

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**January 6, 2020**

The City Council of the City of Montezuma met in regular session at Montezuma City Hall on January 6, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor J. Bolen presiding.

PRESENT: Willrich, C. Bolen, Watts & Eichenberger

ABSENT:

ALSO, PRESENT: Mark Ewing, Abby Hubbard, Bret Warden, River & Caryn Webb, Joel Kercheval, Derek Bates, Dayton Pringle, Larry Bergeson, Bill Simonton & Matt Simpson

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

River Webb read a letter to the Mayor and Council addressing his request for consideration for the open council seat for the City of Montezuma. Webb stated that he is willing to be a representative for his community and would work in an honest and fair fashion. Webb ran for an open seat in the November 2019 election and he is very interested in city government. Webb would like to be able to further his knowledge by filling the seat.

Mayor J. Bolen gave a recommendation for River Webb to fill the empty council seat knowing that he had campaigned for one of the open seats for the November election and has taken a great interest in the position. During his campaign, Webb organized and participated in a town hall meeting to help the citizens of Montezuma get to know the candidates running for both Council and Mayor. Mayor J. Bolen stated that Montezuma could be one of the only cities in Iowa to have three generations of councilmembers representing its residents. Councilmember C. Bolen made to the motion to approve River Webb to fill the empty council seat. A second was made by Councilmember Watts. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Mayor J. Bolen asked the Council to consider the 2020 appointments that were presented. Councilmember C. Bolen made the motion to approve the following appointments for 2020:

Mayor Pro tem: Ron Willrich

City Clerk: Christy Sanger

City Attorney: Caldwell, Brierly & Chalupa, PLLC

Fire Chief: Joel Kercheval

Assistant Fire Chief: Rick Warden

City Banks: Montezuma State Bank, Peoples Savings Bank & County Bank

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

The official newspaper for the City was then discussed. The Record is the current official paper but the Poweshiek County CR is also available and would reach the residents of Montezuma. Councilmember C. Bolen stated that he would prefer to use The Record as the City's official newspaper and made a motion stating just that. Councilmember Eichenberger seconded the motion. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Montezuma Municipal Light and Power Superintendent, Kevin Kudart, submitted a quote for installing street lights in the South Diamond Development. The amount would include mounting poles, lights, wire and other miscellaneous materials. They would not charge any labor for the installation. After some discussion a motion was made to approve the lighting quote by Councilmember Willrich and seconded by Councilmember Watts. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Sill Simonton approached the Council with a request to purchase an alley that runs along his properties located on Wood Street and 104 West Cass Street. There is a storm outlet on both sides of Hwy 63 that allows storm water to run down that alleyway along with a sanitary sewer and other utilities utilizing that area. Not knowing what the future

could hold, the Council did not think it would be in their best interest to sell the alley. A motion to not sell the alley was made by Councilmember C. Bolen with a second by Councilmember Watts. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Larry Bergeson addressed the Council with an offer to purchase a portion of the City's property located at 1047 E Hwy 85. This location is actually controlled by the Montezuma Municipal Light and Power Board and Bergeson was advised to contact their board and speak with them about his offer.

The awning at the Memorial Hall is in disrepair and Dayton Pringle from High Point Upholstery offered a quote to replace the tattered canopy. Mayor J. Bolen questioned if there is any type of warranty left and wanted to check on this before any further action was taken.

Items to be addressed at upcoming meetings included wrapping up the ATV/ranger ordinance and the stop sign/street light issue on the square. Ewing received a verbal quote of approximately \$30,000 per intersection for installing the proposed lights.

Warden explained that Boomerang, the company working on the sewer plant upgrade, is looking to shut down progress for the winter at the end of this week. There seems to be a difference of opinion with compaction and the lining crews have been called off as well. There is a progress meeting on Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> and Mayor J. Bolen said she would try and schedule herself to be there and discuss these issues with the Boomerang and Veenstra & Kimm representatives.

Joel Kercheval detailed the current issue with the lack of ambulance crews available to cover areas of Poweshiek County. Care Ambulance pulled their contract with the City of Grinnell which eliminates Montezuma's ability to tier on required calls. Mayor J. Bolen then brought up the issue with why the city isn't getting any 28E funds from Mahaska County when the Montezuma Ambulance Service covers part of that area. There are several topics that will need to be reviewed once more information has been gathered. Councilmember Willrich clarified that he does not want Montezuma's crew spread too thin by trying to cover too much area and Kercheval agreed.

A motion to adjourn at 6:45 p.m. was made by Councilmember C. Bolen. A second was made by Councilmember Willrich. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

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City Clerk

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Mayor