

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

November 14, 2019

The City Council of the City of Montezuma met in special session at City Hall on Thursday, November 14, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Simpson presiding.

PRESENT: Willrich, Brownell, C. Bolen & J. Bolen

ABSENT:

ALSO, PRESENT: P.J. Mahaffey, Karen McNaul, Nick & Jamie Nelson, Andy Erselius and Randy Caldwell

City Attorney, Randy Caldwell, addressed the Council explained why it is so important to follow procedure when dealing with zoning questions as it will help reduce future complications with the decision made. The main problem with the land in question, 617 W Main Street, is that it is zoned as a residential parcel. The owners need to present their burden as to why they are asking for a variance for this land. Jamie Nelson, quoted Chapter 55.14 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Montezuma, Iowa, and Caldwell explained that that code refers to a nuisance issue and does not pertain to the matter at hand. Caldwell also addressed the need to get a Zoning Board of Adjustment established for the City of Montezuma so they can rule on variances. Sanger stated she had been able to lineup three members of the board so far and Councilmember J. Bolen said she would help fill in the last two spots. Mayor Simpson asked to poll the Council on how they wanted to continue as they could bypass the board of adjustment since they had already ruled approving the horses during a previous meeting. Councilmember Brownell clarified that he wanted to proceed by obeying the laws no matter what decisions had been made in the past. Councilmember Willrich questioned the information provided by Region 6 when the zoning code was approved as he recalled it was explained that the Council could rule over variances. A quick verdict that is handled correctly is what Councilmember C. Bolen would like to see happen in order to get a final decision for Nick and Jamie. Councilmember J. Bolen wants the board established as soon as possible and meeting arranged to bring this subject to a close. Sanger will publish a public hearing notice as soon as the board has enough members to fill the seats.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Brownell at 6:57 p.m. A second was made by Councilmember Willrich. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

City Clerk

Mayor