

REGULAR CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, Aug 7, 2018 – 5:00 P.M.
Council Chambers – Denison, Iowa

The first regular City Council Meeting of the City of Denison, Iowa was held pursuant to law on the above date and hour; Mayor Beymer called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with the following members present: CURNYN, GRANZEN, LOESCHEN, MAHRT, OKKER

- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Mayor Beymer lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
- MOTION TO APPROVE
AGENDA Motion Loeschchen/Granzen to approve the agenda.
Ayes: 5 Motion carried.
- MOTION TO APPROVE
CONSENT AGENDA Motion Curnyn/Loeschchen to approve the following items on the consent agenda: a) approve and waive the reading of the minutes for 7/17/18; b) approve the bills as presented; c) approve PCE #4 for Ten Point Construction for 2018 Street Improvements; d) approve PCE #2 for Ten Point Construction for US Hwy 59 South Turn Lane Project; e) approve liquor license(s) for The Pub; f) approve Resolution #2018-36 authorizing various transfers to capital improvement. Ayes: 5 Motion carried.
- DEPT HEAD REPORTS Dept. Heads Reports: Snowgren reported that we had a FEMA AFG audit today. The Fire Dept. has training tomorrow night and the county wide training is Aug. 17-19. There are 70 firefighters registered with several coming from out of state. The 2018 AFG is opening soon and he will be applying for a communications grant between \$550,000 & \$600,000. Had two dive team members get certified, Kropf & Hoffmeier.
- Wiebers reported that tomorrow morning Public Works will be sweeping the middle two lanes of Hwy 30 project and the outside lanes will be shut down tomorrow. Nemitz reported that they have been applying dust control. The levee inspection went well, but we need to get rid of trees on E. Boyer. Nemitz has been in contact with DMU about helping inspect our storm sewers with their camera. Robert working with flood equipment.
- Peters was present in Schaffer's absence and reported that RAGBRAI went over very smooth. The Police Dept. monthly report is in drop box. Kempfert reported the Parks & Rec had a large amount of mulch delivered for Kids Castle, Union Park, Doty Park and Childcare Center. Sunday will be the last night of sand volley ball. Denison soccer club started Monday. The wooden bridge in Johnson Park is being completely replaced. Morningside shelter house project progressing and Job Corps is providing all the labor. The last day for the outdoor pool will be Sun. Aug. 19th due to staffing issues. He will be able to open the outdoor pool from 5-8 pm. only.

Walley reported that they served 302 guests during RAGBRAI. Meeting room usage continues and the summer reading program ended on July 31st. She is beginning the annual survey for the state. She passed out photos of damage to the foundation walls due to moisture that will need to be addressed.

PUBLIC FORUM

Public Forum: None

MOTION TO APPOINT CINDY GOSLAR TO BOA

Motion Granzen/Loeschen to appoint Cindy Goslar to Board of Adjustments to replace Sue Nelson. Ayes: 5 Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ON HIRING A FULL-TIME FIREFIGHTER

Discussed on hiring a full-time Firefighter. Crawford reported that a lot of the same information from last meeting was sent to council and put in drop box, but that Koch had updated financing options. He also sent them a link to a National Fire Talk show where experts were talking about Snowgren and our Fire Dept. Crawford said we are asking for council to move ahead with this hire. Denison has continued to grow to over 9,000, the annexation is moving forward and these things are adding responsibilities to the Fire Dept. Just a few years ago it was questioned whether we even needed the training facility and now it has become a cornerstone of the dept. and is used by all cities in the county. On the recording he sent to council, the experts that were speaking have been to our county wide training for the last six years. Snowgren has implemented automatic aid, which helps reduce response time and keeps equipment costs down by taking advantage of surrounding area's equipment. Snowgren has to keep the dept. in a state of readiness, which also adds responsibility on the Fire Chief and dept. We have watched this for years and know we need to have at least one more paid firefighter. Snowgren is on call 24/7 and never gets away, which is creating a great level of stress. The job description in your packet is routine items and does not include any of the Chief's duties. We need to take this step for the public safety of the community. Mayor Beymer said he met with Lisa, Terry and Cory and voiced his concerns about the budget. Snowgren said Mayor's concerns weren't the budget when we met, it was Main Street. Mayor Beymer said if he had \$60,000 that is where his priority would be, but that he is not proposing that tonight. Granzen, as a volunteer firefighter, sees what Snowgren does and he needs time off and we can't continue wearing people out. A full-time person gives relief needed. Snowgren has gotten almost \$700,000 in grants. Crawford said we are on cusp of another \$300,000 grant for Vail, Westside and Manilla and Snowgren is applying for approx. another \$600,000 grant. Curnyn went on Iowa website and looked up budgets from the list of comparables, by population, Koch provided. All of them have larger budgets than Denison and lower tax levies. Koch asked Curnyn how many of those cities own their utilities. They have more revenue than Denison, so it keeps their levy lower. Koch said this will not create a tax increase and you have multiple ways to fund this. Snowgren asked how levy got so high and why wasn't anything done

