

West Liberty City Council Meeting Minutes 1-04-2022

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1. Mayor McCullough called the meeting to order at 7:32pm. In attendance, Council Members Diane Beranek, Jose Zacarias, Dana Dominguez, Cara McFerren, and Omar Martinez. Also, in attendance were City Manager Dave Haugland, City Clerk Lee Geertz, Communication Director Jacob Lane, and Police Chief Werling
2. City Council approved the agenda: McFerren/Beranek 5-0
3. City Council approved the consent agenda with the following items: McFerren/Zacarias 5-0
 - A. Regular Council Meeting Minutes December 21, 2021
 - B. City Clerk/Treasurer Report October 21, 2021
4. Mayor McCullough appointed Council Member Dana Dominguez as Mayor Pro Tem; City Council approved 5-0
5. Mayor McCullough called for the appointment of Fire Chief Sickels, elected by West Liberty Volunteer Fire Department: Dominguez/Zacarias No: Beranek, McFerren, and Zacarias. Yes: Dominguez and Martinez. No appointment approved 2-3. City Clerk communicated the City Attorney would need to provide legal advice, but at this time the WLVF has elected Kirt Sickels as the Fire Chief.
6. City Council approved Mayor McCullough Proclamation for Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention During the Month of January 2022 on behalf of the West Liberty Rotary Club request to bring awareness: Beranek/Zacarias 5-0 City Clerk Geertz communicated the proclamation will be posted to the City Website and Social Media Page. Thank you on behalf of the West Liberty Rotary Club for presenting the proclamation to promote awareness.
7. City Council approved the Vendor Voucher Claims List #1 in the amount of \$ 555,824.90: Beranek/McFerren 5-0, Dominguez inquired on the amount of the Visa bill, as one purchase or for the entire organization. City Clerk responded for the entire organization as a total. Each Supervisor has been assigned a credit card per department.
8. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND/OR CORRESPONDENCE This is the time set aside for comments from the public on topics of City Business other than those listed on the agenda. No action may be taken. Please state your name and address for the record and keep your comments to no more than 2 minutes. The Coalition for Excluded Works presented information on demands to ask City Council to consider providing at least \$1400 to each excluded worker in the West Liberty Community who continued to work during the pandemic but where not able to receive federal stimulus dollars. Some individuals spoke of losing jobs and no benefits available for financial support during the pandemic. The funding provided by the American Rescue Fund to the City of West Liberty is approximately \$522,000. A portion has been received of \$261,000 and the second portion will be processed after July 1, 2022. It was communicated the request is for \$261,000 to be provided to the excluded works to provide the financial assistance or stimulus funds that are unavailable to the works as undocumented members of the West Liberty Community. Future discussion on the funds will be held with the Mayor, Council and City Staff for recommendations for use of the funds.

Community Member Paul Reed of 111 Maxson Drive asked to address the City Council, as he had sent an email to inquire about the question Council Member McFerren had asked at the December 21st meeting with Chief Sickels asking Fire/EMS members to respond to calls and if the Chief was asking of non-certified volunteer to respond. Mr. Reed was upset with the earlier decision by the Council and voiced his disappointment.

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Council Member McFerren provided she had received the email and attempted to explain why she had the question, as it was, she was looking for more clarification on the minutes provided with the Fire Department report. At this time Mr. Reed became upset, and the meeting was disrupted a few times. Mayor McCullough called the meeting to order twice as requested by Council Members Zacarias and McFerren. City Clerk reported the Mayor and City Council had received an invitation from J J Nitching on behalf of their grand opening event. The invitation is available with the Mayor for your review. No other public comments were made.

9. OLD BUSINESS

- A. City Council approved Ordinance 20211221-03 Adopting Flood Plain Management, West Liberty, IA: Second Reading and to waive the third reading: McFerren/Beranek 5-0 Roll Call: Beranek, Zacarias, McFerren, Martinez, and Dominguez all yes.
- B. City Council approved Ordinance 20211221-04 Approval of Reprecincting for the Corporate City Limits of West Liberty, IA: Second Reading and to waive the third reading: Beranek/Dominguez 5-0: Roll Call Vote: Beranek, Zacarias, McFerren, Martinez, and Dominguez all yes.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- A. City Council approved Resolution 20220104-01 A Resolution to approve authorized signers for City of West Liberty Bank Accounts: McFerren/Zacarias 5-0: Roll Call Vote: Beranek, Zacarias, McFerren, Martinez, and Dominguez all yes.
- B. City Council set the date for January 18, 2022, for a work session with City Attorney Jamie Bosten at 6:00pm: Zacarias/Dominguez 5-0
- C. City Council approved the Budget City Council Work Session on February 01, 2022, at 6:00pm review of the General Fund Budget for FY 2022-2023: Beranek/McFerren 5-0
- D. Mayor McCullough will work with the Council to assign committees for the next City Council Meeting on January 18, 2022.
- E. City Council approved alternate #4 for the capital improvement Maxon and Rainbow Street project, to include further discussion on the sidewalk options presented by Veenstra and Kimm for approximately \$2.7 million dollar project: McFerren/Zacarias 5-0

Discussion of the sidewalk concerns was presented by property owners, Jay, and Casey Simon on Rainbow Drive. They have concerns about the sidewalk option on the south side of street proposal.

- F. Mayor McCullough asked to have the discussion with West Liberty Volunteer Fire Department tabled until further notice: McFerren/Zacarias 5-0 Council Member Dominguez asked to allow Chief Sickels speak, and Mayor McCullough communicated, she apologizes for how the meeting went tonight, and believes it would be best to wait for city attorney to present for discussion. Mike Duytshaver asked to address the Mayor and Council on why the City Attorney was not present and if this is common for, he or she not to be present. City Attorney was unable to be present due to a medical procedure. Attorney would be present when asked.

11. REPORTS – Employee/City Engineer/City Attorney/City Boards/Committees/Commissions

- A. City Engineer: Leo Foley of Veenstra and Kimm had provided a work session presentation for the Rainbow and Maxson Street CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) project. We have continued to stay in discussions with Northway Well to get this scrub done with Well #2. A meeting was held with the WWTP Superintendent

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Juergens, V&K and West Liberty Foods to continue discussions on the BioDigester project.

- B. City Staff Minutes: City Staff provided information for the meeting. Haugland communicated staff has a meeting prior to the City Council meeting, but due to City Manager Haugland and City Clerk being out of the office, staff just provided emails to communicate updates on operations.

12. City Council adjourned the meeting at 8:49pm: Zacarias/Beranek 5-0

Katherine McCullough, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lee Geertz, City Clerk