

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
August 2, 2021

The Montezuma City Council met in regular session at Montezuma City Hall on August 2, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Jacki Bolen presiding.

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

ABSENT:

ALSO, PRESENT: Abby Hubbard, Erik Kriegel, Bret Warden, Jim Kivi and Joel Kercheval

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

- Minutes from July 19th, 2021 meeting
- Claims

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

Matt Eichenberger had previously approached the Council regarding purchasing a portion of City property located at the West City Park. Eichenberger owns the property located at 508 West Main Street. The purchase inquiry is for 45 feet on the east side and 25 feet on the south side of Eichenberger's current property line. After some discussion, Councilmember C. Bolen made a motion to not sell the portion of the West City Park. A second was made by Councilmember Watts. Ayes: Willrich, C. Bolen, Watts & Boughton, Nays: none. Councilmember Eichenberger abstained.

Sanger has received several complaints from residents whose properties run along the west side of the West City Park. There is a water way that runs the length of that area and it does not drain properly leaving water to sit for days and even weeks at a time. Warden explained there is a 4" tile that runs in that area where the weeds and roots have probably clogged the tile. They have tried running copper sulfate through in order to clear the tile out but it has not been a long-lasting fix. Kivi explained that their yard stays wet several days after a rain and that their neighbor's yard is even worse. Mayor J. Bolen asked Warden and Kriegel to get a quote for replacing the plugged tile with something that would allow the water to flow freely. Councilmember Watts made a motion to table this discussion until more information has been collected. A second was made by Councilmember Eichenberger. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Fire Chief, Joel Kercheval, described a complaint he had received from a retired Montezuma Fire Department member regarding an ambulance bill for their spouse's call late this past winter. It was explained to Kercheval that there had been a gentleman's agreement amongst the city and fire/ambulance members that stated if a member, spouse and/or immediate family member living in the same household required ambulance service, the call would not be billed out to the that member's family. Mayor J. Bolen stated that there have been previous ambulance calls for retired members and/or spouses, the calls were submitted to the billing service and paid with no inquiry as to being waived. She also specified that trying to follow unwritten rules is very difficult task. Chief Kercheval explained that Frank can flag run sheets as unbillable verifying that the City Clerk does not submit any ambulance call or billing information now that the new billing service has been implemented. Councilmember Watts likes the idea of waiving the call fee as a way of saying thank you as most retired members did not receive any kind of compensation while serving as an active member. Following more discussion, Councilmember Watts made a motion to set-up a committee to look into establishing a service policy regarding the ambulance fees for ambulance and fire members. A second was made by Councilmember Eichenberger. Ayes: Willrich, Eichenberger, Boughton & Watts, Nays: none. Councilmember C. Bolen abstained.

Resolution #21-08-01: Resolution to Approve Documents for the City of Montezuma CDBG Exterior Housing Improvement Project. Councilmember Willrich made a motion to approve Resolution #21-08-01 and was seconded by Councilmember C. Bolen. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Resolution #21-08-02: Resolution Authorizing the Director of Finance to make the Attached Adjustments and Transfers to the Appropriate Funds for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022. Councilmember Boughton made a motion to approve Resolution #21-08-02. Councilmember C. Bolen seconded the motion. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Hubbard provided the Mayor and Council with a list of possible projects that the City could look into using funds from the American Rescue Plan. She explained that it is a new program so she will be continually checking in on the progress and if any changes have been implemented concerning how the dollars can be used.

Under the Cares Act, cities and counties can benefit from an OCIO IT Grant. The city will be awarded \$9,500 in grant money. Hubbard questioned the Council to see if they would be interested in having a laptop to use. The Council decided that they would rather have Hubbard look into upgrading and/or replacing outdated city staff computers instead. A motion to approve the grant funds from the OCIO IT Grant to bring staff computers up to date was made by Councilmember C. Bolen and seconded by Councilmember Eichenberger. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Other items discussed included:

- West Park safety cables and posts.
- Bonham Trail – the newest portion of the trail is in need of being finished as weeds are growing up in the ground application that was used thus far.
- New security camera at the brush pile requires ethernet to transmit images to computers and phones.
- Library selling public property.

Motion to adjourn at 7:11 p.m. was made by Councilmember C. Bolen with a second by Councilmember Watts. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR