

MEETING MINUTES OF THE WEST LIBERTY CITY COUNCIL

WEST LIBERTY IOWA

NOVEMBER 07, 2023

Mayor Ethan Anderson called the Regular Council Meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. by roll call. City Council Members in attendance: Mayor Pro Tem Cara McFerren, Councilmember Josh Shiltz, and Councilmember Dana Dominguez. Councilmember Omar Martinez arrived at the meeting at 7:35 p.m. and was absent for the approval of the agenda and approval of the consent agenda. Councilmember Ashley Smith was absent from the meeting. City Staff in attendance: City Manager Lee Geertz, City Clerk Shari Hoffert, Deputy City Clerk Emily Reinhardt, Communications Specialist Brittany Woodson, Police Chief Eric Werling, Sgt Don Strong, and Library Director Allie Paarsmith.

City Council approved the agenda. Dominguez/Shiltz (3-0)

City Council approved the consent agenda. Dominguez/Shiltz (3-0)

Mayor Ethan Anderson appointed Sgt Don Strong as the Interim Police Chief with Chief Werling's resignation to take on a new position in Anamosa.

Reports: City Engineer Leo Foley communicated that next week they will be surveying the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Once this is completed a meeting will be set up with West Liberty Foods to coordinate the agreement. This is for the baseline improvements of the Plant. Foley communicated that the acidizing of Well #2 has been completed to bring up the production of the well. The well is at 300 gallons/minute which is adequate for the City of West Liberty. Foley had considered acidizing again to bring this up, but after speaking with Water Superintendent Goodale, they agreed that the 300 gallons/minute would be adequate. City Manager gave a verbal report for the Electric Department to include the completion of the Short Street Electric Project, the Meadow's Phase 1 electric completed, assisting Kiowa with the Rainbow/Maxson Street Project, continued discussion with the schools for the plans for the transformer, working to get things in order to speak with Jason Dumont with GHS Development for spring building, getting the holiday lights up for the open house, and restoring a positive interaction with contractors and community members in the City of West Liberty. Mayor Anderson questioned if there needed to be more promotion with the funding through Father Guillermo as it looked to be slowing down. City Manager Geertz communicated that the funding may increase with winter approaching. Mayor Anderson acknowledged Sgt Don Strong on a community policing accomplishment. Sgt Strong saw kids playing with a flat football. The kids asked if he had a pump and he did not, so he went and bought a football with his own money to make sure the kids had one to play with. Mayor Anderson communicated that this is what community policing is about.

Mayor Anderson communicated that there is big news with the Fire Taskforce. The Taskforce met on Monday, November 6th, and tentatively agreed upon a new 28E agency agreement. The Taskforce has worked hard with many bumps, learning obstacles, and brainstorming to get to this point. The agreement will still need to be signed by all parties, but everyone is confident in the agreement. Once this is completed, there will be more steps to get everything switched over, but this is big for all parties involved.

DMH298, LLC DBA Wink's Bar & Grill's 12-month Class C Retail Alcohol License was approved. Martinez/Shiltz (4-0)

Vendor Voucher Claims List #1 in the amount of \$723,083.07 was approved. McFerren/Dominguez (4-0)

During the Public Comment Section: Brandon Harned came to the City Council Meeting to discuss his frustration with selling his house. He requested a final bill, but the new customer had not come in to switch utilities to their name and Mr. Harned continued to receive a minimum bill for the utilities. He communicated that he had to chase the new purchaser down to get them to fill out the application for service. He wanted Council to look at the policy and make changes moving forward. City Manager Geertz communicated to Council that she would like to have a meeting with Mr. Harned to discuss the situation and see if there is a resolution for him. City Manager Geertz also communicated that this is set in the Ordinance and governed by the Utilities Board, but that a meeting could be set up with the Utilities Committee to cover this in greater detail. Councilmember Shiltz communicated that he had been contacted about cats and Community Liaison/Nuisance Officer Eddie Ortiz got in contact with the homeowner and got this taken care of. Councilmember Dominguez communicated that she appreciated Mayor Anderson starting communication on Facebook to answer questions for the Community. Mayor Anderson communicated that he had been contacted regarding the number of handicapped parking spaces at Dutton as well as recommending more lights to the tree outside of City Hall.

