

WEST LIBERTY CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 03/21/2023

Mayor Ethan Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. by roll call. City Councilmembers in attendance: Mayor Pro Tem Cara McFerren, Councilmembers Josh Shiltz, Omar Martinez, and Ashley Smith. Councilmember Dominguez was present via Zoom. City Staff in attendance: Clerk Lee Geertz, Deputy Clerk Shari Hoffert, Communications Specialist Brittany Woodson, Electric Superintendent Ed Trvs and Library Director Allie Paarsmith.

City Council approved the agenda with the removal of #3 B (Clerk/Treasurer Report). Shiltz/Smith (5-0)

City Council approved the consent agenda: McFerren/Smith (4-0) Dominguez did not vote.

City Engineer Leo Foley communicated with Council that the trees have been removed from the Rainbow/Maxson project and that there would be no more work completed this week. Then the following week the storm sewer work would begin, and Subway will always have an opening for customers. He said he communicated with the owner of Subway and they were happy about having the ability to still have customers coming in to their business during this work. Mr. Foley also communicated about an issue that came up with Well #2 with the electrical, but that BHMG was working on the issue to get it resolved and this will be ready in two weeks.

Library Director Allie Paarsmith communicated that she has a social worker available at the library on Thursdays from 3-7 p.m. and Fridays from 11-3 p.m. If anyone is interested in meeting with the social worker, she would be happy to set up a meeting during those hours.

There was a public hearing on the proposed development agreement with GHS Development, Inc.

The Public Hearing was opened by roll call vote. McFerren/Smith: McFerren-Y, Smith- Y, Shiltz- Y, Martinez- Y, Dominguez- Y (5-0)

Councilmember Smith asked about the blank pages in the development agreement and Clerk Geertz communicated that this was the beginning stages of the agreement and that there would be more information provided as the project began. She explained that this was the portion of the agreement for the Urban Renewal/TIF and that at the next meeting they would see more on the structure of the development.

The Public Hearing was closed by roll call vote. Smith/Shiltz: McFerren- Y, Smith- Y, Shiltz- Y, Martinez- Y, Dominguez- Y (5-0)

Ken Brooks from We Lead communicated that he would like to invite Council to the quarterly meeting, which is also the annual report for WeLead, on Friday, May 12th from 12-2. He extended a personal invitation to the Mayor who he has asked to be an honored guest.

Councilmember Shiltz communicated that he had many emails about the hiring of the City Manager and wanted to thank the community for reaching out. He also had a customer reach out to him about a complaint of debris down an alleyway that was pushed onto the homeowner's sidewalk. The customer said that part of the pile was removed but there was a large amount that was left behind.

Councilmember Shiltz communicated that he spoke with the Public Works Superintendent and got the issue resolved. The last item he received was speeding on E 6th and E 7th street and asked Police Chief Eric Werling if the community member has a description of the vehicle and the time of day this is happening if that would be information the Police Department would like to have and Chief Werling communicated that would be helpful so that they could have extra patrols during that time.

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Councilmembers Martinez, Smith and Dominguez also communicated that they had many emails about the hiring of the City Manager position. They also communicated that they had a community member reach out about a nuisance violation. Councilmember Smith asked if there was the ability to extend after the 30 days as that seemed to be a short period of time. Deputy Clerk Hoffert communicated that in the letters it states that if the homeowner is unable to meet the deadline but plans to bring the nuisance in to compliance they can reach out for an extension with the Building Inspector.

Mayor Pro Tem McFerren communicated that she had the same emails from community members as the rest of Council. She also had communication about Gibson Street and issues with the curbs.

Mayor Anderson said that he had a customer reach out that was hoping that we would still be able to pick up leaves. Communication Specialist Woodson communicated that she had spoken with Superintendent Reinhardt and the last part should be here in April.

Ordinance No. 20230307-02 Amending Title 7, Chapter 3, Section 10: Electric Light and Power Rates of the Municipal Code of West Liberty, Iowa, Adopting New Electric Rates and Sets forth the following rate structure- 2nd Reading- was passed by Roll Call Vote McFerren/Shiltz McFerren- Y, Martinez- Y, Shiltz- Y, Smith- Y, Dominguez- Y (5-0)

Mayor Pro Tem made a motion to waive the 3rd hearing for Ordinance No. 20230307-02 (this was brought before Council in February of 2023 the first time with the only thing changing of the dates to match Utility Billing). Roll Call Vote passed this. McFerren/Shiltz McFerren- Y, Martinez- Y, Shiltz- Y, Smith- Y, Dominguez- Y (5-0)

Chamber Director Charles Brooke spoke on behalf of the events that would be happening this year for event assistance from the City of West Liberty. The Farmer's Market, The Fair Parade, Picnic in the Park, and The Holiday Open House. He communicated that there would be more information coming about Ragbrai and mentioned that in August they will have live music in Ron-de-voo park every Thursday and the only assistance they would need would be the trash being pulled from the trash cans. There was discussion about Picnic in the Park and the ability to have more handicap parking. Clerk Geertz communicated that the City and Chamber could work together to try and come up with a way to get more handicap parking for the event. Councilmember Dominguez asked about golf carts and Mr. Brooke communicated that his insurance company has said that this liability would fall on the chamber and insurance company has advised against it. These events were approved by consent vote. Smith/Martinez (5-0)

Resolution 20230321-21: A Resolution to consider approval of Nicole and Robert Rock West Liberty Matching Grant reimbursement in the amount of \$19,362.00 for 314 N Calhoun St. Approved by Roll Call Vote. Smith/McFerren McFerren-Y, Martinez- Y, Shiltz- Y, Smith- Y, Dominguez- Y (5-0)

Resolution 20230321-22: A Resolution to consider approval of BHMG proposed agreement for specific scope work NESHAP-RICE Compliance Stack Testing Engine #4. Approved by Roll Call Vote. Smith/Martinez McFerren- Y, Martinez- Y, Shiltz- Y, Smith-Y, Dominguez- Y (5-0)

Resolution 20230321-23: A Resolution to clarify Ordinance 1-8A-4: City Manager shall possess a college degree in Public Administration or related field and have 3 years of experience in City Administration or shall have a minimum of eight years of practical experience in City Administration. The clarification is for

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the reading and punctuation as noted in the City Code. Approved by Roll Call Vote. McFerren/Martinez
McFerren- Y, Martinez- Y, Shiltz- Y, Smith- Y, Dominguez- Y (5-0)

The date for the Public Hearing on amending zoning R-1 to R-2 for Parcel H was set for April 04, 2023, at
7:30 p.m. (This is the area known as the Buysse Development). Smith/Martinez (5-0)

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m. Smith/Martinez (5-0)

Mayor, Ethan Anderson

Attest:

Deputy Clerk, Shari Hoffert