

(Subject to Approval)
CITY OF SWISHER, IOWA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 10, 2020

The council meeting was moved to the Swisher Library that had electricity/generator as rest of town had no electricity due to the storm. In order to help stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus, this meeting was held electronically also. Chapter 21.8 of the Iowa Code permits electronic meetings where all members participate remotely when in-person meeting is impossible or impractical, which is true during this crisis. Anyone could dial in or connect electronically to hear the actual meeting.

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Call To Order: Mayor Christopher Taylor called the Swisher Council Meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in Swisher, Iowa on August 10, 2020 at Swisher Library.

Council Present: Mary Gudenkauf, Jerry Hightshoe, Michael Stagg. Via conference call was Rebekah Neuendorf. Absent: James Rowe.

Also Present: City Clerk/Finance Officer Tawnia Kakacek, Public Works Superintendent Carl Spoerl. Library Director Laura Hoover, and Mike Brown of Swisher Men's Club. Via conference call was Regenia Bailey of Bailey Leadership Initiative.

Mayor Taylor noted the City Council will be talking about the storm that happened today even though it was not on the agenda. Per Iowa law the city can put items on the agenda less than 24 hours if a bona fide emergency which this was.

Consent Agenda: After review, Gudenkauf moved, seconded by Stagg to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of: Agenda, July 13 & 28, 2020 Minutes; updated List of Claims; June and July 2020 Clerk/Treasurer's Reports and Utility Balance Reports. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Gudenkauf, Hightshoe, Neuendorf, Stagg. Motion carried.

Citizen Comments: Laura Hoover noted the City needed traffic control on the alley east of Summit Avenue between Division and 2nd Street as vehicles were traveling both ways down the alley which there is not enough room. Summit Avenue had powerline down so no traffic could turn there. Laura Hoover, Ginny Svec, Brandy and Karen Bachman were directing traffic on the alley for 3.5 hours to prevent accidents. Public Works staff were removing trees off the roads during this time. Spoerl confirmed with city engineer the City could use some of the detour signs from the current street project. After discussion, Mayor and Council decided all traffic leaving Swisher to the east must take Oak Avenue and entering from east can go thru the alley. Hoover noted the library is open, has power and internet so people can come use the computer, charge their phones, etc. Mayor noted the City passed 2017 Debris Management Plan which shows locations of library lot, shop lot, and Castek Park as debris drop off areas and plan stated City would contract out for services for cleanup. The short-term goal is to have residents leave the debris on their property, then the city will pickup at later date. Gudenkauf wanted to make sure citizens were aware of city services and the City helping during this time. Mayor will be talking to EMA tomorrow about bringing in bottled water, etc.

Reports:

Sheriff: None.

Library: Library Director Hoover reported the following: library got accredited for next 3 years; the submittal date of the annual report has been extended; offering in September online tutoring system for children to go into website and connect; will be replacing the WWI exhibit with Women's Voting exhibit; library is open.

Engineer: Kakacek read engineer's report as follows: reviewed right-of-way permits; looked over Riggle property for tree trimming and right-of-way area; seal coat project is complete; Orchard Street Drain Tile Project was to start today and take about 3 weeks; Division Street Phase 1 Project is to be completed in 2

weeks, also the mainline asphalt is complete; Division Street Phase 2 Project intend to pave from Rose to the railroad this week and complete the storm sewer, subdrain and rocking from the railroad to Summit, hope to pave end of next week; in 3 weeks will be flipping traffic and starting the north half to Summit to asphalt; the sidewalk landing on the northwest corner of the Swisher View Drive intersection has some damage and cracking and will need to be corrected by the contractor.

Mayor: Mayor Taylor will be participating in Call of Iowa League of Cities on Thursday to try to get local funds from the federal government for COVID-19 and tomorrow talk with EMA regarding debris management due to the storm.

Council: Stagg noted they didn't meet with Cedar Rapids Planning to work on fringe area agreement/map since last council meeting. Hightshoe gave firefighter meeting update and attended Juvenile Justice meeting. Mayor noted in correspondence was information Councilperson James Rowe wanted to be brought up of unhappy residents regarding the proposed change of future land use of properties on Seneca Drive that was reviewed last month. Mayor noted when these properties come to be rezoned it will come before Swisher Council for review as in the fringe area agreement with Johnson County. It was noted per the agreement the county has the final decision on requests in this zone.

Employees: Superintendent of Public Works Spoerl reported the following: burned the brush pile a few weeks ago and it started on fire this last weekend; getting a quote to clean out the ash; tapered off on mowing city grounds due to the dryness; wastewater plant generator was fixed and now knows how to get it working manually; installed the No Parking signs on 3rd Street between Alan Avenue and Swisher View Drive; storm did minor damage to the 3rd Street shop building and light pole at the post office is leaning. Hightshoe noted the streetlight on intersection of Alan and Amy Streets is leaning also. Kakacek noted she attended the academy online, had Aflac representative meet with city employees; will be setting up interviews for part-time library/city hall position soon; busy with all the projects going on in town.

