

(Subject to Approval)
CITY OF SWISHER, IOWA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 12, 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 August 12, 2019.

Council Present: Jerry Hightshoe, James Rowe, Mike Stagg, Mary Gudenkauf joining remotely as she is working in Madison tonight. Per Iowa Code 21.8, she is legally allowed to “remote in” to actively participate in this meeting and vote on all items. Absent: Rebekah Neuendorf.

Also Present: City Clerk/Finance Officer Tawnia Kakacek, Public Works Superintendent Carl Spoerl, Library Director Laura Hoover, City Engineer Tim Cutsforth, Johnson County Sheriff Lieutenant Brian Adolph, Gene Beard, Gerald Bennett, Josh Teel, Tom Strub.

Consent Agenda: After review and discussion, Rowe moved, seconded by Stagg to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of: Agenda; July 8 and 24, 2019 Meeting Minutes; updated List of Claims; July 2019 Clerk/Treasurer Report and Utility Billing Audit Report; Resolution No. 2019-39 assessing delinquent utility bills to property taxes. Roll call vote was taken. All ayes. Absent: Neuendorf. Motion carried.

Citizen Comments: Gene Beard presented copy of the Jefferson-Monroe Fire Department, Inc. Annual Report ending June 30, 2019; thanked the city for the continued support of the fire department tractor pull at Swisher Fun Days; stated the fire department is purchasing 1 acre of land south of their property and will be requesting annexation into Swisher and be on the city agenda next month; Annual Soup Supper is October 5th from 5-8 p.m.; will be selling meat raffle tickets in September; was awarded grants for medical equipment and defibrillator. Beard stated the following: emergency siren was not tested this month; atvs’ are running thru city streets which aren’t allowed and city needs to either approve atvs being on city streets or enforce ordinance; asked why Division Street road embargo is on the east side of town as it affects the businesses downtown which forces them to use Oak Avenue; the No Parking sign on Summit is not visible as people are still parking on Summit; the residents property tax bill increased 10% and should send letter to residents why increase. Spoerl noted Johnson County had problems at their end to test the sirens, so it didn’t get done and sign is on post that patrons can see.

Reports:

Sheriff: Johnson County Sheriff Lieutenant Adolph noted he will put extra patrols on atvs/utvs and no parking on Summit. Mayor noted he has issued extra patrol for No Parking on Alan Avenue. Spoerl stated he has called the police on a few mopeds with no licenses.

Library: Library Director Hoover stated the following: Summer Reading Programs of 9 weeks has ended with average of 33 kids per program at 3 programs per week; the temporary staff that helped with the summer reading programs will be done on August 15th; had 137 participants of summer programs; the library will be rekeying the building with Spoerl’s help; she wrote grant with Park & Recreation Member Ed Kringle for the parks trail. June 24, 2019 Library Minutes were submitted. Gudenkauf thanked Beard and Hoover for writing grants on behalf of the city.

Engineer: City Engineer Cutsforth reported the following: working with the railroad to get an agreement for the alley project and hopefully have it for next meeting; inspected 2019-20 Street Project; reviewed street damage on dead end of 1st Street caused by garbage truck. He had preconstruction meeting for Division Street Project and construction will start from Greencastle towards Alan Avenue as the precast culvert was not available yet. He noted if there were any legitimate concerns of the project, contact him. Cutsforth noted the reason the road embargo of vehicles over 10 tons on the east side of town so they don’t have to turn around on Swisher streets and go back through the east side to take alternate route but this wasn’t for local

trucks. Gudenkauf asked if the semi companies had been notified. The county and city clerk have contacted them.

Council: Gudenkauf stated she introduced herself to Johnson County Board of Supervisors and met with their grant writer who will come and speak at next month at Swisher's Council Meeting to discuss opportunities for Swisher.

Mayor: No report.

