

(Subject to Approval)
CITY OF SWISHER, IOWA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 11, 2019

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Call To Order: Mayor Christopher Taylor called the Swisher Council Meeting to order at 7 p.m. at Swisher City Hall, Swisher, Iowa on November 11, 2019.

Council Present: Mary Gudenkauf, Jerry Hightshoe, Rebekah Neuendorf, James Rowe, Mike Stagg.

Also Present: City Clerk/Finance Officer Tawnia Kakacek, Public Works Superintendent Carl Spoerl, Library Director Laura Hoover, HR Green Representative Tim Cutsforth, Johnson County Sergeant Wisman, Gene Beard, David Kutcher, Hawkeye States Scale--Gary and Zach Knorr.

Mayor Taylor recognized James Rowe, Carl Spoerl and anyone else in the audience for their sacrifice and courage to serve in the United States' armed forces.

Consent Agenda: It was noted the City did not receive pay request from Johnson County for Division Street Project and should be removed from agenda. After review and discussion, Neuendorf moved, seconded by Stagg to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of: Agenda with removal of Item 4a. Payment to County; October 14 and 28, 2019 Meeting Minutes; updated List of Claims; October 2019 Clerk/Treasurer Report and Utility Billing Audit Report; Resolution No. 2019-48 to transfer funds from sewer fund to debt service fund for bond interest payment; street closure for December 14th Holiday Parade; and notice of open board positions of Board of Adjustments, Park & Recreation, Library Board, Planning & Zoning. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Gudenkauf, Hightshoe, Neuendorf, Rowe, Stagg. Motion carried.

Citizen Comments: Gene Beard stated the following: the city needs to be more aggressive with the snow removal as 120th Street was a mess and needed extra sand; suggested when the city does reconstruction to 120th Street remove the shade problem; he heard the sander was broke again and recommended the city get a backup sander; city did excellent work on snow removal on rest of the streets; his emails to the mayor have been kicked back to him. Mayor stated the mayor's email has 90 Mb limit but also are forwarded to his personal email. He will check into it. Further on the agenda the city is addressing a backup sander.

Reports:

Sheriff: Johnson County Sergeant Wisman had no report. Kakacek noted owner of The Car Wash came in and wanted the city and citizens to know he was robbed and had property damage at his business last Sunday early morning. Wisman noted they are looking into this.

Library: Library Director Hoover reported the following: open today thru end of November are posters of WW1 and legacies with education guide provided by the Smithsonian; adding "News Guard" to the library computers which is funded by Microsoft/ Google/Apple that tells about the website like funding, if the website information is correct, etc. Swisher is the first library in the state to partner on this. Thursday February 6, 2020 will be the 10th year anniversary of Swisher Library and they will be having a week of celebration.

Engineer: HR Green Representative Cutsforth reported the following: reviewed sink hole on 4th/Oak Street; Phase 1 of Division Street Project west side of town will need another level of asphalt that will be done in Spring; working on design of Phase 2 Division Street Project; Alley project will be done in Spring. Gene Beard asked if the shoulder on 120th/Division Street Project be smoothed out. Cutsforth noted this is on the list to be done this year. Beard asked if the City paid for No Parking signs on 3rd Street between Alan and Swisher View Streets. Cutsforth noted it was on the project plans and Spoerl had put up temporary ones. Cutsforth noted the city could put permanent No Parking signs along that road if city wants. Council directed this to be on the next regular council meeting agenda.

Mayor: Mayor Taylor stated he attended the Storm Water Management session in Coralville with Councilor Gudenkauf and City Clerk Kakacek.

Council: Hightshoe noted he watched the culvert work done on Division/120th Street Project and was impressed with the speed of getting the work done.

Employees: Superintendent of Public Works Spoerl reported the following: closed restrooms at Castek Park; put posts and chain across the Castek Park pathway to stop truck going through there and going onto the ball diamond; will be taking down small group of trees at Castek Park that was approved by the Parks & Recreation Commission; the Little CR Reds baseball team can't put the lime on the diamond due to the weather and the posts for batting cage are at the park; serviced the mowers and other equipment; the utility vehicle is operational; spent all Monday working on plows/spreader. He noted the sander was down but is operational now, plowed/sanded at 2:30 a.m. today and did main loop twice but the wind kept blowing the snow covering the sand/salt. Gary came in at 2:30 p.m. today and did more sanding/salting. Kakacek reported the following: received grant check of \$8,506 for the generator; attended the IMFOA Conference; sent budget letters to departments; annual financial report is on city website and posted around town; Swisher Farmers Market received \$1,000 grant for signage, tents, etc. from the Community Foundation and are looking for local artists to do new logo; Sonya LaGrange requested someone to take charge of cheering section for the Run Crandic this time as she is unable to. Rowe suggested to contact the local groups here to see if interested. Kakacek will also be attending the Budget Workshop on November 21, 2019.

Miscellaneous Report: Council and Mayor reviewed 9-30-19 Library Board Minutes; 10-28-19 Planning & Zoning Minutes, and 10-29-19 Parks & Recreation Board Minutes.

