REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Christopher Taylor called the council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at Swisher City Hall, Swisher, Iowa on November 14, 2016.

Council Present: Angie Hinrichs, Mary Gudenkauf, Rebekah Neuendorf, Mike Stagg, Larry Svec.

Also present: City Clerk/Finance Officer Tawnia Kakacek, Library Director Laura Hoover, City Engineers Tim Cutsforth and Rose Amundson, Johnson County Sheriff Deputy Brian Adolph, Nikki Hynek, Ken Barta.

Consent Agenda: After review and discussion, Gudenkauf moved, seconded by Hinrichs, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of: Agenda; October 10, 2016 Regular; updated List of Claims; October 2016 Clerk/Treasurer Report and Utility Billing Audit Report; Resolution No. 2016-43 certifying unpaid sewer/refuse debt to county auditor; Resolution No. 2016-44 certifying mowing assessment; Resolution No. 2016-45 appointing Tracy Schulte and Edward Kringle to the Parks & Recreation Commission; Resolution No. 2016-46 transferring TIF and Sewer funds to Debt Service Fund for bond interest and fee payments; and notice of positions available on the Board of Adjustments and Planning & Zoning Commission. Roll call vote was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Citizens’ Comments: Ken Barta asked council to consider having a snowmobile route through Swisher. Council directed this to be put on the next regularly scheduled council meeting.

Reports: Library: Library Director Hoover presented library magnets with new logo done by one of the Kirkwood Students working at the library. She reported the following: attended library conference in Fargo, ND; will be starting the 2nd adult program series (design XMAS wreaths, make XMAS cards, festive foods) and will be held at the Shueyville Community Center; will be meeting with the State Librarian and Swisher Mayor tomorrow; and presented new prohibition and children’s books.

Sheriff: Johnson County Sheriff Deputy Adolph reported they are busy with training during this time of year.

Engineer: City Engineer Cutsforth reported the following: held a Division Street Public Meeting at Swisher American Legion that was well attended and good input; noted draft of the Division Street report should be presented to Council first part of next year; worked on the county shed, street project, reviewed business commercial setbacks and right-of-way permit.

Mayor: Mayor Taylor noted EMA Commission will be meeting again and will meet with the State Librarian tomorrow. He congratulated businesses which participated in open house event in October; has heard good feedback.

Council: Councilperson Gudenkauf noted there was good community feedback at the Division Street Public Meeting at the Legion.

Employees: Kakacek gave update for Vondracek as follows: closed the park restrooms; installed new stool at city hall; new tires are on truck; will be putting up snow fence on farmland next week, waiting for other farmland to be sprayed before putting up snow fence; painted the city hall railing; checking bulbs on Christmas decorations; will install XMAS Decorations 1st of next week and the timer will start next Wednesday. Kakacek reported the following: budget workshop this Thursday; city hall carpet was cleaned; received work comp insurance refund; will be locking the brush pile site as someone has put mattress, leaves, pallets in the brush pile; staff is looking into cameras as well for the brush site; need councilperson to meet with True North Insurance along with her, Craig, and the Mayor. Hinrichs volunteered. She noted donations for the community message board were received from Kava House of $250, WILOS of $500 and Jefferson-Monroe Fire Dept. of $200, and possibly the bank. She inquired if the council wanted to apply for grant for any railroad crossings in town, council declined.

Miscellaneous: Council reviewed Library Board 9-26-16 Minutes and Planning & Zoning 10-24-16 Minutes.

BUSINESS:
Payment to LL Pelling: Motion by Gudenkauf, seconded by Stagg, to approve final payment to LL Pelling for 2016 Street Project. Roll call vote was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.


County Shed Purchase: Mayor noted the county was ready to sell the county shed to the public as/is, if the city didn’t move forward on the purchase. Engineer Amundson noted if the building was demolished it may need another asbestos assessment but the building was fine to occupy at this time. She noted there are IDNR funds to help with cleanup of asbestos. The well on the property would either have to be treated and registered with the state or closed up. Council agreed to treat and register the well. Mayor noted the city received notice of alleged drainage issue going to Larry Maresh property from the county shed lot. Engineer Cutsforth reviewed the drainage and noted the county did try to fix some of the drainage but there was still a drainage problem. He noted a curb could be installed to fix issue. After discussion, Svec moved, seconded by Gudenkauf to approve City Clerk to send check of $80,000 to purchase County shed in exchange for the transfer of title, including the Deed and authorizing the City Clerk to accept the Deed and file with Johnson County Recorder upon receipt with the knowledge the shed has some asbestos, well needs treatment and registered or closed up and there is a drainage issue from the county shed property into Maresh property. Roll call vote was taken. All ayes. Motion carried. Mayor thanked council for time they spent on this.

