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 April 9, 2018.

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

Also Present: City Clerk/Finance Officer Tawnia Kakacek, Public Works Superintendent Rodney McNeal, HR Green City Engineer Tim Cutsforth, Johnson County Sheriff Deputy, Russ Barenz, Ginny Svec, Gene Beard, and Sarah Wilkins.

Consent Agenda: After review and discussion, Stagg moved, seconded by Gudenkauf, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of: Agenda with removing item 4j-Approve Quote for Stump Grinding as bids have not been received yet; March 12 and 26, 2018 Meeting Minutes; updated List of Claims; March Clerk/Treasurer and Utility Billing Audit Reports; Permit for Jefferson-Monroe Fire Department Run on July 28, 2018; Class C Beer Permit, Class B Native Wine Permit, Sunday Sales for Shelton’s Grocery; Resolution 2018-11-Appointment of Maureen Shanahan to Swisher Parks & Recreation Commission. Roll call vote was taken. All ayes unless otherwise noted. Absent: Hightshoe and Rowe. Motion carried.

Citizen Comments: Gene Beard told the City Council and Mayor they need to solve the parking problem for additional business opening on 2nd Street as there is illegal parking now with shortage of parking for current businesses. Gudenkauf asked Beard for his recommendation. He recommended to look at Cedar Rapids Railroad property. Council directed this to be on the next regular council meeting agenda. Beard noted there were No Parking signs on half of Summit Avenue and thought it use to be on the whole Summit Avenue many years ago. City will look into this. Beard inquired where was the electronic speed sign on 120th Street for the west end of town. It was noted the City has two signs and one of them is alternately moved between east and west side of town. The other one is on Swisher View Drive. He recommends the city purchase another electronic sign. Council directed this to be on the next regular council meeting agenda.

Reports:
Sheriff: No report.
Library: No report.
Engineer: Engineer Cutsforth reported the following: worked on plans/bids for Rose Ave./4th St. Drainage Project; reviewed drainage issue on 3rd St. and Essex; attended sewer plant tour; reviewed proposed storm water utility. Beard inquired when alley north of 2nd Street behind the businesses was getting repaired. Cutsforth asked if he could contact the county engineer regarding the Division Street Project. Mayor noted he has tried to meet with the Johnson County Board of Supervisors liaisons but it hasn’t worked out yet. Council agreed to have Cutsforth contact the county. Email update of Division Street STBG Grant Application from HR Green Engineer Jim Halverson was enclosed in engineer report.

Mayor: Mayor noted there is a Joint Entities meeting next Monday.

Council: No report.

Employees: McNeal reported the following: started wastewater classes last week and will go this week then take Grade 1 Test. Kakacek reported the following: attended ECICOG Clerk Workshop; had training on ACH Payments with bank, Shazam and Data Tech; finished verifying addresses for upcoming census; will attend HR Conference this week, Data Tech Meeting and IMFOA Conference next week; gave dates of upcoming committees meetings; presented Budgeted 2017-18 List of Transfers; had IT Risk Management Audit and waiting for report; and noted if City wants to televise/fix sewer lines in next year of $15,000, the budget would need amended but the funds are available. Council directed that be put on amendment list for next year. Barenz stated he had backup on his sewer lines 20 years ago with the City doing nothing and claimed the City still hadn’t done anything to fix the sewer lines throughout town.

BUSINESS:
Resolution No. 2018-12-Award Quote for Rose Avenue/4th Street Drainage Project: Engineer Cutsforth presented list of bids from Engineer’s OPC-$106,897.00; Pirc-Tobin Const.-$97,675.75; Triple B Construction-$102,175.75; Dave Schimtt Construction-$103,900.00; Eastern Iowa Excavating & Concrete-$111,821.70; Rathje Construction-$114,687.00; BWC Excavating-$115,428.00; Ricklefs Excavating-$118,997.50; Yordi Excavating-$119,503.50; Vieth Construction-$124,995.75. He recommended Pirc-Tobin Construction Inc., Alburnett, IA for the project. After discussion and review of quotes, Stagg moved, seconded by Gudenkauf, to approve Resolution No. 2018-12 entitled “RESOLUTION AWARDING QUOTE FOR ROSE AVENUE/4TH STREET DRAINAGE PROJECT FOR THE CITY OF SWISHER, IOWA” to Pirc-Tobin Construction, Inc. at cost of $97,675.75. Roll call vote. Ayes: Gudenkauf, Neuendorf, Stagg. Nays: None. Absent: Hightshoe, Rowe. Resolution No. 2018-12 passed.

Public Hearing for Replacing Chapter 169.10-Right-of-Way Inspection: Motion by Gudenkauf, seconded by Neuendorf to open public hearing to consider replacing Chapter 169.10 Right-of-Way Inspection. All ayes unless otherwise noted. Absent: Hightshoe and Rowe. Motion carried. Public hearing opened at 7:34 p.m. No written or verbal comments were received. Mayor closed public hearing at 7:35 p.m.

