

CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
**August 16, 2021**

The Montezuma City Council met in regular session at Montezuma City Hall on August 16, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Jacki Bolen presiding.

PRESENT: C. Bolen, Watts, Willrich & Eichenberger

ABSENT: Boughton

ALSO, PRESENT: Abby Hubbard, Travis Johannes, Erik Kriegel, Bret Warden, Joel Kercheval, Austin Henry, Jim Kivi & Louise Van Ersvelde

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

- Minutes from August 2<sup>nd</sup> and August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meetings
- Claims
- Liquor License – Montezuma Super Valu

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

After the special meeting with the Montezuma Water Board last Monday, the City Attorney advised Sanger that a formal motion regarding the Montezuma City Council's recommendation be made to the Montezuma Water Board on how to proceed with the issue of hiring an immediate family member and the nepotism clause in the employee handbook. Councilmember Willrich made a motion recommending to the Montezuma Water Board that they should follow City Policy regarding nepotism and not employ an immediate family member. This being based upon the scrutiny spelled out by the City Attorney, League of Cities consultants, and the mayor. Councilmember C. Bolen seconded the motion. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Montezuma Fire Chief, Joel Kercheval, stated that Monte's department is the only one still using an analog paging system. His means dispatchers have to be trained on two different ways to get emergency information out to the correct departments. The Poweshiek County Sheriff's Office has suggested switching to the voice-over paging system as eventually all departments will be making this change. This purchase was not budgeted for the current fiscal year and will result in a transfer of funds and budget amendment. Poweshiek County will be making the switch to the new voice-over pagers and the department will then receive another thirty more pagers, supplying members with a total of 60 new pagers. Councilmember C. Bolen explained that the pagers that are currently being used by members have been in service for many years and are close to the end of their lifespan. Councilmember Willrich made the motion to allow the fire department to move forward on the pager upgrade. A second was made by Councilmember Eichenberger. Ayes: Willrich, Eichenberger & Watts, Nays: none. Councilmember C. Bolen abstained as he is a member of the Montezuma Fire and Ambulance Service.

The water backup in the area between the West City Park and residents along Meadow Lane Drive continues to be an issue. Kriegel and Warden measured the area and the distance between the road and the timber is approximately thirteen hundred feet. Warden suggests installing an eight-inch dual-walled tile with a list price of \$6.01/foot. The culvert on the north side of the road that drains into the plugged tile is rusted out as well and Kriegel explained that it would take approximately sixty feet to replace the culvert with a cost of roughly \$480. The City's trencher does not have enough power to dig in the tile so a larger machine will have to be rented to complete the job. A motion to move forward with the tile and culvert repair was made by Councilmember Eichenberger and seconded by

Councilmember Watts. Ayes: C. Bolen, Eichenberger & Watts, Nays: none. Councilmember Willrich abstained since his property borders part of the property in need of repair.

Poweshiek County Farm Bureau representative, Louise Van Ersvelde, asked about the possibility of closing down two streets around the square for their annual meeting on Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. The event will include food trucks and entertainment from the High Bank Boys and will be open to the public. Mayor J. Bolen advised Van Ersvelde to make sure and discuss the event with the Poweshiek County Supervisors if they wanted to use the courthouse lawn in any way. Councilmember Watts made the motion to allow two streets around the square to be closed for the Poweshiek County Farm Bureau's annual meeting. A second was made by Councilmember Eichenberger. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

The brush pile camera has been installed but now needs an ethernet cable in order to transmit a live video. Councilmember Watts said that they need to verify if the system will over-ride the stored videos after a certain amount of time. Councilmember Eichenberger made a motion to approve spending \$300-500 to have ethernet installed. If the quote is more than what is allowed, the Council will revisit the issue. Councilmember C. Bolen seconded the motion. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

A resident had recently questioned the director of finance about how the proceeds from the library book sale are distributed. Hubbard was informed that the library sold the weeded-out retired books/magazines/videos to the Friends of the Library group for \$1. Because the books are city property, Sanger was advised by a League of Cities consultant, to have a policy drawn up for future sales and have it approved by the city council. The document should explain the sale between city, the library and the Friends of the Library group and specify how much the books will be sold for. Mayor J. Bolen proposes having this discussion on a yearly basis while Kivi asked if they could implement an agreement that mirrors the City of Grinnell's. Councilmember Watts made the motion to table the discussion until Sanger can rewrite a sample policy for Montezuma and have it approved by council at a later meeting. Councilmember Eichenberger seconded the motion. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

A Terms of Engagement document was presented to Council from the Van Maanen, Sietstra, Meyer & Nikkel, PC. They have recently been onsite conducting the city's annual audit. A motion to approve the agreement was made by Councilmember Willrich and seconded by Councilmember C. Bolen. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Chris Hudnut recently purchased a vacant lot located at 405 West Main Street. He would like to construct a home there but wanted to see if the city would be willing to sell all or a some of the platted street that runs along the west side of the lot. Mayor J. Bolen asked the council to go to lot and take a look at the layout and Sanger will put the topic on the agenda for the September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting to revisit.

Resolution #21-07-03: Resolution Approving Technical Services Contractor for CDBG Funding needed revised. A motion to approve the revised resolution was made by Councilmember C. Bolen and seconded by Councilmember Willrich. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Kriegel informed the council that Manatt's would be in town the week of August 23<sup>rd</sup> to seal-coat the contracted roads.

Gas Superintendent, Travis Johannes, informed the council that the heater at the border station has quit working. He needs approval to move forward with the purchase of a new heater before winter gets

here. Because this item was not on the agenda, a special meeting is set for Wednesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, in order for action to be taken on the purchase.

At 7:13 p.m., a motion to go into closed session pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 21.5(i) was made by Councilmember C. Bolen and seconded by Councilmember Watts. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

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CITY CLERK

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MAYOR