

## WEST LIBERTY WORK SESSION AND COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 11/15/2022

The City Council Work Session was located at the West Liberty Public Library.

Mayor Ethan Anderson called the City Council work session to order at 6:01 p.m. Council Members in attendance: Cara McFerren, Joshua Shiltz, and Omar Martinez. Councilwoman Dana Dominguez arrived during the presentation. Councilwoman Ashley Smith was present via zoom and attended the work session shortly before the Council Meeting began. Staff Members in attendance: City Manager David Haugland, Deputy City Clerk Shari Hoffert, Police Chief Eric Werling, Electric Superintendent Ed Trvs and Library Director Allie Paarsmith.

BHMG Representatives Verbal Blakey and Blake Meehan delivered a presentation on an Interconnect Policy and Rate Study prepared for the City of West Liberty. Blakey discussed how metering and crediting to the customers would work if this policy were to be put in place. It was also discussed about the percentages of the total load that would be allowed when switching to this policy. Blakely moved into the discussion on the Rate Study as prepared by BHMG. Blakely went through the documents that were given to the Council prior to the work session and walked the Council through different scenarios with the information that was provided.

The work session was called to an end at 7:19 by Mayor Anderson.

The regular City Council meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by Mayor Anderson. Council Members in attendance: Omar Martinez, Dana Dominguez, Cara McFerren, Ashley Smith, and Joshua Shiltz. Staff members in attendance: City Manager David Haugland, Deputy City Clerk Shari Hoffert, Police Chief Eric Werling, Library Director Allie Paarsmith, and WWTP Superintendent Craig Juergens. Staff members in attendance on Zoom: Parks and Rec Director Nick Heath, Public Works Superintendent Adam Reinhardt, and Communications Director Jacob Lane.

Mayor Anderson called for a motion to approve the agenda to start the meeting following Roll Call.  
McFerren/Shiltz (5-0)

There was a motion of the consent agenda to amend the meeting minutes from 11/01/2022 to reflect the verbiage McFerren abstained to replace the noted motion Dominguez/Smith/McFerren with a (4-0-1). McFerren/Dominguez

City Council approved the vendor voucher claims list amending it to remove \$31,300.00 to Weather Technicians which was included in the previous claims document on 11/01/2022 to bring the total claims to \$231,923.91. McFerren/Dominguez (5-0)

There were no public comments.

Councilwoman McFerren discussed and email that she received about the concern of the traffic flow on Walnut and Short St. With the new building going up, the concern of traffic increasing and the difficulties that are already present the community member is concerned that it is going to cause more issues. There is already difficulty for the Fire Trucks and Ambulance to get through that area safely and increasing traffic with no changes is a large concern. City Manager Haugland also received the same correspondence.

Councilwoman Dominguez received an email about the traffic on 8<sup>th</sup> St. and Windus as well as the water drainage system as it is difficult for small cars to get through when it is wet in that area. This was forwarded on to Public Works Superintendent Reinhardt and City Engineer Leo Foley to look at.

City Council approved Resolution No. 20221115-30, a Resolution to consider approval of the ARPA Subrecipient Grant Agreement between the City of West Liberty and the Ministerial Association in the amount of \$120,000.00. Smith/Martinez Roll Call Vote- Martinez-Y, Dominguez-Y, McFerren-Y, Smith-Y, Shiltz-Y (5-0) At the end of the vote, members from Escucha Mi Voz, Thanked City Council for working with them and making this happen. They commented on working together and thanked the Council for doing what was needed for the members of the town. They said that there were moments that were hard for both sides and that they were thankful for the help. (Edgar, Maria Diaz, and Maria Murgia spoke on behalf of the group). Councilwoman Dominguez expressed that she wanted to recognize the group for the hard work that they put in and spoke of how much courage it takes to stand up and ask for help. She mentioned that she knows how hard it is to ask for help when you are trained to work hard but said that they helped so many others in the community by not giving up. Councilwoman McFerren said that she hopes to continue to see them attend meetings and stated that there is nothing more valuable than your voice. Councilwoman Smith wanted to note that she watched the documentary and recognized many of the people in the room. She mentioned that she wanted to make sure that our community was not treated like the community members of Columbus Junction were and that she wanted to be sure that this Council treated our community members better.

City Council approved Resolution No. 20221115-31 a Resolution to consider approval of the ARPA Subrecipient Grant Agreement between the City of West Liberty and First Church United DBA West Liberty Food Pantry in the amount of \$20,000.00. Dominguez/McFerren Roll Call Vote Dominguez-Y, Martinez-Y, McFerren-Y, Smith-Y, Shiltz-Y (5-0) During this time, Councilman Martinez translated information to Escucha Mi Voz, about applications for the Gift box done through the First Church United. Members of the Church asked that the information be relayed to the members.

City Council approved Resolution No. 20221115-32 a Resolution to consider approval of the ARPA Subrecipient Grant Agreement between the City of West Liberty and the West Liberty Community School Foundation in the amount of \$10,000.00. Martinez/Dominguez Roll Call Vote Shiltz-Y, Smith-Y, McFerren-Y, Dominguez-Y, Martinez-Y, (5-0)

City Council approved Resolution No. 20221115-33, a Resolution to approve Rainbow & Maxson Street Improvement Project Plans and Specifications. McFerren/Martinez Roll Call Vote McFerren-Y, Smith-Y, Shiltz-Y, Dominguez-Y, Martinez-Y (5-00)

City Council approved Resolution No. 20221115-34 a Resolution approving the filing of the Tax Increment Financing indebtedness certification and directing the certification be filed with the Muscatine County Auditor's Office no later than December 01, 2022. Dominguez/McFerren Roll Call Vote Dominguez-Y, Martinez-Y, McFerren-Y, Smith-Y, Shiltz-Y (5-0)

City Council approved Resolution No. 20221115-35 a Resolution obligating funds from the Urban Renewal Tax Revenue Fund for appropriation to the payment of the annual appropriation tax increment financed obligations which shall come due in the next succeeding year. Martinez/Dominguez Roll Call Vote Martinez-Y, Dominguez-Y, McFerren-Y, Smith-Y, Shiltz-Y (5-0)

City Council approved Resolution No 20221115-36 a Resolution approving the Street Finance Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 and authorizing the City Clerk to file with the Iowa Department of Transportation. Martinez/Dominguez Roll Call Vote Martinez-Y, Dominguez-Y, Shiltz-Y, Smith-Y, McFerren-y (5-0)

Reports-Employee/City Engineer/City Attorney/City Boards/Committees/Commissions

City Engineer-Leo Foley let Council know that there is a kickoff meeting for Well #2 on 11/22 with BHMG, the Electric Department and City Staff.

City Staff Minutes- Library Director Allie Paarsmith stated that her report would not always be that in depth, but that it was all the information that was needed for the end of year. WWTP Superintendent Juergens stated that they should be getting their new mixer. The rest of the notes were in the packet from the other Department Heads.

Committee Meetings- Fire and EMS Task Force met and they have a preliminary draft of the 28e Agency, and the hope is to get a final draft to be able to have the Rural Trustees, The City and the Volunteers look over and to give all the attorneys time to review as well. The next meeting is November 28.

City Council adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m. Smith/McFerren (5-0)

---

Ethan Anderson, Mayor

---

Shari Hoffert, Deputy City Clerk