

## WEST LIBERTY CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 3-01-2022

### Amended Minutes 02-15-2022

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.

City Council Work Session: No Action will be taken during the work session.

City Council held a work session on 02/24/2022 to go over the General Fund Budget for fiscal year 2022-2023. The Public Safety, Cultural and Recreation, and City Administration.

City Council held a work session prior to the regular City Council FY 2022 Budget Amendment review and discussion of the amounts amended.

Meetings will be recorded

Mayor McCullough called the meeting to order at 7:30pm with roll call. Present for the meeting, Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez, Council Members Martinez, and McFerren. Absent Council Members Beranek and Zacarias. City staff present: City Manager Haugland, City Clerk Geertz, Police Chief Werling, Library Director Alle Paarsmith, and Communications Director Lane.

City Council approved the agenda: McFerren/Martinez 3-0

#### **PUBLIC HEARING FY 2021-2022 BUDGET AMENDMENT**

City Council opened the public hearing for the FY 2021-2022 Budget Amendment: Martinez/McFerren

Roll Call: Martinez, McFerren and Dominguez 3-0

No public comments received for the hearing.

City Council closed the Public Hearing for FY 2021-2022 Budget Amendment: Dominguez/McFerren Roll Call: Martinez, McFerren and Dominguez 3-0

City Council approved Resolution 20220301-09 A Resolution Approving the FY 2021-2022 Budget Amendment: McFerren/Dominguez Roll Call: Dominguez, McFerren, and Martinez 3-0

#### **POLICE OFFICER OATH of OFFICE**

Mayor McCullough presented the oath of office with rehire Police Officer Jack Bierman Jr.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA** (consent vote)

City Council approved the Regular Council Meeting Minutes for February 15, 2022, with an amendment to paragraph of the letter presented by Council Member Jose Zacarias as asked by Mayor McCullough, amending to state perceived statements as they are not fact by Zacarias: Dominguez/McFerren 3-0

City Council approved Liquor License Renewal Request for Muscatine County Fair Grounds, Class C, effective 03/08/2022: McFerren/Dominguez 3-0

#### **VENDOR VOUCHER CLAIMS** (consent vote)

City Council approved Vendor Voucher Claims List #1 in the amount of \$261,971.92: McFerren/Martinez 3-0

**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 to no more than 2 minutes.

#### **Public Comments**

City Council Public Comments or Correspondence: Escucha Mi Voz group presented to Council the request to be awarded federal rescue dollars for they are excluded from the stipend benefits as undocumented. The request is for \$1400 for 150-190 individuals in the West Liberty Community. The group has communicated the need and stated they would be able to assist with the distribution of funds. Retiree Father Martin spoke on behalf of the group as he stated this seem to be moving along

and now has stalled out. He would like to see it gain momentum again. Mayor and Council asked where administration is at on legal opinion and information. City Manager Haugland replied he is still waiting for the legal opinion, and it is a process to consider how the funds can be distributed legally. City Clerk Geertz also stated it is understanding the group is frustrated with no answer, but just as City Manager stated this takes time to be sure we have done everything correctly. City Clerk Geertz recommended to have Escucha Mi Voz choose a contact with a Council Member to have a direct weekly communication as to where we are at on the progress. City Manager Haugland communicated he does not want to see us promise a date and not be able to meet that with the group. Council Member Dominguez communicated her empathy, and she thinks about this daily. It is important to protect the individual's identities and there is a non-profit group the City could work with in providing funds to individuals. Council Member Martinez also assisted with translation and explained the City has a process to follow. (more information is available on the video of the meeting)

City Manager and/or City Clerk Public Comments or Correspondence

Council Member Dominguez shared she had received a concern with a dumpster in need of being serviced and the company was unable to contact the City as they had been closed during the 11am until Noon. City Clerk Geertz communicated the message had been processed as received and to my understanding the service has been completed. The closure from 11:00am until Noon is due to not being able to stagger the times for lunches. There are some days we only have one employee in the front office. The staff receives messages upon their return from lunch and follow up to serve customers before the noon hour.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

City Council approved Resolution 20220301-10 A Resolution for PE # 2 for Columbarium Project in the Amount of \$ 28,420.24 paid to Salem Stones, Inc: McFerren/Dominguez Roll Call: Martinez, McFerren, Dominguez 3-0

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

City Council set the Date for City Council Work Session March 8<sup>th</sup> for Budget Discussion at 5:00pm: Dominguez/Martinez 3-0

City Council set the date for City Council Work Session March 15, 2022, Presentation from Bi-State Parks and Recreation Strategic Park Plan at 6:30pm: McFerren/Dominguez 3-0

City Council set the Date for a Special Meeting on March 22, 2022, for the FY 2022-2023 Budget Public Hearing at 6:00pm: Dominguez/McFerren 3-0

City Council approved S.G Construction as recommended by the West Liberty Library Board as contractor for the Library Upgrade Project: Dominguez/McFerren 3-0

City Council approved the presented events for the West Liberty Chamber of Commerce with the understand any new events or requests would need to be brought before Council for further review and approval. City Clerk Geertz is to administer the coordination of the events with the Chamber Director for 2022: McFerren/Martinez 3-0

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

City Engineer: Leo Foley presented the following updates to projects:

Well #2 with Northway is on the list to complete. Foley had not received an update prior to the meeting, although with the weather becoming better, we should expect to have this done soon. Monday March 3 will have a meeting with City Manager and staff to go over the design for Rainbow and Maxson. West Liberty Foods has completed a grant application seeking funding to have a facility study completed for the bio digester.

City Staff Minutes: City Manager Haugland and Director Lane completed the Alert Iowa program through MUSCOM partnership. Please see the information online to sign up for the program. This will alert on emergency to include weather and utility outages.

Firefighter Paul Reed provided an update of a Spotter Training on March 31, 2022, at 5:30pm at the West Liberty Fire Department. Paul will provide more information to Jacob Lane to communicate online.  
**ADJOURNMENT:** City Council adjourned at 8:40pm: McFerren/Dominguez 3-0

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Katherine McCullough, Mayor

Attest:

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Lee Geertz, City Clerk