Miscellaneous Reports: None submitted.

BUSINESS:

Public Hearing Tree Ordinance: Gudenkauf recommended the public hearing be postponed due to the storm as residents were not present to voice opinion on the number of days to get their trees trimmed. After discussion, Gudenkauf moved, seconded by Hightshoe, to postpone public hearing and reading of ordinance on Chapter 151-Tree Trimming to September 14, 2020 at 7 p.m. at Swisher City Hall. Roll call vote was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Payment to Johnson County Roads-120th/Division Street Project: City had not received request for payment so no action at this time.

Approve Pay Estimate-Division Street Project: After recommendation to approve payment from city engineer, Gudenkauf moved, seconded by Stagg to approve Pay Estimate No. 2 of \$395,947.25 to Tschiggfrie Excavating for Division Street Project Phase 2. Roll call vote was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Approve Payment for 2020-21 Street Project: After recommendation to approve payment from city engineer, Hightshoe moved, seconded by Stagg to approve payment of \$29,393.10 to Shramrock Construction for 2020-21 Street Project. Roll call vote was taken. All ayes. Absent: Rowe. Motion carried.

Consider Add Special 20 MPH Speed Sign on 2nd Street Business District: Kakacek noted Evelyn Shelton called and expressed concern of speeding traffic downtown due to the detour. Kakacek contacted sheriff's department on this. Kakacek noticed there isn't a speed sign on the business district but the state code speed limit is 20 miles per hour. Hightshoe felt traffic was skewed due to the detour. After discussion, council took no action.

Resolution No. 2020-35-Change Traffic Direction on Alley: After review and discussion, Stagg moved, seconded by Neuendorf to approve Resolution No. 2020-35 entitled "A RESOLUTION CHANGING

TRAFFIC DIRECTION ON ALLEY BETWEEN 1ST AND 2ND STREET AND SUMMIT AND CENTRAL AVENUE FROM ONE-WAY TO TWO-WAY”. Roll call vote. Ayes: Gudenkauf, Hightshoe, Neuendorf, Stagg. Nays: None. Absent: Rowe. Resolution No. 2020-35 passed. The “One Way” sign will be taken down.

Request to Purchase Banners for the City: Mike Brown of Swisher Men’s Club presented costs of banners, brackets and holders. Spoerl noted city has about a dozen brackets for the banners and only the fall banners were usable. Brown noted they would purchase the banners, brackets, and holders. Brown noted they would like to purchase banners for Veterans Day, Memorial Day, Senior Graduates plus help put up the banners. Hightshoe would like to have council approve actual banner designs before they purchase the banners. After discussion, Gudenkauf moved, seconded by Neuendorf, approving Swisher Men’s Club purchasing banners, brackets and holders for City of Swisher with City pre-approving banner designs before Men’s Club order banners. Roll call vote was taken. All ayes. Absent: Rowe. Motion carried. Council and Mayor stated they greatly appreciated Swisher Men’s Club contributions.

Community Survey: Regenia Bailey of Bailey Leadership presented proposed community survey to be sent electronically about week after Labor Day with paper surveys available at city hall and library as well. Council discussed and made minor changes to survey. Notice of upcoming survey will be noted on the utility billing, NOJOCO, Face-book and website. This survey will be for all household members including children. Bailey will have separate survey for Mayor, Council and Staff.

Neuendorf left Zoom Meeting at 8:46 p.m.

Set City-Wide Cleanup Date: After discussion, Gudenkauf moved, seconded by Stagg to set City-Wide Cleanup Date for September 12, 2020 from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. in front of City Hall. Call for vote. All ayes. Motion carried.

Brush Pile Cleanup and Closure: Discussion was postponed due to the storm.

Legislative Changes: Council reviewed Iowa Codification recommendation of Legislative Changes to Swisher Code Book. Kakacek noted the city attorney reviewed and recommended to add SF2268-Minimum Age for Tobacco Use. Motion by Stagg, seconded by Gudenkauf to have Iowa Codification draft ordinance for City and codify for \$300.00. Roll call vote was taken. All ayes. Absent: Rowe. Motion carried.

American Wind Week Proclamation: Mayor Taylor proclaimed American Wind Week. The irony was not lost on Mayor or Council.

Correspondence: Council reviewed the following: note from Katheryn Birky stating she was told several years ago to bring dead animals to town hall and that was why she brought the dead squirrel; required TIF letters sent; Johnson County Board of Supervisors press release on mandatory face covering/mask effective August 10th; Iowa League of Cities New Laws of Interest to Cities and finance info regarding COVID effects; Building Permit for 331 1st Street SW; Right-of-Way Permits for 331 1st Street SW and 80 Division Street NW; Chicken Permit for 109 3rd Street SW; Johnson County Sheriff’s Reports for July 2020; petition from residents opposing the 2 applications for Future Land Use Map Amendments on Seneca Road NW; complaint letter regarding burned garage not being repaired or taken down and unmoved red car.

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

Tawnia Kakacek, City Clerk/ Finance Officer

Christopher Taylor, Mayor