

Minutes

KEOTA CITY COUNCIL

225 E. BROADWAY AVE.

September 5th, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Cansler.

Amend Agenda – Motion made by Councilman Conrad, with the addition of discussion/possible action item about the building at 211 E Broadway Ave.

Motion was 2nd by Burroughs, All in favor.

Roll call: Mayor Cansler, Councilmen Bender, Conrad, Burroughs, Greiner and McDonald were present. City employees present were Horras, Harmsen and Librarian Griener. Public present at the meeting Karen Sypherd, Cindy Detweiler, Ron Northup, and Casey Jarmes from Sigourney New-Review.

Consent Agenda: Motion was made by Greiner to approve Consent Agenda, including Agenda, previous meeting minutes from July 3rd Council Meeting - Budget review and payment of Bills. Burroughs 2nd the motion and All were in favor.

Bills Paid August 22nd thru September 5th, 2023

Checks

ALL AM TERMITE & PEST CONT	9/4/2023	\$35.00			
CENGAGE LEARNING	9/4/2023	\$254.40			
CENTER POINT LARGE PRINT	9/4/2023	\$76.70			
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA	9/4/2023	\$422.84			
INFOMAX OFFICE SYSTEMS INC	9/4/2023	\$151.51			
QUILL	9/4/2023	\$19.44			
SYNCK MOVIE LICENSING USA	9/4/2023	\$339.00			
WINDSTREAM	9/4/2023	\$144.27			
ALLIANT ENERGY	9/5/2023	\$7,343.77			
ALYCIA HORRAS	9/5/2023	\$19.66			
COMM REC SPECIALIST, INC	9/5/2023	\$7,711.90			
FARMERS CO-OP ASSN	9/5/2023	\$617.60			
FEDEX FREIGHT	9/5/2023	\$177.00			
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA	9/5/2023	\$12.00	SLAUBAUGH, KEVIN L.	8/31/2023	\$1,737.23
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA	9/5/2023	\$149.80			
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA	9/5/2023	\$762.47	GREINER, ASHLEY	8/31/2023	\$37.86
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA	9/5/2023	\$383.00	GREINER, TONIA	8/31/2023	\$1,255.90
FIRST NATIONAL BANK OMAHA	9/5/2023	\$96.08			
GFC LEASING - WI	9/5/2023	\$100.91	ALTENHOFEN, CHERYL	8/31/2023	\$132.53
ION ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS	9/5/2023	\$4,020.56			
MALLEY HARDWARE & APPL	9/5/2023	\$72.74	HARMSEN, MICAH	8/31/2023	\$1,628.46
MENARDS	9/5/2023	\$27.27	Kurth-Minard, Dawn M	8/31/2023	\$132.01
MID-AMERICA PUBLISHING CORP	9/5/2023	\$299.72			
QUILL	9/5/2023	\$514.67	Horras, Alycia A	8/31/2023	\$1,423.82
SCHUMACHER ELEVATOR COMP	9/5/2023	\$543.00			
TREMMEL BACKHOE SERVICE	9/5/2023	\$270.00			
US FIRST	9/5/2023	\$77.14			
VERIZON	9/5/2023	\$40.01			
VISION AG	9/5/2023	\$257.45			
WATER SOLUTIONS UNLIMITED	9/5/2023	\$742.33			
		\$25,682.23			

Public Forum: Cindy Detweiler asked about the proposal that N&N Sanitation brought to the city and if we had received the references that we requested. Clerk Horras was asked to report and stated that we did receive the additional references that were requested and those were passed on to the Council to review. All were either HOAs in the Iowa City area or Rural businesses, with no city or residential references. There will be further discussion and debate at our next meeting as we decide on the next contract course of action, now that we have both contract proposals to compare side by side.

Department Reports:

Public Works – Harmsen reported that Harmsen and Slaubaugh did get the estimate for material back from Municipal Supply for the Carpenter Street water main project. We have been in contact with Tremmel Backhoe and hope to have his labor estimate back yet this week. Harmsen also talked to Tremmel about getting the storm drain curb project done at the intersection of Broadway and Keokuk/Washington road. Tremmel is getting things together to be able to finish yet this fall. The pool project is moving along. Harmsen and Slaubaugh are hoping to tear up and start seeding the green space in the pool area after pool deck is sealed and after the donor dinner this week. Andy from KCTC got fiber and telephone up and going at the pool house this week. They talked to the electricians about adding 3 outlets for the security cameras so we can move forward with installation of that system. There are still a few issues with the automatic fill at the pool and Splash is supposed to get the kinks worked out this week. The bathhouses are almost complete with the majority of the concession stand/admissions also almost complete. We will start bringing supplies/coolers down to that area as soon as the concrete is sealed. Kevin has been out with the bush hog mowing up properties that have over growth, at the sewer plant, tree dump, etc. Harmsen talked with Dan Sinclair with Badger Meters and we are looking to start putting those in in the next couple of months, after we get the new computer program all squared away at City Hall. There was a discussion about the proposed stop sign at the corner of Centennial and S Fulton St. Harmsen, Slaubaugh and Brett Romoser talked about either; 1 putting in a temp. sign there from May to September for the future pool opening or 2 possibly making that a one-way loop from that point to around the park. We could then put in a bike lane on the street from there to the pool and it may help with future parking on the northwest to west side of the pool. Chad did get the diffusers at the lagoon fixed.

