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 August 14, 2017.

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

Also Present: City Clerk/Finance Officer Tawnia Kakacek, Public Works Superintendent Craig Vondracek, Librarian Laura Hoover, City Engineer Tim Cutsforth, Deputy from Johnson County Sheriff, Loren Hartelt of Schrader Group, Ken & Jean Frauenholz, Joe & Mick Ockenfels, and several other Swisher residents outside the city limits of Swisher.

Consent Agenda: After review and discussion, Stagg moved, seconded by Gudenkauf, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of: Agenda; July 10th & 24th 2017 Minutes; List of Claims; Clerk/Treasurer and Utility Billing Audit Reports for June & July 2017; Resolution No. 2017-33 to assess delinquent bills to taxes; Resolution No. 2017-34 approving sidewalk release for Lot 10, Fisher’s Fifth Addition. Roll call vote. Ayes: Gudenkauf, Hinrichs, Neuendorf, Stagg, Svec. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Citizen Comments: No comments were presented.

Reports:

Sheriff: Deputy Sheriff had no report.

Engineer: Engineer Cutsforth reported the following: working with the streets project; reviewed sidewalk for Lot 10; met with the railroad company on Central Avenue Drainage Project and the project will start tomorrow, weather permitting.

Library: Librarian Hoover reported the following: will be working on annual library report for the state; had a very busy summer at the library with the summer programs; circulation went up 21%; one of the summer reading program winners returned the bike she won from Swisher Bank & Trust and bought hermit crabs for the library.

Mayor: Mayor Taylor reported the following: the city clerk and he will be attending the Iowa League of Cities Conference in September and to let him or the city clerk know if want them to attend a certain session; there is federal grant for updating the Hazard Mitigation Plan which will need council volunteer to be on this committee to work with the county; the attorneys of the city and county are working on lease agreement of city garage for EMA storage of equipment; will need a council volunteer as Mayoral appointment to attend the monthly EMA meetings; he made appointments for the Debris Management Plan with Mayor as Debris Manager, City Superintendent as Debris Disposal Coordinator, and City Clerk as Public Information Officer.

Council: Councilperson Neuendorf received a few comments on not seeing the stop signs on intersection of Rose and 2nd Street and people are going thru stop sign at intersection of Swisher View and Division Streets. Deputy Sheriff will notify rest of the Sheriff Department about this. Hinrichs stated the brush around the stop sign by Kava House needs to be trimmed for visibility.

Employees: Vondracek reported the following: will be cleaning up the old mower and put out notice of sale; getting estimates for fixing storm sewer causing driveway to cave on Orchard Street; Swisher Fun Days was well organized and turned out excellent. Kakacek reported the following: attended clerk academy and have handouts of classes if council or mayor want to review; updated ACH accounts for new utility rates; Park & Recreation Committee meet this Thursday, upcoming election for council can turn their papers into the County Auditor no earlier than August 28th and no later than September 21st by 5 p.m. and papers are available at city hall; thanked Vondracek and Teslik for installing new city hall storm door; had copier maintained and will need to be budget for a new one next year; will be posting commissions positions that expire 12-31-17 beginning of September to meet the 90 day requirement; will attend the Road Use meeting tomorrow afternoon; finishing up Road Use report and will start working on the annual TIF reports.

Miscellaneous: Council reviewed Library 7-31-17 Minutes; Planning & Zoning 7-24-17 Minutes, Parks & Recreation 7-13-17 Minutes.
BUSINESS:

Drainage Issue: Engineer Cutsforth presented estimated cost of $10,079 to fix the drainage issue by 333 3rd Street SW. Svec had concern this solution may not handle heavy rains and would like to see a big swale instead. After discussion, Svec moved, seconded by Stagg, to have city engineer get quote of swale for 6-8 inch drain. Roll call vote was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Approve Payment for Street Project: Engineer Cutsforth stated the bill was higher due to the extra granular material to have the road drained toward the ditches. After review, Gudenkauf moved, seconded by Neuendorf, to approve payment of $26,734.25 to LL Pelling for 2017-18 Street Project. Roll call vote was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Safety Lights at Intersection of Summit and Division Streets: Vondracek stated he is looking into the safety lights. Engineer Cutsforth stated IDOT and the county don’t approve of hanging overhead lights. Svec stated the City of Hiawatha has new warning beacon lights. Kakacek will contact them on costs. Neuendorf stated she didn’t want to wait for the Division Street Project to have this done and should be done immediately at both ends of town. After discussion, the Mayor and Vondracek will check into options and report back to Council.

