

WEST LIBERTY CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 09/20/2022

Mayor and City Council held a work session prior to the regular city council meeting at 6:30pm. West Liberty Fire/EMS Volunteer Eric Christensen, as Co-Chair for the Fire EMS Taskforce presented information to create a 28 E Agency Agreement between Rural Trustees and City. The presentation will be placed on the City's website.

Regular City Council Meeting:

Mayor McCullough called the West Liberty City Council Meeting to order at 7:30pm. Roll Call attendance: City Council Members, Ashley Smith, Dana Dominguez, Cara McFerren, and Omar Martinez. City Staff present: City Manager Haugland, City Clerk Geertz, Deputy City Clerk Hoffert, Police Chief Werling, and Communication Director Lane.

Mayor McCullough Proclamation for recognition of Latino Heritage Month September 15th through October 15th of 2022. Governor Reynolds issued proclamation during the week of September 15th and Mayor McCullough with collaboration between school and local leadership created a local proclamation specific to the West Liberty community.

Mayor McCullough called for motion to approve the agenda for 9/20/2022 with the following amendments, adding Old Business: line-item A: Discussion and Appropriate Action for City Council with the continuation of Fire and EMS Taskforce Committee to review a 28E Agency Agreement, and separation of Vendor Voucher Claims List by adding #2 List for Cardinal Graphics claim in the amount of \$120.00: City Council approved the amended City Council Agenda dated 09/20/2022: Martinez/Smith 4-0

City Council approved the consent agenda: McFerren/Dominguez 4-0

City Council Meeting Minutes 09/06/2022

City Clerk/Treasurer Report July 2022

Request to Renew Liquor License (New York Dollar) effective 09/07/2022

Request to Renew Liquor License (Savor by Chef D) effective 09/14/2022

Request for new Liquor License (Catramex Inc) (see attached) effective 09/01/2022

West Liberty Sewer Report September 2022

City Council approved the Vendor Voucher Claims List#1 in the amount of \$231,346.65: Dominguez/McFerren 4-0

City Council approved the Vendor Voucher Claims List #2 in the amount of \$120.00: Dominguez/Smith 3-1-0. McFerren abstention.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Several community members addressed Mayor and Council regarding funding from the American Rescue Funds for those financially in need in the West Liberty Community.

Discussion by individuals as part of Eschua Mi Voz organization presented statements with great passion about the need to have the full amount of the ARPA funds (\$522,000) provided to undocumented and utility billing relief for West Liberty community members. Mayor McCullough communicated to all those in attendance, unfortunately the City of West Liberty does not have the capacity or staffing to meet the request being asked. The ask is to mirror Johnson County, and unfortunately the City is a smaller entity that simply can not provide the amount and process funding in the same manner. Mayor McCullough communicated that staff is has been directed to continue efforts to find how the city can manage and process funding to assist those in need. This must be done within the legal capacity of the City providing an equal opportunity to all community members of the city. The entire discussion and statements can be found on the City's website(www.cityofwestlibertyia.org) 9-20-2022 council meeting video.

Stephanie Valdez as Chair for the Children's Festival stated her appreciation on behalf of the Children's Festival, Puppet Festival Attendees, and Latino Festival as the City provided street closure, security, and clean up for the events. Stephanie stated the entire day was a hit and they are looking forward to next year.

City Council Comments: Council Member McFerren communicated she had received correspondence from Carlos Jacques with concerns of traffic and water leaks. Chief Werling and City Manager Haugland communicated the issues are being addressed, and a follow up was held with Carlos Jacques. Jan Fulwider had communicated similar concerns with speeding traffic in the downtown area and other areas in the community. Chief Werling and City Manager are looking to address the situation with grant for a speed trailer with the option of flashing lights when the vehicles are speeding. McFerren also asked City staff to be aware of signs in the City's right a way and remove them, as they are not allowed per ordinance.

Staff Comments: No correspondence or comments.

OLD BUSINESS:

City Council approved to continue special committee Fire and EMS Taskforce discussion and creation of a West Liberty 28E Agency: McFerren/Martinez 4-0

Discussion: Continued progress has been made with the Fire and EMS Taskforce. Currently the committee has reached a point and agree that the ongoing discussions should focus on developing a 28E Agency with an agreement equitable to the government entities and Fire/EMS operations. The committee has identified a timeline (presented during work session) and would like to continue the progress. Richard Brand, West Liberty Rural Trustee Board President has reported the organization approved continuing the 28E Agency discussion unanimously at their recent meeting. Chief Sickels communicated his appreciation on the continued efforts and work done by all. Mayor McCullough also included her appreciation for the work being done by all to continue the positive progress. Next committee meeting will be 10-06-2022 at 6:00pm at the We Lead Building.

Council Member Dominguez communicated to volunteers to have an update or continuation communicated to the city as the October 4th deadline is approaching. Last communication from the volunteers had communicated a walk out on October 4th if there was no action taken by council to move the forward. Eric Christensen communicated there would be communication provided prior to the October 4th meeting regarding the volunteers continued service.

NEW BUSINESS

City Council approved Resolution 20220920-18 by roll call vote, a resolution appointing Joshua Shiltz to City Council effective through 12-31-2024:

McFerren/Dominguez: Martinez, McFerren, Dominguez, and Smith: 4 yes to 0-no. 4-0.

Newly appointed Josh Schiltz stated the Oath of Office presented by Mayor McCullough. Newly appointed Council Member Schiltz joined the meeting at this time officially as a voting member.

City Council approved Resolution 20220920-19 by roll call vote. a resolution for payment of the Economic Development Grant for Kacee Bell's Property located at Dutton in the amount of \$25,000 for the matching fund of project: McFerren/Martinez: Martinez, McFerren, Schiltz, Dominguez, and Smith 5- yes to 0-no: 5-0.

City Council approved the Halloween, October 31st Trick or Treat times as: Trick or Treat Trail 5:00pm until 6:00pm and City-wide Trick or Treat, 6:00pm until 7:30pm.

REPORTS – Employee/City Engineer/City Attorney/City Boards/Committees/Commissions
City Engineer, Leo Foley of Veenstra and Kimm provided Mayor and Council with an update on the WWTP baseline project and will have a report soon. Well# 2 renovations will continue, and this information will be coming to Council in October, along with City Hall phase#2 projects and Rainbow/Maxson Street projects. Currently waiting on financial numbers for the street project. City Staff reports are presented with no additional items.

Fire and EMS Taskforce held a meeting on September 19th at 6:00pm, discussion and preparation work done for the work session for Council. Review the timeline presented.

Mayor McCullough address Council, Staff and Attendees with update to City Council Committees to include newly appointed Josh Schiltz. Mayor McCullough announced her resignation effective at 12:01am 9-21-2022 and appointed Cara McFerren Mayor Pro Tem.

Mayor McCullough has stated she doesn't have the fight in her to continue her elected position.

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Mayor has stated as a leader she has recognized McFerren as a senior leader with experience, knowledge, and ability to reach out to others. Due to the political climate, it is not the time to learn on the job. Mayor McCullough is in hopes she has made a difference, laid the groundwork for issue/items and progressed the City forward. Mayor will leave to focus on her health and wellness, to include her children.

ADJORNMENT

City Council approved to adjourn at 8:29pm: Martinez/Smith 5-0.

Cara McFerren, Mayor Pro Tem

Attest:

Lee Geertz, City Clerk