Library – Greiner stated that there would be crafts at the library the next day with the school's early out. Another early out on the 20th will have a movie for the kids.

Museum – Sypherd reported that Museum board will meet in 2 weeks and they are looking to gear up again in the Fall.

Clerk – Horras shared that she has done a lot of work the past week to clean up some accounts that were lingering with inaccurate amounts and closed out, to aid with the transition to gWorks. She submitted the Debt Obligation Report this week and completed the Grant request for submission by the 30th of August on the Rural Enhancement Grant. Horras shared that she sent 4 letters this week with 1 Dog at Large complaint, 2 Yard Nuisances and 1 further action on delinquent account balance. The 2 yard notices, were immediately resolved and the further action notice resulted in an electronic payment arrangement to get that one resolved. Horras shared that there will be a Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting at the new Prairie Flower Bakery on Saturday the 9th at 8:45am, preceding her official opening of 9am that morning. She invited the Council and our Mayor to join her in this occasion, along with members from the Keota Community Club and Keota Unlimited.

Resolutions and Ordinances: None

New Business:

Discussion/Possible Action Potential soft opening of the Aquatic Center the following Sunday to test equipment if all items are complete and passing

during the weeks walk through. Horras shared that she would contact all lifeguards to ensure that we had coverage as soon as the final determination was set. Motion to approve soft opening made by Burroughs, 2nd made by Conrad, with all in favor.

Discussion/Possible Action Setting of Community Trick or Treat Date as Tuesday, October 31st. Motion made by Burroughs, 2nd by Bender, All in favor.

Discussion/Possible Action Agreement for the City to set up a table and give aways at the Trick or Treat around Broadway. Motion to approve made by Bender, 2nd by McDonald and All were in favor.

Discussion/Possible Action Fall Window Display/Décor Contest to be sponsored by the City of Keota. Horras explained what she would like to propose to our commercial community for a fall décor contest and what the overall prize would be. Motion to approve this activity was made by Bender, 2nd was made by McDonald, with All in favor.

Discussion/Possible Action Looking at the Hinkel Building, currently “The Gym” and adjoining part of the building. The “O” at the top of the front of the building has a 2” crack down the 2nd story and the rear entry of this building looks to have collapsed. It is currently owned by 2 people with 1 on the west side of the building and one on the east side. The owner of the East side of the building would like to purchase the other half and to put some money in the building to create another retail space in town and eventually to add some upstairs housing as well. Each council member shared the debate to discuss next steps and where the cost would fall for the correction to the building. It was determined that the city will reach out to find a structural engineer to come in and look at the building. If there is no structural damage, then that cost will fall on the city, but if there is, it will fall on the owners to pay for and correct. This is something the council agreed that they needed to stay consistent with, in ensuring the structural soundness of our downtown buildings. Motion to move forward with Horras and Conrad working together to find a structural engineer to come in made by Burroughs, 2nd made by Bender and All were in favor.

Closed Session: Employee Benefits Discussion called by Clerk Horras: Call for closed session at 7:47 with a motion made by Bender, 2nd by McDonald, all were in favor. Closed session called to adjourn at 8:18pm with a motion from Burroughs, 2nd by Bender and All in favor.

Meeting back in session at 8:20pm and called to order by Mayor Cansler.

Mayor Comments: Mayor Cansler shared that there were a couple options that were being worked on as far as the police department was concerned. We have 4 officers that are interested in potentially picking up some part time hours to add to their full-time positions and with a rotation, this would allow Keota to have around 16 hours of coverage weekly. There is still the discussion and work in looking to work with Sigourney for a joint police force option and the mayor still has the option to reach out to the State police for coverage if needed. Mayor Cansler talked with Doug and on 9/11, Councilman Bender, Cansler and Doug will be clearing out and moving the files, evidence, etc. from his previous office to be secured at City Hall. There was a question of Keokuk County being able to take some of these items and Bender reported that they could take all evidence and the pending files, as we are not obligated to keep anything here in Keota. Harmsen inquired about being able to gain access to the office after all was cleared out to winterize the area and the mayor stated that Harmsen and Slaubaugh would have a key to that office ongoing, following the 9/11 clean out.

Mayor Cansler also shared some of the reasons that our council would go into a Closed Session with more of them happening and questions coming in from the community. Subjects like personnel, evaluations, issues/disciplinary action and positions could require a closed session. Real Estate purchase or the potential of a purchase can also constitute the need for a closed session in order to work quickly and allow for the council to look at projects to add to the city for the areas of commercial and/or amenities.

Adjournment: Motion made to adjourn meeting by Conrad, 2nd by Burroughs, with All in Favor. Time 8:35pm.

Next regular meeting, September 18th, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

Attest:

Mayor Anthony Cansler

City Clerk Alycia A Horras