

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

August 5, 2019

The City Council of the City of Montezuma met in regular session at Montezuma City Hall on August 5, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Simpson presiding.

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

ABSENT: Cline

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Ewing, Andy Erselius, Abby Hubbard, Bret Warden, Sheryl Freeborn, Gregory Gray & Keith McCarville

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

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

- Minutes from July 15, 2019
- Claims
- Liquor License – Montezuma Floral, LLC

Public Hearing on Proposal to Sell Real Property - Lots #21 & 22 in South Diamond Addition was opened at 6:42 p.m. No one was present for the hearing so it was closed at 6:45 p.m. on a motion from Councilmember J. Bolen and a second from Councilmember C. Bolen. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Resolution #19-08-01: Resolution Approving Sale of Real Property - Lots #21 & 22 in the South Diamond Addition. Councilmember Willrich made the motion to approve resolution #19-08-01 with a second made by Councilmember C. Bolen. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Resolution #19-08-02: Resolution Proposing Sale and Authorizing Public Hearing for Sale of Certain Real Estate in Montezuma, Poweshiek County, Iowa. Lots #23 & 24 in the South Diamond Addition. A motion to approve Resolution #19-08-02 was made by Councilmember Willrich. A second was offered by Councilmember J. Bolen. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Resolution #19-08-03: Resolution Authorizing the Director of Finance to make the attached Adjustments & Transfers to the Appropriate Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020 for the City of Montezuma, Iowa. Councilmember C. Bolen made a motion to approve the resolution with a second by Councilmember Willrich. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

Gregory Gray, Keith McCarville and Sheryl Freeborn informed the Council and Mayor of some of the new upgrades they have made with their internet services to the residents of Montezuma. Some rural residents are now able to receive signal as well. It was explained that Windstream's debt has been restructured as they did file Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Councilmember Brownell, Willrich and J. Bolen as well as Mayor Simpson expressed their praise for the service provided by Freeborn and the other two Montezuma Windstream employees but also voiced their concern for the overall negative experience many Montezuma residents have received from the general service and options being provided by Windstream. It was reported that Windstream will be upgrading all businesses to their 100-meg service at no cost. Councilmember Willrich expressed his concern with the all of the streaming and technical issues going along with the upgrades. Gray stated that with all of the different streaming options available, this is the direction their company is heading as well. At the end of this year, Windstream will stop providing cable services but are hoping to have a streaming option available.

Andy Erselius approached the Council on the possibility of the City selling part of Front Street that adjoins to the property located at 106 E Irwin. The street is the approach for the garage for this property. Erselius has possible buyers for the property but they have requested the option to purchase that part of the street or get an easement for access. Sanger was going to find out how the Water Department was going about

acquiring their easements for a project and will report back. After much discussion, Councilmember Brownell made the motion to sell the street for a purchase price of \$15,000. A second was made by Councilmember Willrich. Ayes: Brownell, Willrich & C. Bolen. Nays: J. Bolen. Mayor Simpson suggested the Erselius get the offers and/or more information from his clients about the road.

Warden and Ewing brought up a couple of difficult storm water areas that they would like take care of with the funds collected with the Storm Water Surcharge. Homeowners along the stream that runs from the farm field on the northeast side of town down to Bonham's Trail have had issues with gushing water on big, hard rains to mosquitoes due to standing water where the silt from the field is collected. Warden suggested removing much of the silt and install a paved gutter in order to keep that water moving smoothly. Mayor Simpson suggested Warden get with him to contact NRCS and see if they can assist with this project. The work will take a few years to complete if it all works out as there is several blocks to pave. Ewing suggesting installing another drop box on North 4th Street in order to help the water on that road to drain at a faster pace. He is afraid standing water will not only cause issues after a rain, but will freeze during the winter. The pipe is already underneath from previous construction, so Ewing was going to speak with Steele Excavating about getting the drop box installed.

Andy Erselius brought up the possibility of the City selling part of Front Street that runs along the property located at 106 E Irwin. He has a couple of potential buyers interested in the listing but they either want to have the option to purchase part of that street or be allowed an easement. The street is currently being used as the driveway to the garage. Brownell stated that he had paid \$15,000 in the past to purchase a street but wasn't aware of what they were paid for an easement on their property. Councilmember Brownell then made a motion to sell that portion of Front Street for \$15,000. A second was made by Councilmember Willrich. Ayes: Brownell, Willrich & C. Bolen. Nays: J. Bolen. The motion passed. Erselius mentioned that the residents of this property have always maintained the road. Mayor Simpson suggested that he get offers and/or more information from his clients to proceed further.

Joe Strong had brought in a steel roof sample that he was wanting to install on his new house going up in the South Diamond Development. The Council reviewed the covenants and decided that only the only steel roof allowed is the standing seam steel roof.

The Urban Renewal plan was brought up again. Hubbard was provided with a few different projects the City and County could join up with to help improve some area issues.

- Culverts along Barnes City Road in the South Diamond Development
- Improvements for the road that leads to Water Plant
- Improvements for the road that connects North 4th Street at the school to 135th Street

Other items discussed: the use of rangers on City streets, size of logs accepted at the brush pile and the closing of Diamond Life.

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m. with a motion from Councilmember J. Bolen and a second from Councilmember Willrich. Ayes: all, Nays: none.

City Clerk

Mayor