

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
October 21, 2019

The City Council of the City of Montezuma met in regular session at Montezuma City Hall on October 21, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 6:19 p.m. with Mayor Pro tem Brownell presiding.

PRESENT: Willrich, J. Bolen, & Brownell

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Ewing, Abby Hubbard, Bret Warden, River Webb, Andy Erselius, Nick and Jamie Nelson, Karen McNaul, Katie Dunlap, Caden Campbell, Josh Miller & Bud Maynard

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Pro tem Frank Brownell presiding.

The consent agenda was approved on a motion made by Councilmember Willrich and a second by Councilmember C. Bolen. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

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At 6:10 p.m. Mayor Simpson took over the meeting.

Boomerang representatives, Bud Maynard and Josh Miller, came to the Council to explain their pay application request from the last meeting. Maynard stated that much of that invoice included parts and supplies needed to start the building process. Also, the removal of the 1.5 million gallons of sludge had been finished and the remaining sludge will need to be moved before the berm can be constructed. Forrest Aldrich, the City's engineer from Veenstra and Kimm had sent Miller an email explaining, "the goal was to get enough sludge removed that the center berm could be constructed and any remaining sludge could be kept in the smaller lagoon cell left on the south side of the lagoon cell. Some sludge left in the bottom can be mixed with the earthwork soils." Maynard and Miller explained that with weather permitting they would be starting on the headworks building later this week. After discussion and the explanation of the progress outlook, Councilmember J. Bolen made the motion to approve Partial-Pay Application #2 in the amount of \$328,097.43. A second was made by Councilmember Willrich. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Joe Heemstra explained to the council that he has a buyer that would like to purchase the property located at 107 West Washington. The buyer would like to put up a dressed-up Morton building including a store-front on the main level and two residential apartments above. The council all agreed re-zoning would not be an issue and it will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Nick and Jamie Nelson are moving and have an offer on their home contingent on the City allowing them to have horses on the northern piece of their land, parcel #450-3066500. This section has quite a bit of ag-land surrounding it and already has a barn on it left from previous owners that used it for horses as well. Nelson explained that they didn't want to take any tax revenue away from the City by asking to have the land re-zoned and was asking for a variance instead. Sanger was asked to draw-up a variance letter to have Hull's, Nelson's neighbors, agree to and sign. Councilmember C. Bolen made the motion to accept the variance request to allow horses on parcel #450-3066500 for the proposed buyers that have included the contingency allowing horses on this property for the sale of Nelson's house and if and when this property is sold again, a re-evaluation for a new request for a variance will be required. A second was made by Councilmember J. Bolen. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Caden Campbell addressed the need for a sidewalk for kids to utilize walking to and from school from the trailer park. Campbell is a student at Montezuma High School and as part of a class, were asked to come up with an idea they felt was a need in the community and to advise a plan to make it come to fruition. There is currently no sidewalk that reaches as far west as Highway 63 from the school. Campbell believes the students need a safer path to get to and from school. Councilmember Brownell asked if he could come back with a picture of where he suggests the sidewalk be constructed and also a strategy on how to fund the project. Mayor Simpson informed Campbell that the City does have some funds available

in the Sidewalk Program which may be a possibility for partial-funding for property owners willing to partake. Campbell is going to gather some more information and will return to a future meeting.

Bret and Cheryl Warden submitted their application for the Private Rehabilitation of Montezuma Homes Program. Warden supplied an estimate from Ponderosa Supply Ltd. for the replacement of siding, windows, soffit and trim totaling \$10,575.01. Councilmember Willrich made the motion to approve Warden's application. A second was made by Councilmember Brownell. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Discussion on the upcoming health insurance renewal was the last item on the agenda. Mayor Simpson suggested that Hubbard shop around for agents and similar plans to make sure the City is getting the best rates. He also proposed that City employees start paying a portion of their premium costs. Sanger clarified that the current health insurance plan the City is on is no longer being offered and the comparable plans quoted by Wilhelm Insurance are actually less than the current year's premiums. Hubbard also explained that the renewal numbers are less than what was budgeted due to the decrease in premiums. Councilmember C. Bolen expressed the issue he has with expecting the City employees to pay a portion of their premium for plan that is not of equal value as when the employee was hired. Councilmember J. Bolen specified the main issue she sees with making the employees pay for their insurance is having two newly hired employees were both hired with the understanding that part of their benefit package was having their insurance paid for. A motion to table under more information and numbers could be attained was made by Councilmember C. Bolen and a second was made by Councilmember J. Bolen. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

The meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m. on a motion from Councilmember Brownell and a second by Councilmember Willrich. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

City Clerk

Mayor