

Meetings will be recorded and can be viewed online at the City of West Liberty's website:

<https://cityofwestlibertyia.org>

Mayor Ethan Anderson called the Work Session to order at 6:38 p.m. Attendance during the work session included; Mayor Pro Tem Cara McFerren, Council Members: Dana Dominguez, Joshua Shiltz, Ashley Smith and Omar Martinez, and staff members: City Clerk Lee Geertz, Deputy Clerk Shari Hoffert, Communications Clerk Brittany Woodson, Library Director Allie Paarsmith and Utility Billing Clerk Rina Avalos. Absent from the work session was City Manager David Haugland.

The City Council had a work session on the direction they would like to go for hiring for the City Manager position that has recently become available with the City of West Liberty.

Mayor Anderson: presented options for discussion along with a request to review the City Manager Contract and Job Descriptions pertaining to City Manager, City Clerk and Deputy Clerk.

Council Members McFerren, Dominguez, Smith, Martinez, Shiltz all provided questions, concerns, and options for to fill the vacancy.

Clerk Geertz recommended to follow an internal hiring process and or consider hiring a consultant for external hiring. Consultant hire would allow the process to be submitted in a timely manner, to include limiting the liability of Council if they take the process on themselves.

For more information and details for discussion please review the recording located on the City's website.

Mayor Anderson asked if there was any further discussion and closed the work session at 7:25 p.m.

Mayor Anderson called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. by roll call. Present for the meeting: Mayor Pro Tem Cara McFerren, Councilmember Dana Dominguez, Council Member Josh Shiltz, Councilmember Ashley Smith and Councilmember Omar Martinez. Staff in attendance: City Clerk Lee Geertz, Deputy Clerk Shari Hoffert, Communications Clerk Brittany Woodson, Library Director Allie Paarsmith and Electric Superintendent Ed Tvrs. Absent during the meeting; City Manager David Haugland.

The City Council approved the agenda. Smith/Shiltz (5-0)

The City Council approved the consent agenda. McFerren/Martinez (5-0)

The City Council approved Dollar General for their Class B Retail Liquor License. McFerren/Smith (5-0)

The City Council approved Highway 6 Spirits LLC, DBA JB's Grub and Pub for their liquor Class C Liquor License. McFerren/Martinez (5-0)

The City Council approved Muscatine County Fairgrounds for their Class C Liquor License. McFerren/Martinez (5-0)

Police Chief Eric Werling communicated with the Council that there were no violations at any of these establishments and that they are all very welcoming of the business checks completed by the Police Department.

The City Council approved the vendor voucher claims list. McFerren/Shiltz (5-0) There was a question asked by Councilmember Martinez about the PD thermal printer and Chief Werling explained that the car did not come with the printer portion, so the department needed to purchase this to complete the vehicle.

Public Comments and Correspondence: Tom Junker came in to discuss the construction at the end of Walnut on Short Street. He communicated that he was representing a group of elderly people at Sunnyview. He communicated that the street consists of about eight houses and apartments. The street is a two-lane street with parking on one side. His concern is with the new construction going on and the area already being congested. The area is not set up to have numerous cars traveling on the road and emergency vehicles have no clear path to get in and out of the area. They must turn around to get out of the area. He is concerned about

the amount of speeding that happens on Walnut and asked that the City consider placing speed bumps in that area as well as looking in to having an additional outlet to the street to make it safer for all of those that live in that area. He communicated that he would like to see a road along the railroad to be open for access as he said there is a clear route in that area.

Mayor Pro Tem McFerren communicated that there is an open lot in that area and that she is very familiar with the area and agrees that this needs to be looked into as she has concerns as well. There was communication about whether that area was a lot for sale.

City Engineer Leo Foley said that the City has looked at the possibility of having another exit from the parking but may need to consider looking at other options as well.

City Clerk Geertz communicated that in this next phase it has been discussed that there needs to be a way for Emergency Vehicles to access a turnaround and that the TIF could be affected for the development if this is not implemented.

