

WEST LIBERTY CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 2-15-2022

Amended 3-01-2022

Mayor and City Council held a work session starting at 6:15pm. In attendance, Mayor Katherine McCullough, Mayor Pro Tem Dana Dominguez, Council Members: Diane Beranek, Omar Martinez, Cara McFerren, and Jose Zacarias. City Staff: City Manager Dave Haugland, City Clerk Geertz, Library Director Allie Paarsmith and Communication Director Jacob Lane. Taylor Johnson of Bowman and Miller PC presented the completed Fiscal Year 2021 Audit and findings to Mayor and Council. Mr. Johnson disclosed the City was in a particularly good financial position, and the findings/comments are mostly carried over from trying to catch up from 2019 late audit by the State. All the comments are fixable and common comments. Upon approval Council approval of the Audit the financial report will be submitted to the State of Iowa Auditor for publication.

Mayor Katherine McCullough called the meeting to order at 7:32pm. City Council present: Mayor Pro Tem, Dana Dominguez Council Members Diane Beranek, Omar Martinez, Cara McFerren, and Jose Zacarias. City Manager Dave Haugland, City Clerk Geertz, Library Director Allie Paarsmith, Police Chief Werling, and Communication Director Jacob Lane.

City Council approved agenda: McFerren/Martinez 5-0

City Council entered a closed session: Pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.5 (1)(c), The Council would like to go into closed session to discuss strategy with counsel in matters that are presently in litigation or where litigation is imminent where its disclosure would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the position of the government body in that litigation:

- i. Open the Closed Session Beranek/McFerren: Beranek, Martinez, McFerren, Dominguez, and Zacarias 5-0
- ii. Close the Closed Session and return to regular city council meeting:
McFerren/Zacarias: Beranek, Martinez, McFerren, Dominguez, and Zacarias 5-0
- iii. No action was taken for the closed session discussion only.

City Council approved to amend the City Council Agenda, by removal of the following closed session: Pursuant to Iowa Code Section Iowa Code 21.5 (i) to Evaluate the Professional Competency of the Fire Chief Whose Appointment, Hiring, Performance, and Discharge is Being Considered. Dominguez noted City Management to reach out to Chief Sickels and ask how he would like to proceed with the review of his performance to bring the item back to agenda in the future. Dominguez/Zacarias: Beranek, Martinez, McFerren, Dominguez, and Zacarias. 5-0

City Council approved the consent agenda with the following items: McFerren/Zacarias 5-0

- A. Regular Council Meeting Minutes for February 1, 2022
- B. City Clerk/Treasurer November 2021 Reports
- C. January 2022 Sewer Report
- D. Liquor License Request for Approval
 - iv. Highway 6 Spirits, DBA Jb's Grub and Pub LC0033887 Class C / Sunday Sales
 - v. Giri- LE0002255 Class E/Sunday Sales (liquor store)
 - vi. Giri- BC0028234 Class C/ Sunday Sales (station store)
 - vii. Dollar General- BC0029896 C and B/ Sunday Sales

City Council approved the Vendor Voucher Claims List #1 in the amount of \$ 442,896.87:
Beranek/McFerren 5-0

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 for no more than 2 minutes.

City Council Public Comments or Correspondence: Mr. Reed asked the City Council to address the City Council, specifically to McFerren about the Council Conduct, and pointed out the MLA handbook to the Council.

Council Member Jose Zacarias asked the City Manager to present a letter to Mayor with regards to her perceived behavior and bias against Zacarias by removal from the Council Committees.

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City Manager Haugland Tuesday, February 22 will be the West Liberty Chamber Annual Meeting. I will send an email to make reservations if you are interested in attending.

Council Member McFerren received correspondence from Steve Alt with regards to parking downtown. City Manager and Chief Werling communicated there will be follow up on the parking as we look to have a Public Safety Committee meeting to discuss amending City Code for overnight parking for residence in the downtown district. City Clerk Geertz recognized Mr. Reed as he had a question with regards to a parking space located next to Savor B.