Employees: Superintendent of Public Works Spoerl reported the following: he can now mow the ditches by machines and not by hand as ground is dry enough; leveled gravel on alley between 1st and 2nd Street by the carwash and will try to level the cul-de-sac at 3rd Street and Castek Park lot; baseball field lights are in and will contact Musco Lighting to move the fuse box further down on the pole; Joe from Alliant has helped the city with the ball diamond lights and light by the park bathrooms; maintained equipment; doing online safety classes. Kakacek reported the following: generator by city hall is installed but need gas line installed yet; sent required GASB letters to schools and county regarding TIF rebates and agreements; Cedar Rapids Little Reds Baseball will be installing a batting cage this fall; attended IPERS, TIF and Road Use meetings; met with Census personnel whom are asking the city to help with recruiting for census jobs; had conference call with engineer, mayor, and financial advisor regarding bonding for Division Street project; applied for ICAP grant of \$71.97 for welding clothing and mask; received census address information to review.

BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 2019-40-Approve Engineer Agreement for Division Street Project-Section 2: City Engineer Cutsforth noted this project cost more due to surveying, flashing pedestrian crossing light on Summit, lighting, landscaping, storm sewer system, curb and gutter and culvert by Jefferson Avenue. Tentative construction date would be in April 2020. Hightshoe recommended doing 4-way stop sign on Summit and Division Street instead of flashing lights. Cutsforth noted the hill on Division Street from the east will be knocked down some and it doesn't meet the requirements for a stop sign there based on the 2017 traffic count. After review and discussion, Hightshoe moved, seconded by Stagg, to approve Resolution No. 2019-40 entitled "A RESOLUTION APPROVING AGREEMENT WITH HR GREEN FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR CONSTRUCTION PLANS OF DIVISION STREET PROJECT-SECTION 2, SWISHER, IOWA" at \$460,500.00 which includes the construction phase as well. Roll call vote. Ayes: Gudenkauf, Hightshoe, Rowe, Stagg. Nays: None. Absent: Neuendorf. Resolution No. 2019-40 passed.

Approve Payment for 2019-20 Street Rehab Project: Engineer Cutsforth recommended payment. After discussion Stagg moved, seconded by Rowe, to approve payment of \$28,820.10 to Shamrock Construction for 2019-20 Street Rehab Project. Roll call vote was taken. All ayes. Absent: Neuendorf. Motion carried.

Repair Sink Hole on Oak Avenue: Spoerl is waiting for bid from Brown Construction and noted Frank Hartin recommended Brown Construction for this work. As this has been an ongoing issue, Rowe moved, seconded by Stagg to approve up to \$1,000 to dig up the right-of-way on property of 409 Oak Avenue to find and fix the sinking hole problem. Roll call vote was taken. All ayes. Absent: Neuendorf. Motion carried.

Address Bridge on City Right-of-Way: Mayor and Rowe noted that golf carts have been going across a small bridge on unimproved 1st Street between Howard and Jefferson Avenues. Rowe stated the city should decide what to do with the bridge and P & Z should take a look at the unimproved 1st Street and decide what to do with it as well. Stagg was not in favor of selling unimproved 1st Street until the infrastructure is in place. Rowe noted since the city owns the street, city should maintain it. Stagg noted the bridge is convenient for foot traffic and could accommodate for golf carts if improved. Gerald Bennett presented drawings and budget of \$500-600 for materials to do new bridge. Bennett, Josh Teel, Tom Strub and others volunteered to build the bridge and removed the old bridge but asks the city to pay for the materials. Mayor noted the University of Iowa students identified Swisher has problem of not enough foot traffic areas. Hightshoe was in favor and impressed of the volunteers doing this work but asked about liability. Kakacek inquired Cutsforth if there are requirements for the bridge installation. Engineer Cutsforth said he could look at the

plans but it won't be ADA compliant but would be considered as an access bridge for foot traffic, golf carts, and lawnmowers. Council directed city engineer to review plans and report back at next council meeting.

Request County to Install Stop Sign: Council reviewed citizen's complaint of no stop sign northbound on Cou Falls Road at the intersection of Oak, Swisher View, and Cou Falls. He noted that traffic cannot be seen when driving northbound on Cou Falls Road. Hightshoe agreed with this concern. Kakacek sent complaint to the county, but they wanted city to make sure it wasn't on city property, which it is not. After discussion council agreed to ask Johnson County to install Stop sign on Cou Falls Road at the intersection of Cou Falls, Swisher View and Oak Avenues.