WeLead Director Ken Brooks said that he would communicate with the Developer regarding the concerns with this area.

Mayor Anderson communicated that he has received several supportive comments about promoting internally for the City Manager position.

The City Council had discussion and the appropriate follow up on the continuance of the Mayoral's Fire/EMS Taskforce Committee. Councilmember Dominguez said that she received an update and that the 27th of February was a possibility for the Taskforce to meet again. She communicated that she was going to review the video from the work session to communicate feedback and what was discussed during the work session. Mayor Pro Tem McFerren communicated that she has some concerns with the voting member make up. Councilmember Shiltz communicated that the work session was very informative and he is supportive of the Taskforce continuing. Council approved continuance. Martinez/ Smith (5-0)

Resolution 20230221-11- A Resolution authorizing the use of a preliminary official statement for the sale of general obligation corporate purpose bonds, series 2023. McFerren/Dominguez - Roll Call Vote: Yes: McFerren, Dominguez, Smith, Shiltz, Martinez No: none approved(5-0)

Resolution 20230221-12- A Resolution adopting the 2023 electric reliability plan. McFerren/Shiltz- Roll Call Vote: Yes: McFerren, Dominguez, Smith, Shiltz, Martinez No: none approved (5-0)

The City Council discussed the action for Ragbrai 2023 as a pass through town on July 29, 2023. Clerk Geertz communicated that it takes a village to run this event and that the Chamber and WeLead were present to discuss matters. Chamber Director Charles Brooke communicated that his board is willing to take the lead, but they do have some questions. This time is very busy for the Chamber as 3 of their 5 main events are during this time of the year. Kara Kruse of the Chamber asked about the trash receptacles, additional clean up from the City after the event and restrooms for the event. Clerk Geertz recommended that we organize a discussion on the Vendor Fees and possibly give the \$5000.00 that Ragbrai is offering to the Chamber to help offset their costs for advertising and additional time. The council agreed that this is a wonderful opportunity to have a large group of people come through our town and decided to move forward with the City of West Liberty being a pass-through town. Smith/McFerren (5-0)

The City Council entered into a closed session per Iowa Code 21.5 (i) to Evaluate the professional competency at the request of City Clerk whose appointment, hiring, and performance are being considered at the request of City Clerk Geertz. McFerren/Shiltz Roll Call Vote: Yes: McFerren, Dominguez, Smith, Shiltz and Martinez No: none

The City Council exited the closed session per Iowa Code 21.5.3. McFerren/Shiltz Roll Call Vote: Yes: McFerren, Dominguez, Smith, Shiltz and Martinez No: none

Motion by McFerren: Internal Publication to post City Manager Vacancy for hire.
Second by: Shiltz. Motion approved 4-1, Smith opposed to action.

Reports:

City Engineer Leo Foley left notes for the council about well #2. Foley has recommended two phases. Phase one bids will be in March with construction happening in May 2023 and phase two bids will be in April with construction beginning in June or July. The plan is to have everything completed by this summer, July or August, as West Liberty Foods wants to use a well and the City will need to have this project completed before going forward with this. He also noted that he spoke with Jay Simon and they would be starting to clear trees for the Rainbow/Maxson project in about a month. He will have a more in-depth report at the next meeting.

City Clerk Geertz communicated in addition to the clerk report submitted, the information pertaining to changes with legislations SF 181 which was signed effective 02/20/2023 by Governor Reynolds. This will extend the budget process for April 30, 2023. The City property tax valuations will receive corrected evaluations based on the State's rollback calculation error. Geertz also asked Mayor and Council to pay close attention to 1124 and 1125 as there is great concern on the impact for City's tax levy and LOSST calculations.

Employee reports included Water Superintendent Daniel Goodale, WWTP Superintendent Craig Juergens, Library Director Allie Paarsmith, Parks and Rec/ IT Nick Heath and City Clerk Lee Geertz.

Mayor, Ethan Anderson

Deputy City Clerk, Shari Hoffert