Resolution to Approve Rezoning Request of RTL Equipment-Within 2-Mile Fringe Area: Several residents outside of Swisher city limits but within 2-mile fringe area stated they were against rezoning to light industrial, but some were in favor of commercial highway. Their concerns were: what all could be built and used in light industrial; driveway access and not big enough for truck turn off on Marak Road; Marak Road is not meant for industrial use; concern of air pollution when do rock crushing; the rock crushing is silting into adjacent property’s pond; noise from trucks and rock crushing; the effects it would do to their quality of life and valuation of their homes; usage of the property does not comply with their current zoning regulations. Loren Hartelt of Schrader Group representing applicant RTL Equipment answered questions. Svec stated IDNR requires a permit for rock crushing. Mayor stated if the County and City disagree on this request, per the Fringe Area Agreement, a board is required to be created with representatives from the city council and county board of supervisors to address the issue. After discussion and review of Swisher Planning and Zoning recommendation of approval pending subdivision plat approval, Gudenkauf moved, seconded by Svec, to introduce resolution approving rezoning request of 16.53 Acres from Agriculture to 12.11 Acres ML-Light Industrial and 4.42 Acres Residential of property located west of Hwy 965 and north of 140th Street within the 2-mile fringe area. Roll call vote. Ayes: None. Nays: Gudenkauf, Hinrichs, Neuendorf, Stagg. Svec. Motion failed and resolution did not pass.

Brush Piles Key: Councilperson Hinrichs requested council and mayor to have a copy of the brush pile key so city residents can contact them to open the brush pile after hours and weekends. After discussion, Gudenkauf moved, seconded by Hinrichs, to approve council and mayor to receive copies of brush pile key to enable city residents access. Roll call vote was taken. All ayes. Motion carried. It was recommended to draft written policy for brush key usage.

Legislative Changes: After review of legislative changes and recommendation from city attorney, Gudenkauf moved, seconded by Hinrichs to approve proceeding with legislative change-SF489 Fireworks. Roll call vote. All ayes. Motion carried.

2016-17 Annual Financial Report: Council and Mayor reviewed the annual financial report that will be published and submitted to state.

Advertise for Superintendent of Public Works and Set Special Meetings: Mayor and Council reviewed and accepted Craig Vondracek’s resignation as Superintendent of Public Works. Vondracek stated he would be available on Monday’s and Sunday nights to help train. He also noted that Furler Utility Services will be able to help with sewer plant testing until city has replacement. Council and Mayor thanked Vondracek for his work, being a good steward of the city, and valued his input and help. After lengthy discussion of job position and description, council made minor changes on job description. Council set applications to be turned in by Monday, August 28th by noon and advertise thru the Gazette, website, etc. Council set special meeting for Monday, August 28, 2017 at 6 p.m. to review applicants and special meeting for Thursday, August 31st at 6 p.m. to interview applicants with 15 minutes intervals. It was noted Kakacek will send applications to council on Friday, August 25th to review and each councilmember will pick their top 5 applicants to discuss at the August 28th Council Meeting.

Correspondence: Council reviewed the following: email from Dan Thayer regarding noise of Swisher Fun Days music and council directed this to be forwarded to Swisher Fun Days Committee; email from Deb Kress not needing the light pole to be removed that she previously requested; nuisance letter; New Laws of Interests to Cities from the Iowa League of Cities; “If I Were A Mayor” Scholarship information for 7th graders; IDNR Brownfield
Revitalization upcoming workshop; email from Johnson County EMA regarding Hazard Mitigation Plan expiring in 2019 and applying for federal grant to refresh it; Jefferson-Monroe Fire Dept. Annual Report 6-30-17 and 2017 Strategic Plan. Building Permits for 410 3rd Street SW, 57 1st Street SE, 218 2nd Avenue SW; Sewer Permit for 101 Alan Avenue, and June and July 2017 Johnson County Sheriff’s Reports were on the council table for review.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Neuendorf, seconded by Hinrichs to adjourn. Call for vote. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:04 p.m.

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Tawnia Kakacek, City Clerk                                      Christopher Taylor, Mayor