Bench Location: Kakacek inquired council where they want the donated bench to be located. She noted the donor preferred it to be at the Downtown Park catty corner to the stone bench at the playground. After discussion, Gudenkauf moved, seconded by Neuendorf, to place the bench in a reasonable position on the northwest corner of the playground with concrete pad at city’s expense. Call for vote. All ayes. Motion carried.

Street Closure: After review and discussion, Svec moved, seconded by Hinrichs, to approve street closure of 2nd Street from Summit Avenue and Jefferson Avenue on December 10th from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for “Swisher’s A Very Merry Christmas Lighted Parade”. Call for vote. Ayes: Gudenkauf, Hinrichs, Stagg, Svec. Abstain: Neuendorf as she is involved this project. Motion carried.

Request to Fund Port-o-Potties for “Swisher Christmas Celebration”: Nikki Hynek gave overview of Swisher Christmas Celebration. Kakacek noted the city may have to rent a bucket to put the lights on the tree. After review and discussion, Gudenkauf moved, seconded by Hinrichs’ to pay up to$1,000 for two port-o-potties and one handwashing station and purchase lights if none available for pine tree at Downtown Park for the “Swisher Christmas Celebration”. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Gudenkauf, Hinrichs, Stagg, Svec. Abstain: Neuendorf as she is involved in this project. Motion carried. Gudenkauf gave a special thanks to all the organizers for this project.

Set Public Hearing Date-Business Central Zoning Setbacks: Mayor and City Clerk noted this would require new zoning district and new ordinance. Motion by Gudenkauf, seconded by Stagg, to set public hearing to consider changing Business Central Zoning side yard setbacks from 15 feet to 0 feet for areas on both north and south side 2nd Street only from Summit Avenue to Rose Avenue for December 12, 2016 at 7 p.m. at city hall. Call for vote. All ayes. Motion carried.


Service Line Warranty Program: After review and discussion of the program and letter that would be sent to residents for this program, council declined this program. Council felt it would confuse residents thinking this program is thru the city instead of the company.
Set Public Hearing Date-Change Sewer Rates Based on Zoning to Actual Usage: Kakacek noted the verbiage on sewer rate charges were based on occupant’s zoning and not the actual usage as either residential or commercial. She noted the billing was done on actual usage not zoning, so the amendment to the code would follow how the city is billing. Motion by Stagg, seconded by Gudenkauf, to set public hearing to consider changing sewer rate charges from zoning based to per connection/usage for December 12, 2016 at 7 p.m. at city hall. Call for vote. All ayes. Motion carried.

Consider Amending TIF Urban Renewal Area: Kakacek noted that Michael Hart from Northland Securities and her recommended the city to re-establish TIF area for taxation of Fisher’s 5th Addition. This area has not received much TIF income as the houses are just being built so won’t see much increment and the current TIF will expire 6-30-19. She requested council approval to start the process to amend this TIF area and taxation. After discussion, Stagg moved, seconded by Svec, to start the process to amend the TIF area. Call for vote. All ayes. Motion carried.

Direction for Swisher Economic Development for Revolving Loans: Kakacek noted the Council budgeted $30,000 for revolving loans for downtown businesses and had several questions of implementing this program. Mayor reminded Council he was on ECICOG Board that administered these kinds of funds last year. After discussion, Council directed Kakacek to ask ECICOG to come to next regularly scheduled council meeting to help the city to implement this program.

Correspondence: Council reviewed the following: IDNR Letter and No Further Action Certificate issued for the old D & G Lot; message board donation request letter sent to groups and businesses; email from IDNR regarding free tree seedling packets; email from resident requesting no burning in Swisher, and email request to allow miniature goats in Swisher and Mayor’s email response. Mayor noted that the inquirer would be using the miniature goats as support therapy animals and according to the City Attorney, the City has to allow it per federal law. Johnson County Sheriff October 2016 Reports; R.O.W. Permit for 151 Alan Ave.; Building Permit for 223 Howard Avenue were on the council table for review.

Adjournment: Motion by Stagg, seconded by Hinrichs to adjourn. Call for vote. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Tawnia Kakacek, City Clerk
Christopher Taylor, Mayor