

## MEETING MINUTES OF THE WEST LIBERTY CITY COUNCIL

WEST LIBERTY, IOWA

April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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Mayor Mark Smith called the Regular Council Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. by roll call. City Council Members in attendance: Mayor Pro Tem Cara McFerren, Councilmember Josh Shiltz, Councilmember Tim Parizek, and Councilmember Dana Dominguez. Councilmember Omar Martinez arrived at 7:36 p.m. and was absent for the consent vote for the approval of the agenda and the approval of the consent agenda. City Staff in attendance: City Manager Lee Geertz, City Clerk Shari Hoffert, Communications Specialist Brittany Woodson, Library Director Allie Paarsmith, Water and Sewer Superintendent Danny Goodale, Wastewater Superintendent Craig Juergens, and Police Chief Josh Houser. \*The full video can be viewed on the City website at [www.cityofwestlibertyia.org](http://www.cityofwestlibertyia.org).\*

The City Council approved the agenda. Dominguez/McFerren (4-0)

The City Council approved the consent agenda. Shiltz/Parizek (4-0)

Reports: City Engineer Leo Foley was absent from the meeting. City Manager Geertz delivered Foley's report. Foley's report communicated that the seeding has been started on the Rainbow and Maxson Street Project. The Columbus Street Sidewalk Project is still in the discussion and negotiation process with two businesses, JB's Grub and Pub and the Comet Car Wash. Well #2 has been tested and is running well, but there will be a change order presented for one of the valves and Veenstra and Kimm are currently getting costs. There will be a meeting with West Liberty Foods to discuss the phases for the Wastewater Treatment Plant set up by Veenstra and Kimm. Foley also communicated in his report that the water and sewer rate study is in the process of gathering the financials from the City of West Liberty. City Manager Geertz communicated that staff would be working to get the information to Veenstra and Kimm now that the budget has been completed. Water and Sewer Superintendent Danny Goodale communicated that placing Adam Reinhardt as Public Works Director has been greatly beneficial for the field and Wastewater Superintendent Craig Juergens agreed. Library Director Allie Paarsmith communicated that the Library has received its allocation from the county, and the final number was \$17,000 which is 10% of the total allocation.

Committee Meetings: There was a Utility Committee Meeting held. Councilmember Josh Shiltz communicated that there was a lot of information provided by Electric Superintendent Cody Franklin about solar and moving forward into the future for the City of West Liberty. Shiltz also communicated that there was discussion about the water and sewer rate study as well as garbage rate increases. The committee will be having another meeting in the near future to continue discussions as well as bringing in Water and Sewer Superintendent Danny Goodale for more discussion about the City's utilities.

Vendor Voucher Claims List #1 in the amount of \$515,983.55 was approved. Dominguez/McFerren (5-0)

Vendor Voucher Prepaid Claims List #2 in the amount of \$144.00 was approved. Shiltz/Martinez (4-0-1 McFerren abstained)

Library Vendor Voucher Prepaid Claims List in the amount of \$14,729.74 was approved. Dominguez/Martinez (5-0)

During the Public Comment Section: There were no public comments from the community. Councilmember Dominguez communicated that she had seen multiple comments about the four-way stop that was placed at the intersection of Spencer and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. Dominguez wanted to communicate that this area had a big issue with speeding and vehicles pulling out with the inability to see. This was a proactive decision to make the downtown safer with the amount of traffic and pedestrian traffic. Mayor Pro Tem McFerren added that there was extremely limited visibility on Spencer Street when pulling out from the stop signs. McFerren communicated that with the renovation happening downtown and the social events happening, the stop sign will add more security to the downtown area. McFerren was also contacted about the concern of the stop sign in the center being removed and questioned whether that would be brought back. City Manager communicated with the storm, Public Works Director Reinhardt had removed it to make sure if the storm came through it would not be blown around and cause damage to the downtown area. Councilmember Dominguez also communicated that the light pole in her cul-de-sac is deteriorated and is bent and asked what the process would be to get the electric department out to look at it. City Manager Geertz communicated that they have a light pole inventory, but the best practice for the community would be to call City Hall and have a service request created to have the department examine the pole. Councilmember Shiltz communicated that he was approached with the concern of sport utility vehicles running through stop signs and racing. City Manager Geertz communicated that if this is seen community members can call the non-emergent line for the police department. Chief Houser communicated that these are more identifiable, and they would be able to have conversations with community members if these were turned into the police department. Councilmember Parizek suggested having a reminder post of the laws for these vehicles posted to the City Facebook page. Councilmember Shiltz also communicated that he has heard positive feedback from the downtown business owners about the four-way stop. Owners have noticed less speeding, and they have less worry when vehicles are pulling out. City Manager Geertz and Water and Sewer Superintendent Goodale communicated on the back up on 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Geertz communicated that she is working with the City insurance company to see who is responsible for this. Goodale communicated that sump pumps are not to be connected to the City sewer. The back up was clear water and there was a large amount flowing. Wastewater Superintendent Juergens communicated that there was about 4.4 million gallons that came through the wastewater plant and a normal day would be normally a 2 million maximum. The flow was extremely high. City Manager Geertz also communicated that the hotel feasibility study has been extended and is hopeful that it will be wrapped up in the next few weeks. Geertz also complimented the proactive approach taken by Chief Houser regarding the impending storm, to collaborate with the school and the church to get things set up in case residents needed shelter. Mayor Mark Smith communicated that he had received a letter about cemetery plots and would get that to City Clerk Hoffert.

There was discussion and appropriate action by the Council of The City of West Liberty, IA., on the event request for Latinos Unidos on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, in the City of West Liberty, IA 52776. Geertz communicated that this is similar to the events held in the past. The event is well organized and very well attended by the community as well as others who travel in for the event. Geertz communicated that the City does have some outhouses that would be able to be used, but any additional would need to be provided by the event hosts. There was a motion to approve the event request for Latinos Unidos on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024. McFerren/Martinez (5-0)

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Resolution 20240416-145: A Resolution to Approve Further Arrangements for the United States National Guard and City of West Liberty Agreement was approved by roll call vote. Shiltz/Martinez Martinez-Y, Shiltz-Y, McFerren-Y, Dominguez-Y, Parizek-Y (5-0) City Manager Geertz communicated this is a draft to move forward with the finalization of this agreement. The State requested additional steps as the Federal level pays in one lump sum and the State would like to move to monthly sums to follow their compliance. Councilmember Dominguez communicated that she has been in contact with Jessa from Upwards to see if the City could meet with the local hires to put a face to the name and thank them for their work completed with this pilot program. City Manager Geertz communicated that moving forward, there will be more administrative work involved, but that this teamwork is a joint effort amongst all parties. It will not be a large amount of work for our city staff. West Liberty is the only town in the state of Iowa to have this program. Dominguez expressed how important this program is and how large of an impact it has. The retention rate in the reserves has increased with this program and there are many places that would like to see this program implemented near them.

There was a motion to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. Martinez/Parizek (5-0)

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Mayor, Mark Smith

ATTEST:

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City Clerk, Shari Hoffert