

REGULAR CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, September 3, 2024 – 5:00 P.M.
Council Chambers – Denison, Iowa

The regular council meeting of the City of Denison, Iowa, was held pursuant to law on the above date and hour. Mayor Soseman called the meeting to order with the following members present: Curnyn, Logan, Miller, Zupp-Smith, and Granzen by phone.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	Mayor Soseman led the pledge of allegiance.
AGENDA APPROVED	Motion by Miller, seconded by Zupp-Smith, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.
CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED	Motion by Miller, seconded by Zupp-Smith, to approve the following items on the consent agenda: a) approve and waive the reading of the minutes for August 20, 2024 second regular meeting; b) approve the bills as presented; c) approve liquor licenses for: Lucky Wife Winey Slushies Inc; d) approve the Special Event Permits and waive the fees: Denison Lutheran Churches Rally Day; High School Rendezvous; e) approve appointment of Mandy Hartwig to Wellness Center Ad-hoc Committee; f) Resolution #2024-54 approving transfer of funds-General Fund to Capital Improvement. Motion carried unanimously.
NO CITIZEN INPUT	There was no citizen input.
DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS	Trejo, Police Chief, reported the department is working with the schools on their Adopt a School Program. Granzen inquired when the next Sergeant would be hired. Trejo stated he would like to have additional officers hired before hiring or promoting a Sergeant. Walley, Library Director, reported the department is partnering with Unity Ridge Lutheran School and Denison Elementary School on weekly visits to the Library. She completed a building walk around with a tuckpointing company. Garcia stated that she is working on a scope of services and will send the scope of services to multiple tuckpointing companies. Ellis, Parks and Rec Director, reported revenues have increased from last fiscal year. He stated that Washington Park sidewalks and landscaping are completed, the mulch is being delivered, and equipment is being installed. Ellis reported that the new completion date is September 30, 2024. Soseman inquired about the plants being watered and Garcia stated she would contact the contractor. Snowgren, Fire Chief, stated he is working on two grants.
CONCRETE ISSUES AT THE FIRE STATION	Zupp-Smith inquired about the concrete issues at the Fire Station. Snowgren stated the concrete will need repaired but is currently usable.

KARL FORESTER BEING
CUT TOO EARLY

Soseman stated that the Karl Forester is being cut back too early and will look into moving it due to the sight hazard.

SENIOR CENTER
AGREEMENT UPDATE

Garcia gave an update on the Senior Center agreement. She received a draft agreement from the City Attorney and will schedule a meeting with the Crawford Council on Aging.

NEED FOR FOSTER HOMES
IN CRAWFORD COUNTY

Dawn Luetje, Lutheran Services of Iowa, stated a there is a need for foster homes in Crawford County and they would like to spread the word to spark interest within our community.

ENGINEERING UPDATE

Garcia gave the engineering update. She stated the paving and seeding has been completed on the 2024 Street improvements. There is an issue with a manhole adjustment on 14th Street. Garcia reported that the equipment is being installed at Washington Park and the contract completion date is September 27, 2024, and the new completion date is September 30, 2024.

151 AVENUE C: PROPERTY
DISCUSSION

Discussion was held on the fees charged to property 151 Avenue C. Garcia reported that the property previously received a notice for mowing, it is a rental property, and the tenant's responsibility to mow. Council does not want to change the fees on the bill.

ISU EXTENSION RURAL
HOUSING READINGNESS
ASSESSMENT PROGRAM
DISCUSSION

Discussion was held on participating in the Iowa State Extension Rural Housing Readiness Assessment program. ISU Extension completes a community needs assessment and the cost is \$5,000.00. Garcia applied for a grant in conjunction with the Chamber. The grant award is \$20,000.00 with a \$10,000.00 City match and would be used to pay for the assessment and a startup fund. Flaherty stated the match could be paid out of the housing fund. Motion by Zupp-Smith, seconded by Curnyn, to participate in the Iowa State Extension Rural Housing Readiness Assessment. Motion carried unanimously.

CRAWFORD COUNTY
WELLNESS CENTER BID
ALTERNATE REVIEW

Garcia reported that the bid alternate for the Crawford County Wellness Center is being reviewed and will be ready for possible action next week. Council would like to have a special meeting on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

HABITUAL VIOLATOR
ORDINANCE

Discussion was held on creating a Habitual Violator Ordinance. Garcia reported there are currently 13 property owners that have been cited more than two times. Council would like to proceed with creating an ordinance for habitual violators, add language stating the timeframe starts over if the property is sold, a \$250.00 additional fee, and work with the City Attorney and Zupp-Smith to draft an ordinance.

SIDEWALK PROGRAM
DISCUSSION

Discussion was held on implementing the sidewalk program. Garcia presented a written sidewalk program. The program would rotate on a three-year cycle and be inspected based off of wards. Once properties are identified, property owners would be notified and given a timeframe to complete the work. This program would be intended for residential repairs. Council would like to give property owners the opportunity to pay in full or assess to their property taxes at a rate of 1% above prime and an option for the sidewalk revolving loan fund to be used for Low to Moderate Income properties. Garcia will make the changes and bring the program back to a future meeting. Council would like the Building Department to start in Ward 1 and move forward to the other wards.

RESOLUTION #2024-55
COMITTING LOCAL FUNDS
FOR THE RURAL
REVITIZIALATION GRANT

Resolution #2024-55 was introduced Committing Local Funds for the Rural Revitalization Grant. Motion by Zupp-Smith, seconded by Curnyn, to approve Resolution #2024-55. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION #2024-56
INTRODUCED ALLOWING
THE DISCHARGE OF
FIREWORKS AT TRI-CITY
BBQ FEST

Resolution #2024-56 was introduced Allowing the Discharge of Fireworks for the Community Event of Tri-City BBQ Fest. Motion by Curnyn, seconded by Miller, to approve Resolution #2024-56, contingent on the vendor having adequate insurance. Motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Soseman reported that she attended the Job Corps 60th Anniversary, LULAC meeting, weekly City Manager meetings, and a FEMA Bric meeting. She is continuing with Leadership meetings and reported the leadership training started today. She was contacted by the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) regarding the Donna Reed Foundation and would like to discuss the IEDA's recommendations at the next Council meeting. She met with the Uptown Improvement Committee regarding the directional sign. Denison Municipal Utilities is fine with mounting the sign on their light pole. She will bring back a quote to Council.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Garica reported that she met with Flattery and Olson regarding product options for the Wheels to Heels trail. She attended a FEMA BRIC meeting, is monitoring projects, working on the Senior Center lease, and met with the bond attorney regarding a potential amendment to a development agreement.

ENTERED CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Logan, seconded by Zupp-Smith, to enter closed session at 6:17 p.m. per IA Code 21.5(1)(i) to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session. Motion carried unanimously.

Granzen left at 6:58 p.m. and arrived at 6:59 p.m.

EXIT CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Miller, seconded by Logan, to return to open session with no action taken at 7:07 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

ENTERED CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Granzen, seconded by Logan, to enter closed session at 7:12 p.m. per IA Code 21.5(1)(i) to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session. Motion carried unanimously.

EXIT CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Logan, seconded by Zupp-Smith, to return to open session with no action taken at 7:15 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

POTENTIAL HIRING
DISCUSSION

Discussion was held on the potential hiring of Timothy Pederson at the Police Department. Council expressed concerns of issues while he was employed at the New Hampton Police Department. Council directed Garcia to conduct a background investigation and report her findings at the next Council meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Pamela Soseman, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jodie Flaherty, City Clerk