

WEST LIBERTY CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 4-19-2022

City Council work session located at the West Liberty High School Library.

Mayor McCullough called the City Council work session to order at 5:30pm. Council Members in attendance: Dana Dominguez, Omar Martinez, Jose Zacarias, Diane Beranek and Cara McFerren. Staff Members in attendance: Superintendent Reinhardt, City Clerk Geertz, Communications Director Lane, and City Manager Haugland.

The Utility Committee (Beranek and McFerren) Chair Beranek along with City Manager Haugland presented the 2022 Solid Waste Utility Study information provided by Northland Securities. The information provided financial information from over 5 years of declining revenue and increasing expenditures to operate the solid waste program. The Utility Committee and City Staff recommend an increase for the solid waste rates to include a recommended percentage increase over a five-year period based on revenues and expenditures for the period. The Utility Committee recommends amending rates with a public hearing scheduled for the month of May.

Mayor McCullough called the West Liberty City Council meeting to order at 6:02pm, located at the West Liberty High School Library. Council Members in attendance: Dana Dominguez, Omar Martinez, Diane Beranek, Cara McFerren, and Jose Dominguez. City Staff in attendance: City Clerk Geertz and City Manager Haugland.

City Council approved the agenda for 4-19-2022: McFerren/Zacarias 5-0

CLOSED SESSION

- A. 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.

City Council by roll call vote approved to enter into closed session pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.5 (1)(c): Beranek/McFerren: Yay: Zacarias, Dominguez, McFerren, Martinez, and Beranek 5-0

City Council moved to the West Liberty High School Auditorium to enter back into open session with the public.

City Council by roll call vote approved to enter back into open session: McFerren/Dominguez 5-0: Yay Zacarias, Dominguez, McFerren, Martinez and Beranek: Nay 0

Mayor McCullough provided for the public there would be no action for the correspondence from the West Liberty Fire & Rural Township Fire and EMS Association dated April 7, 2022, however the City of West Liberty is committed to mediation for a resolution. The Mayor stated she would do everything in her authority to keep progress moving forward towards a resolution and was in hopes we could have something communicated by the May 1st deadline in order not to have volunteers resign.

Mayor McCullough called for Council approval of Tom Alberti Planning and Zoning Board and David Smith Mayoral to Board of Adjustments: Council approved: Beranek/McFerren 5-0

City Council approved the following items of the consent agenda: McFerren/Dominguez 5-0

Regular Council Meeting Minutes for April 05, 2022, and West Liberty Sewer Report March 2022

City Council approved Vendor Voucher Claims List #1 in the amount of \$666,978.07: Beranek/McFerren 5-0

City Council approved Vendor Voucher Claims List #2 in the amount of \$194.00 for Cardinal Sign & Graphics: Beranek/Zacarias 4-1-0 McFerren: abstained

Mayor McCullough called for public statements, to include keeping with 2 minutes each and maintaining respect for all attendees: Approximately 100 attendees present for the meeting. Approximately twelve individuals from the public to include the West Liberty Fire Department Volunteers, Chief Sickels, and Assistant Chief Christensen addressed City Council. The public voiced a request to allow for a 28E agreement with a newly formed agency. The public comments included questions about the financials, stress on the volunteers, also requested that Council resolve by signing the newly presented 28E Agreement by the WLVF and EMS Agency. City Clerk Geertz

communicated if the public would like to know more information on the financials, budgets, and audits these are available to the public. City Budgets and Audits are located online, and all other information not available online can be provided by submitting a public records request with the City Clerk. Please see the video of the Council Meeting located on the City's website for all the public input for the meeting of 04-19-2022. (cityofwestlibertyia.org)

City Council provided they had received emails and they are in the packet. Council Member Dominguez recognized the correspondence received on behalf of Eddie Ortiz and his excellent job with customer service during a recent call.

City Manager and City Clerk communicated, nothing further was received to add for correspondence.

City Council Approved with a roll call vote, Resolution 20220419-19 A Resolution to Enter into a Lease Agreement Between the City of West Liberty and Kacee Bell and Nick Bell DBA 627 Sports Facility: McFerren/Dominguez 5-0 Yay: Zacarias, Dominguez, McFerren, Martinez, and Beranek: Nay 0

City Council approved with a roll call vote: Resolution 20220419-20 A Resolution to Approve and Submit Uncollectible Utility Billing in the Amount of \$25,522 to the State of Iowa Income Offset Program: Zacarias/McFerren 5-0 Yay: Zacarias, Dominguez, McFerren, Martinez, and Beranek: Nay:0

City Council approved by roll call vote, Resolution 20220419-21 A Resolution to Approve and Adopt Writing Off Bad Debt for Uncollectible Utility Billings in the Amount of \$3,150. 22: Beranek/McFerren 5-0 Yay: Zacarias, Dominguez, McFerren, Martinez, and Beranek: Nay 0

City Council approved to set the date for the Public Hearing on May 3, 2022, at 7:30pm to Amending Solid Waste Fees by Ordinance: Beranek/Zacarias 5-0

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

City Engineer Leo Foley provided an update for the Well# 2 project. Northway is looking to start brushing the well this week, again weather permitting.

City Staff Minutes included with the City Council packet. Deputy City Clerk provided an update on the Columbarium Project and stated the project on track to for completion by May 1st. Delivery of the other two columbaria on April 27th. Contractor Memorials by Michaels will be present to assist staff on setting them on the foundations at Oakridge Cemetery. City Clerk Geertz thanked, Deputy City Clerk Hoffert for her dedication and additional work on the project.

Committee Meetings: Utility Committee Minutes provided by Council Member Beranek, chair for the committee with detail notes of the study presented to include recommendation to Council on increase provided during the City Council work session.

No further items presented for discussion.

City Council adjourned the meeting at 8:51pm: Dominguez/Zacarias 5-0

Katherine McCullough, Mayor

Attest:

Lee Geertz, City Clerk