

(Subject to Approval)
CITY OF SWISHER, IOWA
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 30, 2023

Call to Order: Mayor Christopher Taylor called Special Council Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on October 30, 2023 at Swisher Library, Swisher IA.

Council Present: Mary Gudenkauf, Rebekah Neuendorf, Michael Stagg. Absent: Kody Pudil.

Also present: City Clerk/Finance Officer Tawnia Kakacek, Communication Coordinator Julie Persons, City Engineer Melissa Clow, Daryl Hynek, Curt Cline, Adam Roeder, Katheryn Birky.

Agenda: Motion by Gudenkauf, seconded by Neuendorf to approve the agenda. Call for vote. All ayes. Motion carried. Absent: Pudil.

Public Hearing-Review City's Application for a State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan, Environmental Information Document and City's Sewer Project Plan: Motion by Gudenkauf, seconded by Stagg, to open public hearing. Call for vote. All ayes. Absent: Pudil. Motion carried. Public hearing opened at 6:31 p.m. Mayor read email from IDNR requiring this hearing be held. Curt Cline asked reason for hearing. Mayor noted it is federally required, IDNR looks at the historical and environmental impact of project area and the document to approve tonight gives accurate reflection that the environmental effects and scope of project is okay to the best of the city's knowledge. Noting it is like a seller's disclosure when selling a house. Mayor asked if there were any comments on the Environmental Information Document; no members of the public had any comments on that information. Cline asked if the City doesn't get the loan, then what. Mayor noted there should be no reason to be denied as this is a revenue bond that is paid by sewer fees but if didn't get the loan, the City couldn't do the project. Daryl Hynek asked who calculated the cost of the sewer project. Mayor noted the city engineers calculate the cost and have historically been very close to actual final cost for projects or come in under budget. If costs are very different from projections or approved loan amount, city would not do project or redesign project. Adam Roeder noted the city could have engineer redesign or re-spec project and then rebid. Gudenkauf asked the Mayor to recap the sewer plant project in 2005/2006. Mayor noted back then the sewer plant needed upgrade, new building, etc. and the city issued a three-million-dollar bond. In 2014, Kakacek told him when he just got elected the City was running a deficit to pay for the bond. The sewer rates weren't increased at that time to pay for the bond in 2005/2006 and city is trying to avoid that problem now. Gudenkauf noted it wasn't required at the time to raise the rates as is now. Curt Cline asked why they didn't spend another 4 million dollars then for sewer lines in addition to sewer plant. It was noted that were different councilpersons and mayor at that time and he would need to ask them. Mayor stated the sewer lines are 40 years old clay pipe and the infrastructure is falling apart and needs to be fixed one way or another. Daryl Hynek noted the lines were put in 1974 and doesn't think the water lines should go in as goes against the property taxes. He noted the school and city taxes are the same amounts. Mayor noted Hynek was incorrect as property taxes are 45% school taxes, 35% city taxes, and county is most of the rest. Curt Cline noted the City is not bound to install water line and is bound to do sewer line due to the developer. Mayor stated the sewer lines are undersized for current maximum flows, even without new development. Adam Roeder noted the mains are undersized now and need to be fixed. Stagg noted the sewer line upgrade is not due to the developer but to improve the current sewer lines which can help for future growth and not have this expense in 10-15 years. Mayor noted the sewer plant improvements in 2005/2006 were forecasting for future growth and this sewer line project will do same thing for next twenty years. Engineer Clow noted that with already disrupting the ground with the sewer line improvements it is easier now to install the water line and have sidewalks/roadways than to tear up new road surface in the future. Motion to close public hearing by Gudenkauf, seconded by Neuendorf. Call for vote. All ayes. Absent: Pudil. Hearing closed at 6:59 p.m.

Approve Mayor to Sign Environmental Information Document: After review of document, Neuendorf moved, seconded by Stagg, to approve Mayor to sign the Iowa State Revolving Fund Environmental Information Document. Call for vote. All ayes. Absent: Pudil. Motion carried.

Adjournment: Motion by Gudenkauf, seconded by Stagg to adjourn. Call for vote. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Tawnia Kakacek, City Clerk/Finance Officer

Christopher Taylor, Mayor