

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**September 8, 2020**

The City Council of the City of Montezuma met in regular session at Montezuma City Hall on September 8, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor J. Bolen presiding.

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

ABSENT:

ALSO, PRESENT: Christy Sanger, Bret Warden, Mark Ewing, Joel Kercheval, Mac McDonald, Derek Winchell & Abby Hubbard

Mayor J. Bolen brought to the Council's attention two claims that need to be discussed before the consent agenda was voted upon.

- Dan Owens submitted a Sidewalk Replacement Application for the sidewalk repairs he made at his property located at 201 E Main Street.
- Boomerang's Partial Pay Application #9 in the amount of \$\$280,501.75

After the discussion, Councilmember C. Bolen made the motion to approve the consent agenda. A second was made by Councilmember Willrich. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Montezuma Fire Chief, Joel Kercheval, addressed the Mayor and Council regarding the complaints he had received about the west warning siren being too loud and the length of time it is set to sound off. The City owns and maintains both of the sirens in town and the Poweshiek County Sheriff's Office trips them when there is a need for a warning pertaining to weather, ambulance or a fire call. Warden explained that the City is a member of IAMU and we can use their decibel monitor to test the siren. Kercheval explained how important the siren is to warn of a storm, an ambulance call or a fire emergency. In many instances, when the warning siren is tripped, the volunteer fire and EMS members are alerted several minutes before they get notifications on their pagers or cell phones. Every minute counts when there is an emergency. Kercheval wanted it noted that it is the decision of the City on how, when and if the siren should be sounded for future warnings and emergencies. Mayor J. Bolen expression her understanding for the necessity of the siren but wants to see about having the decibel monitor make sure it isn't too loud. Councilmember Watts made a motion to table this topic until the City can test the siren. Councilmember Webb seconded the motion. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Derek Winchell approached the Council concerning his sewer bill. With the extremely dry summer, Winchell filled his inground pool multiple times at his property located at 203 W Jefferson. The increased water consumption had a direct impact on raising his sewer bill when compared to his normal usage. Councilmember Eichenberger and Watts expressed their concern with his higher-than-normal bill and the reasoning behind the increased amount due. The Council came to the conclusion that since there was no error on the side of the City and no leak had been detected, the bill would not be reduced. A motion to deny the bill reduction was made by Councilmember Watts and was seconded by Councilmember C. Bolen. Ayes: all, Nays: none. Councilmember Webb abstained from the vote due to being related to Winchell.

Mac McDonald spoke to the Council about wanting all utilities run to his property located west of the former A-1 Fiberglass Iowa property located at 530 N Front St. McDonald purchased this property in 2016 and is now in the process of developing it. He would like Council to consider installing water, sewer, natural gas and electric to the property. Mayor J. Bolen explained that measurements and estimates would need to be gathered before this decision could move forward and that the Water and Electric Boards would also need to be involved with the decision.

Sanger presented the Council with the City's auditor's recommendations on the need to move forward to include all Fire Department accounts to the City books. This same process was just implemented for all library accounts as well. Jeff Van Maanen, of Van Maanen, Siestra, Meyer & Nikkel, PC, explained to Sanger in an email that the City is responsible for how all funds for the library and fire are spent and all funds must be accounted for on the City's

books. Kercheval stated that the Fire Department has looked into obtaining a 501c3 status but it has not been completed at this time. He also clarified the department will do what needs to be done in order to comply with the auditors and the law. Sanger and Kercheval will get in touch with Van Maanen in order to figure out the best way to move forward with this process.

Councilmember C. Bolen leaves the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Councilmember Watts motions to approve the Poweshiek County Sheriff's Office contract with a second from Councilmember Willrich. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Veenstra & Kimm submitted Partial Pay Application #9 in the amount of \$280,501.75 for Boomerang Corp. A motion to approve this pay app was made by Councilmember Watts and was seconded by Councilmember Eichenberger. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Resolution #20-09-01: A Resolution Requesting Reimbursement from the Iowa COVID-19 Government Relief Fund. Councilmember Watts made a motion to approve Resolution #20-09-01. Councilmember Eichenberger seconded the motion. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Resolution #20-09-02: Resolution of the City Council of the City of Montezuma, Iowa, Approving the Street Financial Report for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020. A motion to approve Resolution #20-09-02 was made by Councilmember Webb with a second from Councilmember Watts. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Other items discussed included:

- Removing parking spaces at Washington and North 4<sup>th</sup> in order to make the intersection safer.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Project progress.
- A tree at the West City Park that needs to be removed due to being damaged by the derecho storm.
- The applications for the new public works position will be reviewed by the Council and the interviews will be conducted by Mayor J. Bolen and Warden.

Councilmember Willrich made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. with a second by Councilmember Watts. Ayes: all, Nays: none.