

REGULAR CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, January 8, 2019 – 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 Loeschen/Granzen to approve the agenda, with switching of items 12 and 13. Ayes: 5 Motion carried.

MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA Motion Mahrt/Okker to approve the following items on the consent agenda: a) approve and waive the reading of the minutes for 12/21/18; b) approve the bills as presented; c) approve liquor license(s) for Hy-Vee Wine & Spirits and Primetimes Ayes: 5 Motion carried.

DEPT HEAD REPORTS Peters reported on December 14th Matson and Groth graduated from the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy. December 16th the Christmas Crusade took place, there were 246 people served. On January 3rd Romero and Sosa started at the Academy and training will be completed in March.

Wiebers reported that they have been working with the Building Inspector to address an ice issue on Friendly Lane being cause by sump pump problems. Street signs are being replaced with new stickers. They are grinding stumps and cutting low branches for trees on bus routes. Christmas decorations were taken down.

Nemitz reported the preemption card was replaced at S 12th Street and Highway 30 and is functioning well.

Walley reported the meeting room spaces are being reserved regularly. Upcoming events include a recipe swap and meet the author with Ken Livingston. She is currently working on 3 grants. There is 1 vacancy on her board of trustees that needs filled, as well as a page position at the Library.

PUBLIC FORUM Pat Breen thanked the Mayor for allowing a public forum to be placed on the agenda as there wasn't one on the previous meeting.

Mark Sherinian, attorney for Lisa Koch and Terry Crawford, made statements about why they should be reinstated. It is critically important to rebuild the relationship, there's been a lack of communication and these issues should've been discussed with Koch and Crawford prior to the investigation. The training prop was part of an overall training program, there is not a practice to itemize accounts and bills for the prop were approved, twice, and it's now being challenged. The transfer of vacation days from Koch to Snowgren has

been a practice that was followed in the past. Snowgren had exhausted all of his vacation time and asked Koch how he would be able to get time off in order to spend time with his son who was going off to basic training. Regarding the raise in 2017 Koch received, which was approved, a portion of that was supposed to go to Terry, but he felt she deserved it more. In regard to hours kept, salaried employees are not required to report hours or days worked. Questions should have been asked before instead of accusing them of not showing up to work. Council has the authority to set office hours if they so choose. Nothing they've done is illegal and they need to be reinstated to complete ongoing projects. The investigation can continue while they work, and he doesn't understand why they can't come back.

Lisa Koch stated it is a very important time as it's the beginning of budget preparation. Budget has to be done and certified by March 15th. If budget is certified late Denison could lose tax dollars.

Terry Crawford said there is an ongoing water problem on 3rd Avenue South that needs to be designed and the cost of the project needs to be given to Koch to put in the budget. There is a pending Airport grant that needs completed, with plans needing to be submitted in approximately 3 weeks. There is a bid letting taking place in Ames on February 19th for the North 10th Street project. He needs to work on the Avenue C and 7th Street project and get it to Chris Whitaker.

Jennifer Zupp, attorney for Cory Snowgren, passed out a list to Council of his accomplishments. He has obtained over \$100 million in grants for Denison and surrounding communities. She considers him a friend, everyone makes mistakes. She believes the investigation is good if Council has concerns. There isn't a qualified person to lead the Fire department and we, as citizens, shouldn't count on volunteers for that. She has met a lot with Cory since December 20th, he's concerned, hurt, embarrassed and wants more communication with council. He wishes this had gone differently, but that's in the past and he's willing to move forward. Consider his accolades in your choice to reinstate him. He was recently voted Captain of the Vail Fire Department, he is very well liked.

Dave Nemitz spoke in favor of all three employees and their need to be reinstated. There is \$3.5 million laying in the streets, and we could lose out on grants. Please get them back to work.

Noel Johnson commented that there is no one more professional than them (Terry and Lisa).

Jerry Bryan stated they are the best we have had, and Council needs to reinstate all three.

Rod Bradley has worked with all three individuals and not once did he feel they did anything wrong. The questioning of funds should've been a short-term suspension. Everyone is looking at everything going on and no one is arguing to their remarks in the paper. Employees have been

suspended (without pay), reprimanded, placed on leave, but certainly not placed on leave with pay, for three weeks. This is a grave disservice to the City.

Gordon Hough commented that they are very dedicated employees to the City. This should've been handled in-house, it's a shame. We all make mistakes, this could've been handled better, please reinstate them.

Rick Torres has worked with all three individuals and they need to go back to work. They're professionals, we need to move forwards, a lot of money has been spent here. There are lives at stake, we need a Fire Chief. Please think about the situation, everyone makes mistakes.

Kate Heilesen has spoken with Snowgren extensively, he finally got a step in pay a couple years ago, he does more for this town than any other department. He's a phenomenal man, educates kids. She supports all three employees.

Rylee Gehlsen has been following the news on social media and says it's frustrating because the public doesn't know what's going on. This situation is a misrepresentation of this town and the negative publicity is a bad reflection of Denison. She knows all three, has seen the great job Snowgren has done, give them their jobs back.

MOTION TO APPOINT TO
TOURISM AND DMU BOARDS

Motion Mahrt/Curnyn to re-appoint Brotherton to Tourism Board and Ettleman to DMU Board. Ayes: 5 Motion carried.

CDC UPDATE SKIPPED

Chamber & Development Council of Crawford County update was skipped due to the absence of Evan Blakley.

MOTION TO APPROVE
MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT
POLICY

Motion Loeschen/Granzen to approve Mileage Reimbursement Policy effective 1-1-2019. Ayes: 5 Motion carried.

MOTION TO NOT APPROVE
IDOT DETOUR SETTLEMENT

Motion Granzen to not approve Iowa Department of Transportation detour settlement until Crawford has had a chance to review it. There was no second, motion fails.

MOTION TO APPROVE IDOT
DETOUR SETTLEMENT FOR USE
OF AVENUE C & 7TH STREET

Motion Mahrt/Curnyn to approve Iowa Department of Transportation detour settlement for use of Denison City Street (Avenue C & 7th Street) for the 2018 construction season with closure of US Highway 30. Ayes: 5 Motion carried.

MOTION TO REINSTATE
SNOWGREN AS FIRE CHIEF

Motion Granzen/Mahrt to reinstate Snowgren as Fire Chief, effective immediately. Ayes: 5 Motion carried.

MOTIONS TO REINSTATE
CRAWFORD AND KOCH

Motion Granzen to reinstate Crawford and Koch. There was no second, motion fails.

Mahrt commented that they are not questioning anyone's qualifications, Snowgren's quality was never in question. Once the investigation is over, hopefully names are cleared. The allegations and rumors need to stop, the only one that knows exactly what is going on is the investigator, who isn't talking to anyone. The investigation is not over.

Motion Loeschen/Granzen to reinstate Koch and Crawford, continue the investigation, and determine what the final outcome would be at the conclusion of the investigation. Discussion then followed. After discussion, Loeschen changed his motion to reinstate Koch and Crawford with the understanding that they are not to talk to anyone about the areas of investigation, this includes social media. Seconded by Granzen. Ayes: 4 Nays: Curnyn Motion carried.

MOTION TO REIMBURSE
MIKE SCHRUM FOR FIRE
CHIEF DUTIES

Motion Loeschen/Granzen to reimburse Mike Schrum \$1500 for having performed duties while Fire Chief was on leave. Ayes: 5 Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Signed _____
Jared Beymer, Mayor

ATTEST:

Terra Sell, Deputy City Clerk