before. Snowgren asked if this isn't the plan, then what is. Mayor said we need to develop one. Snowgren told council you are not looking at risk. Keep putting this off, the risk doesn't get any better. Granzen said this discussion started because we have a full-time chief that has done more in last eight years than the previous chief did in the whole time he was employed. Snowgren is halfway burned out and the more you burn him out, the less we are going to get out of him. Mahrt and Curnyn discussed the education program. Snowgren told them the SAFER program is still ongoing. Granzen said we would be taking the 1st step by hiring an employee to get more firefighters. Snowgren said this is the first step that everybody else has already taken. When we are already this far behind, all we do by delaying it, or hybridting, it is just fall further behind. It's the same step other departments have had to take but for some reason we can't make this step. Public Safety should be first priority as a government. This is an essential service and we need to start treating it like that and until we do, we continue to fall farther behind. Koch replied to question about why levy is so high. With all the grant money Snowgren has gotten we haven't had to bond for those expenses, which keeps our debt service levy lower. In years past, the city would borrow more money the next year than they had paid off in the previous year, continually increasing the debt levy, which we are no longer doing. Loeschen said he understands that we need to be proactive in growing tax base and reducing the levy, but Public Safety is not the place to draw that line. Our name is already out there as being proactive in public safety. Creating this position gives us opportunity to take pressure off and create our own SAFER program. We have to start somewhere, and it needs to start with us. We are trying to take steps to reverse things that happened long before we got here. Shooting ourselves in the foot as far as public safety goes isn't the answer. We live in a time where volunteerism is dying and we are going to need staff to provide longevity. Snowgren said eight years ago when he got here, he heard a lot that we need to look at how other cities are doing things, but then we are assuming they have made the right moves. You in those chairs, and us in this room, know what's right for our community. In looking at other departments, you are not looking at Denison. Loeschen said we want to stay on the cutting edge and not lose ground. If we don't do something now, we will lose ground. Attorney Blazek, said the union has given us notice that they want to discuss wage and job description for this position. The item was tabled. No decision was made.

MOTION TO APPROVE
RESOLUTION TO HIRE A
FULL-TIME FIREFIGHTER

Motion Granzen/Loeschen to approve Resolution of intent to hire a full-time firefighter and authorize publication of job opening.
Ayes: Granzen, Loeschen Nays: Curnyn, Mahrt, Okker Motion failed.

MOTION TO APPROVE REAL
ESTATE CONTRACT FOR SALE
OF HURLBERG PROPERTY

Motion Curnyn/Okker to approve Real Estate Contract for sale of Hurlbert Property to Jose Patino. Ayes: 5 Motion carried.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING
MAYOR TO SIGN DEED
FOR HURLBERT PROPERTY

Resolution #2018-37 was introduced authorizing Mayor to sign deed for Hurlbert property. Motion Loeschen/Curnyn that Resolution #2018-37 is adopted. Ayes: 5 Motion carried.

MOTION APPROVING DEED
FOR HURLBERT PROPERTY

Resolution #2018-38 was introduced approving the deed for Hurlbert Property as executed. Motion Curnyn/Loeschen that Resolution #2018-38 is adopted. Ayes: 5 Motion carried.

ORDINANCE AMENDING
CHAPTER 40 PERTAINING TO
CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL
AT RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Ordinance was introduced amending code of ordinances by amending Chapter 40 pertaining to the consumption of alcohol at recreational facilities. Motion Curnyn/Granzen to adopt 1st reading. Ayes: 5 Motion carried.

MAYOR REPORT

Mayor Report: None.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Report: Crawford thanked Public Works for their help on the Morningside shelter house project. He said he appreciates all department heads. The library foundation is deteriorating, as shown in the pictures Walley passed out, and they are working on getting estimates for repairs. Crawford had a structural engineer stop on his way through Denison to look at Boulders Conference center. We do not have a structural problem, the cracks are due to some shifting, so will have a local contractor repair the cracks. The Safety Committee will have an Electric Safety Course on Aug. 14th. Crawford was notified that we may qualify for 100% grant funding to finish the crosswind runway project at the airport. The work on preparing for the N. 10th St. grant project continues.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Signed _____
Jared Beymer, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lisa K. Koch, City Clerk