There was discussion and appropriate action by the City of West Liberty, IA City Council on the posting of the West Liberty Police Chief Position. Mayor Anderson asked City Manager Geertz to explain the options. City Manager Geertz communicated that there are two options: do it internally through City Staff and a Committee or hire a consultant that could be anywhere from \$15,000 to \$25,000 depending on the scope of work. Mayor Pro Tem Cara McFerren communicated that she was inclined to hire

MEETING MINUTES OF THE WEST LIBERTY CITY COUNCIL

WEST LIBERTY IOWA

NOVEMBER 07, 2023

it out to take work off the plate of City Staff. Councilmember Dominguez communicated that her concern was if we already have qualified people interested, that we would be spending money on a consultant when there would be a possibility to handle in house. There was conversation about the time frame with a consultant and the timeline working internally. There was a motion to move forward to conduct the posting and search for the Police Chief through internal means. McFerren/Shiltz (4-0)

There was Discussion and Appropriate Action by the City Council of West Liberty, IA on the facility study for a proposed Hotel in the City of West Liberty. WELEAD Director Ken Brooks communicated that this study would need to be completed no matter what Hotel would come to the City of West Liberty. Councilmember Shiltz questioned how long the study would be good for. Director Brooks communicated that this is typically good for about two years. There was a motion to approve the feasibility study. McFerren/Dominguez (4-0)

Resolution 20231107-96: A Resolution to Approve Pay Estimate No 8 for All American Concrete, Inc. for the Rainbow/Maxson Street Project was approved by Roll Call Vote. Dominguez/McFerren Shiltz-Y, Martinez-Y, Dominguez-Y, McFerren-Y (4-0) City Engineer Leo Foley communicated that All American Concrete, Inc. is waiting for the wires to be moved to finish the rest of the project. It is at about 72% completion. The Columbus Street sidewalk will wait until spring to be completed and Foley is continuing to work with business owners.

Resolution 20231107-97: A Resolution to Approve Pay Estimate No 1 for All American Concrete, Inc. for the Knotty Circle/Division Street Project was approved by Roll Call Vote. McFerren/Shiltz Martinez-Y, Shiltz-Y, Dominguez-Y, McFerren-Y (4-0) City Engineer Foley communicated that there have been a few bumps in the project and it has not moved as smoothly as the Rainbow/Maxson Project. Foley would like to see them slow down and not move as fast, but the project is moving, and Phase II went better than the first Phase.

Resolution 20231107-98: A Resolution to Approve the Knotty Circle/Division Street Engineering Services Amendment 1 was approved by Roll Call Vote. Dominguez/McFerren Martinez-Y, Shiltz-Y, Dominguez-Y, McFerren-Y (4-0) City Engineer Foley communicated that this is for the work that V&K completed to get everything set up for the purchase of the ROW for the properties. One has been completed and the second will be worked as the sidewalk comes in to play.

Resolution 20231107-99: A Resolution to Approve the Purchase of Partial Interest in Real Estate for 121 W Gibson St. in the City of West Liberty, IA 52776 was approved by Roll Call Vote. Martinez/McFerren Martinez-Y, Shiltz-Y, Dominguez-Y, McFerren-Y (4-0)

Resolution 20231107-100: A Resolution to Dispose of City Property located in the Police Garage was approved by Roll Call Vote. McFerren/Martinez Martinez-Y, Shiltz-Y, Dominguez-Y, McFerren-Y (4-0)

Resolution 20231107-101: A Resolution to enter into an Agreement with Water 120 for the lead line mitigation project in the City of West Liberty, IA 52776 was approved by Roll Call Vote. McFerren/Martinez Martinez-Y, Shiltz-Y, Dominguez-Y, McFerren-Y (4-0) City Manager Geertz communicated that this is a company that provides research, provides inventory, and makes sure that it is uploaded to be a part of our GIS to maintain and monitor compliance. This is a very lengthy process, and this company was a recommendation from the Water Superintendent Danny Goodale. Once this is completed then a plan is set to replace all lead lines within the City of West Liberty.

There was a motion to adjourn at 8:58 p.m. Martinez/Dominguez (4-0)

Mayor, Ethan Anderson

ATTEST:

City Clerk, Shari Hoffert