

Minutes

KEOTA CITY COUNCIL

225 E. BROADWAY AVE.

December 18th, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Mayor Cansler.

Roll call: Mayor Cansler, Councilmen Burroughs, Conrad, Bender and McDonald were present. City employees present were Horras, Harmsen, and Librarian Greiner. Public present, Karen Sypherd, Janie Westendorf, Chad McCleary with ION, and Casey Jarmes from Sigourney New-Review.

Consent Agenda: Motion was made to approve Consent Agenda by Burroughs, including Agenda, previous meeting minutes from October 16th Council Meeting - Budget review and payment of Bills. McDonald 2nd the motion, Conrad & Bender in favor, with Greiner absent.

Bills Paid December 5th thru December 18th, 2023

Checks

Payroll:

LIBERTYVILLE SAVINGS BANK	2,418.00
ALL AMERICAN PEST CONTROL	70.00
ALLIANT ENERGY	163.82
Atwood Electric Inc	2,290.27
FARMERS CO OP ASSN	426.72
GINGERICH Well & Pump Service	318.75
ION ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS	3,625.00
internal revenue service	2,042.52
MALLEY HARDWARE & APPLIANCE	584.91
Mid-America Publishing Corp	444.67
Mueller CO LLC	3,447.64
MUNICIPAL SUPPLY INC	210.29
USCELLULAR	155.10
WINDSTREAM	249.33
WapeItto Rural Water Assoc Inc	2,634.46
DANIELLE IMHOFF	105.00
EFTPS	4,659.13
Iowa Dept of Revenue	1,610.97
IPERS	2,029.77

Cheryl L Altenhofen	113.61
Ashley R Greiner	94.66
Tonia Greiner	973.81
Micah Harmsen	1,672.51
Kevin L Slaubaugh	1,751.22
Mike Bender	1,131.29
Curtis Burroughs	1,163.61
Keith Conrad	2,327.22
Matt Greiner	581.80
Heath McDonald	1,357.54
Alycia A Horras	4,371.96

Public Forum:

Department Reports:

Public Works –Harmsen reported that they winterized the newer trailer at the new property down by the park. All the power is off and we have contacted Alliant to disconnect gas and power to the west trailer so we can start with the demolition process. We did send the snow-plow in to Keota Transmission. They are putting a new heating core and starter on that. It should be back and ready to go the middle of the week. We did get a bid from Spinler on a new Farris mower. I have enclosed a bid in your packet along with the other bid from McKims to compare. Spinler would not take the trade on the older Dixie Chopper however. I have been working on yearly cleaning and organizing the shop and getting things together for budget time. ION’s Report - Water Plant-The delay in the caustic soda treatment for the softener is mainly due to us needing to add an injection point. We were hoping to avoid that, but it’s just not possible. Obviously, our biggest issue was the well issue that we had. On November 25th, the main fusible knife switch essentially melted causing the well to go down. We had to switch over to rural water for a few days until repairs could be made. Atwood Electric our of Sigourney came over and did the work. They replaced the whole unit with a new one. Everything has been working fine since. It was caused by one of the wires just working loose over time so there was a poor connection. Poor electrical connections tend to get hot. Lagoons-Nothing of note at the wastewater lagoons. For this month.

Library – Greiner shared that she was able to get her director endorsement completed. The library had their largest turnout for coffee Monday morning! The quilting ladies made 10 more lap quilts and donated them to a shelter in Iowa City, which was very much appreciated. With the holidays coming up, the library will be closed the next 2 Mondays. The library board meeting will be Tuesday the 26th instead of the 25th this month.

Museum – Sypherd reported that there will be a museum – board meeting on Wednesday this week.

Clerk – Horras reported that she had been working on collecting all the things needed to report on the 6-month budget amount and year end items. She attended the first step in the MLA Certification training on Thursday evening via zoom. The next one is in February. The closed bid information for the Green Street property and the bid requests for the robot vacuum for the pool were both put in the paper and that came out on 12/13/23. The Pool Passes have been selling quite well for Christmas gifts. Horras reported approximately \$2000.00 in passes have sold. City Hall will be closed on Friday, Dec. 22nd for Christmas Eve and again on Friday, Dec. 29th for New Years Eve. Horras signed up for the Winter MPI certification training that will be held virtually Feb. 7th – 9th. Vivek Ramaswamy will be using the community room for one of his tour stops on Thursday, the 21st. Vivek will arrive at 11:15 and depart at 12:15 from the meet and greet. Dearborn Life Insurance reported no rate increases for 2024. Horras was selected to represent Keokuk County as a REAP Congress Delegate and to attend the 2024 REAP Congress in Des Moines on January 13th.

Resolutions and Ordinances:

RESOLUTION 2023-97 Approval of LL Pelling 2024 Sealcoat Work Proposal - Motion to approve by Conrad, 2nd by McDonald, Bender & Burroughs in favor, with Greiner absent.

RESOLUTION 2023-98 Approval of financial support of Area 15 Regional Planning Commission – Motion to approve by Burroughs, 2nd by Bender, Conrad & McDonald in favor, with Greiner absent.

RESOLUTION 2023-99 Approval of standard Yearend Transfers – Motion to approve made by Conrad, 2nd by Bender, McDonald & Burroughs in favor, with Greiner absent.

New Business:

Discussion/Possible Action – Office Space/Rental – There was an inquiry made by a resident, about renting an office space for work/Pod Casts to be created. A space where equipment can also be left up and not moved each time used. In looking at what was available, the city discussed options between an office in City Hall or the possibility of utilizing the empty Police Department office. With the changing around of a few doors to secure the shop, this space could also be utilized and allow someone to rent the space with access to use both during business hours and after. After some debate, a motion was made to have the City Clerk move forward with negotiating the rental of the PD office space, with a 12month lease term, following the work being done to switch out the doors needed to secure the shop from the office entry. This motion was made by Bender, 2nd by Burroughs, Conrad & McDonald in favor, with Greiner absent.

Discussion/Possible Action – Downtown Sidewalks – With the report of someone falling in front of one of our store fronts, due to a sidewalk that was chipped away, the council reviewed our City Ordinance for Sidewalk Regulations and to enter in to debate about how to move forward with approaching our business owners about the replacement that is needed for our sidewalks, that have not already been redone. A motion was made to have the mayor appoint a Sidewalk Board that would consist of a few councilmen, city clerk, public works and a few of our business owners to look at options and work with the business owners that would be affected by a sidewalk change. The motion was to have the mayor appoint this board at the next council meeting. Motion by Burroughs, 2nd by Bender, Conrad & McDonald in favor, with Greiner absent.

Mayor Comments: Mayor Cansler stated that he has been in contact with Doug and that Doug is working on obtaining the paperwork needed to move forward with the destruction and removal of some of the evidence and files from the PD office. Cansler further stated that as we come to the end of the year and given all of our transformation and adversity, the city has continued to move in a forward motion. That success is due in part to our community, our city staff, and the strength of our council and he is grateful for that. Cansler wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Adjournment: Motion made to adjourn meeting by Conrad, 2nd by McDonald, and all in favor, with Greiner absent. Time 8:06pm.

Next regular meeting, January 2nd, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

Attest:

Mayor Anthony Cansler

City Clerk Alycia A Horras