Dig Out Ditches: Council reviewed quote from H.F. Hartin at \$155 per hour which would take one day to dig out ditches on Summit and Rose Avenues. Spoerl noted this bid included hauling the dirt, but he will be taking the dirt to shop on 3rd Street, so the cost will be lower. After discussion, Gudenkauf moved, seconded by Stagg to approve H.F. Hartin Construction to dig out the ditches on Summit and Rose Avenues up to \$1,240.00. Roll call vote was taken. All ayes. Absent: Neuendorf. Motion carried.

Tennis and Basketball Court: Spoerl requested verification what the city wanted to do with the tennis and basketball court at Castek Park. Previously, council had approved McNeal to remove the asphalt and fence which McNeal was going to remove the asphalt himself. Spoerl noted the asphalt is buckled and he has not had experience removing asphalt. Gudenkauf would like to see what the youth want. Mayor noted the Parks & Recreation Commission did a survey for this area which people wanted basketball area and splashpad. Hightshoe and Stagg would like to look at the area and revisit what the Park Commission wanted. After discussion, Council agreed to have work session with Parks & Recreation Commission at 6 p.m. on September 9, 2019 at Castek Park to review this issue. Stagg recommended council review the area before meeting.

Purchase or Build Gill: Spoerl is requesting to purchase parts to build a gill. He noted to purchase a gill is \$1,500 and he can build it around \$400.00. Kakacek noted it was budgeted \$1,250 to purchase gill. Council agreed to have Spoerl build gill as budgeted.

Install Gas Line to Generator: Kakacek noted the purchase and installation of generator between city hall and shop building didn't include installing the gas lines/fittings from the main meter to the generator. She received bid from Hanna Plumbing and never heard back from Colony Heating. After discussion, Rowe moved, seconded by Gudenkauf to approve bid from Hanna Plumbing of \$1,350.00 to install gas line from the meter to the generator. Roll call vote. All ayes. Absent: Neuendorf. Motion carried.

Proclamation—National Wind Week: Mayor read National Wind Week Proclamation. This proclamation promotes wind power.

2019 Legislative Changes: Kakacek submitted recommended legislative changes to Swisher Code from Simmering-Cory & Iowa Codification. City attorney recommended he city adopt SF 634 City Budgets to the city code. After discussion, Stagg moved, seconded by Hightshoe to authorize Simmering-Cory & Iowa Codification to prepare ordinance from SF 634 City Budgets and codify ordinance after approved at cost of \$300.00. Call for vote. All ayes. Absent: Neuendorf. Motion carried.

Set Additional Fees for Special Meetings: City Clerk Kakacek proposed adding engineer, attorney, city staff fees, publication costs if needed when someone pays for a special meeting. After discussion, Gudenkauf moved to approve resolution setting fees for special meetings. No-one seconded the motion. Motion failed.

City Accomplishments: Hightshoe asked this to be on the agenda per last meeting. Mayor noted he put city accomplishments on the August 2019 NOJOCO.

Correspondence: Council reviewed the following: letter from Furler of increased rates for work at wastewater plant; letters sent to residents regarding paying storm drainage fee, having city's No Parking sign, dogs running at large and noxious weeds; sent GASB letters to other entities; 2019 Alcohol Law changes;

FEMA notice reviewing the flood zone areas. July 2019 Sheriff's Report; Building Permit for 68 3rd Street SW; Right-of-Way Permit for 616 Hill Court SW; legislative link; ICAP member services guide; July CityScape were on the council table for review. Rowe inquired if there were any changes in the FEMA map regarding the creek by him. Kakacek will check with the engineer as they were attending the meeting. Spoerl noted Hynek Landscaping gave quote to repair the retaining wall by Jefferson and Division Street and has been submitted to the owner's insurance. He added a yard of flowable mortar on Oak Avenue and it didn't make a dent.

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

Tawnia Kakacek, City Clerk/ Finance Officer

Christopher Taylor, Mayor