1st Reading of Ord.#269—Replace Right-of-Way Inspection -Chapter 169.10: After discussion, Stagg moved, seconded by Gudenkauf, to introduce Ordinance #269 by title only entitled “AN ORDINANCE REPLACING THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF SWISHER, IOWA, SECTION 169.10—INSPECTION OF WORK WITHIN RIGHT-OF-WAY AND EASEMENTS” and be given its first reading. Roll call vote. Ayes: Gudenkauf, Neuendorf, Stagg. Nays: None. Absent: Hightshoe, Rowe. Motion carried. Ordinance #269 was given its first reading.

Storm Water Drainage Utility-Set Public Hearing: Council reviewed sample ordinance to adopt a storm water drainage utility and to consider setting public hearing date. Kakacek noted per direction of council at last meeting, the city attorney drafted ordinance after reviewing samples of other cities. Mayor noted repeatedly that the item on tonight’s agenda was just to set a public hearing for next month so all residents could have input. Ginny Svec asked for explanation of this utility. Engineer Cutsforth stated that creating this utility and fee would give City the ability to do maintenance on storm water drainage, etc. Barenz stated he cleans his own ditch and the city should go to the source of the problem, then resolve. Cutsforth noted the ditches are part of storm water and get erosion from other properties in the ditches and this is part of the reason to have this utility. Stagg read the purpose of ordinance: “To provide a means of funding the construction, operation and maintenance of storm water systems, including but not limited to, detention and retention basins, storm water sewers, inlets, ditches and drains and cleaning of streets that may connect or discharge directly, or indirectly, into the storm and surface water drainage system.” Barenz asked why the City had engineer look at all the roads in town and then didn’t do anything with it. Mayor pointed out the Council approved a 20-year Pavement Management Plan based on that report and City uses that plan every year for road repair. Engineer Cutsforth noted drainage evaluation in that report was limited to public roadways and didn’t look at drainage issues in peoples’ yards. Ginny Svec asked why put weight on the property owner. Gudenkauf noted they are looking at low rate of $1 - $3 per month. Finance Officer Kakacek noted if they don’t start a storm water drainage utility fee, the monies would be coming out of General Fund or Road Use Fund which would take money away from improving the streets in town. Mayor noted financial advantages to having separate utility. Stagg would like to have more input from residents. Neuendorf would like to see a scheduled plan, with more information to solve the problems and not just fix the problems as they come up. Beard noted City should start the revenue now and work on the bandaids. Gudenkauf noted this issue cannot be ignored and keep it on the forefront. Cutsforth could answer some questions if sent to him from the city clerk. Council directed discussion of considering storm water drainage utility and public input at next regular scheduled council meeting.

Downtown Exchange Program: Mayor Taylor submitted application for this program as it fills up quickly. This program is a free service offered through the Iowa Economic Development Authority where two communities are paired up and make a commitment to visit the other community within a specified time frame. This focuses specifically on downtowns or urban commercial districts and provides opportunity to find out how others see and experience another community’s downtown.

Amber Lights for Crossing: Council and Mayor reviewed last year costs for amber lights to install at crossing at Summit and Division Street. Council present want the new councilmembers thoughts on this and directed this to be on the next regular council meeting agenda.

Clean Storm Sewers: Superintendent McNeal presented quote from Ken-Way Trucking to clean storm sewers at 409/410 3rd Street, 261 Alan Avenue and 508 Hill Court. After discussion, Gudenkauf moved, seconded by Neuendorf, to approve cleaning storm sewers by the addresses above with Ken-Way Trucking at cost of $1,566.90. Roll call vote was taken. All ayes unless otherwise noted. Absent: Hightshoe, Rowe. Motion carried.

Purchase Trash Receptacles: Superintendent McNeal requested to purchase five 32-gallon trash receptacles and lids in black to replace the ones at the parks and around town. After discussion, Gudendkauf moved, seconded by Neuendorf, to purchase five trash receptacles at cost of $269 each and lids at $99 each plus shipping. Roll call vote was taken. All ayes unless otherwise noted. Absent: Hightshoe, Rowe. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 2018-14-Change Cell Phone Plan: Kakacek noted the current cell phone plan has only 400 voice minutes and usage was over each month. She presented plan with unlimited calls and data. After discussion, Neuendorf moved, seconded by Stagg, to approve Resolution No. 2018-14 entitled “A RESOLUTION APPROVING TO CHANGE CELL PHONE PLAN FOR THE CITY OF SWISHER” with Verizon at $50.50 per month plus taxes. Roll call vote. Ayes: Gudenkauf, Neuendorf, Stagg. Nays: None. Absent: Hightshoe, Rowe. Resolution No. 2018-14 passed.

Council/Mayor Pay-Set Public Meeting Date: Since two council members were gone, council directed this to be on the next regular council meeting agenda.

Correspondence: Council reviewed the following: ICAP Statement of Action for City’s Risk Management Audit; past minutes regarding strategic planning on Division Street Project; IA League of Cities backfill information; Johnson County EMA offering training for Countering Targeted Violence; FEMA information. Johnson County Sheriff’s March 2018 Report and pipeline awareness information were on the council table for review.

Adjournment: Motion by Stagg, seconded by Neuendorf to adjourn. Call for vote. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

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Tawnia Kakacek, City Clerk/ Finance Officer  Christopher Taylor, Mayor