger inquired about having two "Slow, Children at Play" signs put up within the South Diamond Development. Councilmember C. Bolen made a motion to approve the signs. A second was made by Councilmember Eichenberger. Ayes: all, Nays: none. Warden will check to see if there are any signs in the shop, if not, Sanger will order them through Iowa Prison Industries.

Mayor J. Bolen informed the council that she had been asked to have stop signs installed at the corners of East Clark and South 6th Street. Residents living at Sunny View Apartments explain that the traffic on Clark Street goes by their residences frequently and fast. After looking at Beacon, Councilmember Watts made a motion to have stop signs installed at the corners of South 6th and Clark Street going both east and west. A second was made by Councilmember Schuur. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Ron Hensel and Dennis Latcham asked the council for permission to close off the streets around the west, south and east sides of the square on Saturday, September 24, 2022 for a car show. The event will run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Councilmember Schuur made a motion to approve the closing of the streets for the car show on September 24, 2022. Councilmember Eichenberger seconded the motion. Ayes: all, Nays: none. Sanger will send letters to the occupants of the upstairs apartments that live on South 4th Street as well as the businesses to ask them not to park on the street.

The council again addressed the garbage and recycling changes with Audas Sanitation owner, Steve Audas. Sanger had received some questions from concerned residents regarding the increase in costs so she asked Audas to provide a few more pricing options for the council to consider which included eliminating the city's responsibility of handling the billing and collection tasks. Utility billing clerk, Tammi Quinlan, provided the council with figures showing how the city pays Audas for the customers billed on a monthly basis but because not all residents pay their bills on time, the city ends up acquiring a deficit due to the unpaid fees. Unfortunately, this happens every month and that shortfall adds up. Quinlan proposed waiting until the end of the month and base the payment to Audas on what has actually been collected rather than what is billed out. With that information provided, Mayor J. Bolen explained that the council should first decide on what fee option they want to move forward with and then they can fill in the details. A motion to approve Option #2 was

made by Councilmember C. Bolen and seconded by Councilmember Watts. Ayes: all, Nays: none. Option #2 consists of the following:

\$21.50/month = Weekly trash pickup & recycling pickup twice a month. City continues with all billing and fee collection services.

\$27.50/month = Weekly trash pickup & recycling pickup twice a month. Audas Sanitation takes over all billing and fee collection services.

Councilmember Watts then questioned if relieving the utility billing office and the city of the responsibilities of billing and collecting the fees would be the best option as the city can't continue to take the loss in revenue. Mayor J. Bolen is concerned with not only the increase in fees for residents also the number of delinquent customers and what that means for the city. Quinlan also reminded the council that the city receives \$.50/customer from Audas for the billing and collecting and that does not cover the total costs incurred on a monthly basis. Audas questioned what amount would cover the expenses. After some discussion, it was decided that the city would require an extra \$1.50/customer. It was then that Montezuma Light & Power Superintendent, Kevin Kudart, suggested moving forward with a twelve-month trial period for all of the changes and then revisit the terms to see if anything needs to be edited. Councilmember Willrich then made a motion to move forward with following garbage and recycling rates:

\$23.50/month = Weekly trash pickup & recycling pickup on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. The city will continue to perform all billing and collecting tasks.

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

Warden is waiting on a price from Cranston Landscaping to have the West City Park zones and the culvert area across the street hydroseeded. A motion to table this discussion was made by Councilmember C. Bolen and seconded by Councilmember Watts. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Warden explained that since the brush pile gates have been left open, a massive amount of brush including large logs as well as tires have been dumped. He is concerned that with no supervision, that brush, debris and large logs will continue to be brought in and discarded. Mayor J. Bolen stated that she would like Warden and Kriegel to keep tabs on who is bringing in the large quantities of brush and logs as it is for the use of Montezuma city residents only. Councilmember Watts made a motion to change the brush pile hours of operation to Tuesday and Thursday from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Wood chips are acceptable but no logs larger than 14 inches in diameter are allowed. A second was made by Councilmember C. Bolen. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Councilmember Watts made a motion to table the discussion on the City of Montezuma Employee Handbook until the meeting on Monday, June 20, 2022. Councilmember Eichenberger seconded the motion. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Other items discussed:

- Councilmember Eichenberger inquired whether or not Hubbard ordered the new swings for the West City Park as he noticed the old, ratty ones are still hung up.
- Dennis Latcham discussed the water backup issue in his yard and informed the council of his concerns with the golf carts and UTV's in town that do not have proper registration stickers nor the required flag and slow-moving vehicle signs. Sanger explained that Poweshiek County Sheriff must enforce the ordinance and that she would contact them regarding his concerns.
- The final walk-through on the Sewer Upgrade Project will be held later this week.

Councilmember Eichenberger made a motion to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. It was seconded by Councilmember C. Bolen. Ayes: all, Nays: none.



City Clerk



Mayor