Council Member Dominguez had communication with Johnson County Treasurer with regards to funds requested from Escucha Mi Voz West Liberty. City Manager Haugland stated he is due to receive a legal opinion on the request soon. City Clerk Geertz provided information from Escucha Mi Voz West Liberty. The organization presented a peaceful demonstration at the City of West Liberty. The organization acted in a respectful manner. Chief Werling communicated the organization of individuals was respectful and moved when asked to move from the parking area to the statue area all complied respectfully. City Clerk communicated to Mayor and Council at the end of the demonstration Clerk Geertz addressed the individuals each and thanked them for their contributions to our community.

Please see video for the comments and discussion in its entirety on the City Website:
www.cityofwestlibertyia.org

OLD BUSINESS

City Council approved the Mayoral Council Committee Appointments: 3-2: Yes: McFerren, Dominguez, and Martinez. No: Beranek and Zacarias.

City Council supported the West Liberty Public Library Board and approved to proceed with the Melick Classroom building upgrades. This will be done with a budget amendment as the funds will be provided from the Library Trust. Marilyn Irely Bequest was provided for the building improvements and the Library Board approved the use of funds for the purpose of the capital improvement project.:

McFerren/Dominguez 5-0

NEW BUSINESS

City Council approved to proceed with purchase agreement for a 2022 F550 Truck with Dump Body for Street Department: McFerren/Dominguez 5-0

City Council approved to proceed with a purchase agreement to order and expense in FY 2022-2023 budget for a 2023 Freightliner Automated Garbage Truck for Solid Waste: McFerren/ Martinez 5-0

City Council Tabled Resolution 20220215-05 A Resolution to Approve Updated EMT/AEMT/Paramedic Job Descriptions: Dominguez/Martinez 5-0 Discussion, Dominguez communicated she had worked with Tammy Wigim and believed the job descriptions was not adequate for what was needed. Clerk Geertz recommended to just table the job descriptions. Concern is the positions have been posted and hired without current job descriptions, Clerk Geertz will be unable to address the job descriptions as the budget is currently needed to be the focus. Agreed that Tammy can continue to work on the job descriptions and staff will bring them back in the future for City Council review and approval.

City Council approved Resolution 202215-06 A Resolution to Approve Paramedic New Hire and Wage: Dominguez/McFerren: Beranek, Martinez, McFerren, Dominguez, and Zacarias for Tammy Wigim approved as Full Time Paramedic \$47,840.00

City Council approved Resolution 202215-07 A Resolution to Approve Police Officer New Hires and Wages: Dominguez/McFerren for Jack Bierman Jr and Jessica Saleh for Full Time Police Officers: \$53,000.0

City Council approved Resolution 202215-08 A Resolution to Approve and File the Fiscal Year 2021 Audit with the Iowa Auditor of State by Bowman and Miller PC and submit payment to Bowman and Miller PC in the amount of \$28,000 for professional audit fee. Payment to file FY 2021 in the amount of \$625.00 with the auditor of state: McFerren/Zacarias 5-0: Beranek, Martinez, McFerren, Dominguez, and Zacarias.

City Council approved to set the date for a Public Hearing Budget Amendment FY 2021 on March 01, 2022, at 7:30pm: Dominguez/McFerren: 5-0

City Council approved to set the Date for City Council Work Session February 24th at 5:00pm for General Fund located at the We Lead Building 119 E 3rd Street: McFerren/Dominguez 5-0

City Council approved to set the Date for the City Council Budget Work Session for Budget Amendment on March 1, 2022, at 6:30pm located at the West Liberty Public Library: McFerren/Dominguez 5-0

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

- A. City Engineer- No report Mr. Foley was on vacation during the meeting.
- B. City Staff Minutes – No additional comments to add. City Manager Haugland communicated it has been busy as we are working on putting the budget together. Mayor McCullough thanked all for their hard work and time.

ADJOURNMENT: Zacarias/McFerren passed 5-0 at approximately 9:30pm

Katherine McCullough, Mayor

Attest:

Lee Geertz, City Clerk