BUSINESS:

Refer to P & Z: Gary Knorr of Hawkeye States Scale stated he is putting up a building for his business on the proposed preliminary/final plat that is within the 2-mile fringe area. He discussed what his business does. Mayor inquired about future plans for other part of lot. Gudenkauf moved, seconded by Neuendorf, to refer the Preliminary/Final Plat-S & K Subdivision to Swisher Planning & Zoning for recommendation. Roll call vote was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Approve Quote to Repair Sink Hole: Cutsforth and Spoerl reviewed the sink hole on 4th Street/Oak Avenue after it was partially dug up and still not sure what is causing the problem but stopped digging as the charges were close to the \$1,000 limit council approved earlier. Council reviewed options for further work on this problem. Rowe suggested to look at the drainage of that road for the future. After discussion, Hightshoe moved, seconded by Gudenkauf, to approved Brown Concrete & Backhoe to do Option 2 up to \$2,500.00 to fix sink hole. Roll call vote was taken. All ayes. Motion carried. They will be digging east and see if the tile was ever repaired or just a French drain was put in, fix problem, then line bottom of hole and sides with engineering fabric, backfill with clean rock and soil on top.

Request to Purchase Alley: Council reviewed Planning & Zoning recommendation not to sell alley and letter of request from Judy & Jerry Nicholls to purchase alley on the east side of their property at 112 1st Street, Swisher IA due to drainage issues. Hightshoe inquired what the city's benefit was to keep the alley if the City would have to fix drainage issue. Stagg noted he was not in favor of selling city property in case easements are needed for utilities, especially as may need access for current street project. Rowe noted none the of adjoining property owners were present so takes that as a sign of not interested. After discussion, Stagg moved, seconded by Rowe, to accept Planning & Zoning recommendation not to sell the alley. Roll call vote was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Sale of City Alleys in the Future: Planning & Zoning Commission recommended not to sell any city alleys in the future. Rowe asked if they gave any reason for this. Kakacek didn't know. Stagg noted it may change later to sell few alleys when city is not involved in major projects.

Partner with Jo. Co. Grants Asst.: Gudenkauf noted city received email from Johnson County Grants Assistant of few grants the city may be interested in and wondered if someone would like to contact her of these grants and future grants. Councilor Rowe volunteered.

Remove Tree Between Park Pavilion and Building at Castek Park: Superintendent Spoerl requested this tree be removed, he would cut it down and hire for stump removal. Parks & Recreation Commission were in favor of this. Council inquired if there was a history of this tree like donated, etc. Council recommended to put on Facebook stating the city plans on removing this tree and if there is a reason the tree was planted there. Gene Beard recommended a picture be taken and put with notice. Council will revisit this in March.

Temporary Part-Time Snow Removal Position: Kakacek stated no-one has applied for this position. It is posted around town, on city website and Facebook page. Gene Beard recommended a stipend for on-call for 6 to 8 nights a month to get applications since don't always get called in. City will just keep the open position posted.

Publication in NOJOCO in 2020: Per NOJOCO email, their rates will increase by \$77.50 per month to have a full page for City of Swisher. It was discussed to consider doing half a page, promoting positive things the city has done on the page, or not use the NOJOCO, just Facebook and website. Concern that many residents don't use internet. After discussion, Council directed Kakacek to get rates for different sizes of publication.

Approve Agreement for Generator Maintenance: After review and discussion of agreement, Neuendorf moved, seconded by Hightshoe, to approve generator maintenance agreement with Cummins Sales and Service. Roll call vote was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

2018-19 Urban Renewal Report: After review, Stagg moved, seconded by Gudenkauf, to approve the 2018-19 Urban Renewal Report. Roll call vote was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 2019-49-Transfer of Funds: City Clerk Kakacek noted this is to collect the maximum dollars from TIF for the Division Street Project. After review and discussion, Gudenkauf moved, seconded by Stagg, to approve Resolution No. 2019-49 entitled "RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING INTERAL ADVANCE FOR FUNDING OF URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT" from Local Option Sales Tax Fund to the Division Street Project. Roll call vote. Ayes: Gudenkauf, Hightshoe, Neuendorf, Rowe, Stagg. Nays: None. Resolution No. 2019-49 passed.

Approve 2020-21 TIF Certification: After review, Stagg moved, seconded by Neuendorf, to approve 2020-21 TIF Certification. Roll call vote was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Purchase Salt/Sand Spreader Insert: Superintendent Spoerl presented quote for SaltDogg to be hooked up to back of pickup. This could be used on the smaller streets where it is harder to take the snowplow/sander. After discussion, Hightshoe moved, seconded by Stagg to approve purchase of SaltDogg Spreader at cost of \$4,585.00 from Future Line Truck Equipment. Roll call vote was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Correspondence: Council reviewed the following: complaint from Jacob Irons of yard flooding; letters sent on violations of illegal parking, not applying for building permit, moving dumpster, parking ticket; Municipal Leadership Academy Brochure; email of FEMA stopping by next Tuesday; email from Johnson County Grants Assistant of available grants; auditor's 2018-19 annual review; information on Johnson County Citizens Police Academy. October 2019 Sheriff's Report; Building Permit for 320 Amy Street, Unit B; October 2019 City Scape; Mediacom update; Iowa Gaming information; Municipal Finance Workbook from Dorsey & Whitney LLP value were on the council table for review. Mayor noted complaint from Irons and said the council members could talk with him about any questions. Hightshoe inquired where to get education on pros and cons of annexation. It was recommended to have speaker from ECICOG, Jeff Schott, or Johnson County to come and talk to the council.

Adjournment: Motion by Neuendorf, seconded by Rowe to adjourn. Call for vote. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.