

Ely City Council Proceedings

The City Council Meeting met in regular session on May 17, 2021, online over ZOOM Platform and Facebook, as allowed by Section 21.8 of Iowa Code, due to the Covid-19 Health Crisis and Ely City Hall is closed by order of the Mayor for the purpose of the Council Meeting. Officials present at City Hall in person were Mayor Eldy Miller, by roll call Council Members William Tuthill, Judy Wery, Dan Whitaker, and Kay Hale. Ben Symonds excused absence. Mayor Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm by roll call / Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Motion made by Hale to approve agenda, 2nd by Whitaker. By roll call Tuthill, Hale, Whitaker, Wery. All Ayes-4 motion carried.

Consent Agenda Minutes from May 3, 2021 Meeting; Bills Payables totaling \$62,825.16; Item B 4. was removed from consent agenda. Application for use of public property by the Ely Fire Department. Motion made by Wery to approve agenda, 2nd by Hale. By roll call Tuthill, Hale, Whitaker, Wery. All Ayes-4 motion carried.

The following claims include expenses for the City, Park Board and Library:

ADVANCED BUSINESS SYSTEMS, April Copies	78.99
ADVANCED BUSINESS SYSTEMS, May Copies	134.50
ADVANTAGE ACH, FSA	131.68
AIRGAS USA LLC, Cylinder Rentals	57.23
ALI ALLDREGE, Reimbursement	22.40
AMAZON, LIB Media Books	343.07
BAKER & TAYLOR, Books	1,131.15
BOOK SYSTEMS INC, Card Catalog Upgrade	1,395.00
BSN SPORTS LLC, Baseball Uniforms	4,308.82
CARDIO PARTNERS, AED Library & Parks	2,563.00
COLONIAL LIFE INS, Accidental Ins	32.55
CARDMEMBER SERVICES, LIB Credit Card	359.54
DANIEL L. JERMAN CO INC, Irrigation Water Meters	2,015.80
EFTPS, FED/FICA Tax	5,459.45
GAZETTE COMMUNICATIONS INC, Legal Publications	242.52
IOWA EXPRESS DELIVERY, Sewer Sample Delivery	420.00
JOHNETTE WILHELM, Baseball Program Refund	70.00
LISA STEVEN, Baseball Program Refund	40.00
MENARDS, Misc Supplies	433.03
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY, Gas Utilities	189.28
DBA THE COMPANY STORE, Baseball Shirts	882.25
MMS CONSULTANTS INC, ENGINEER SERVICES	5,196.00
NEAL'S WATER CONDITIONING, City Hall Maintenance	19.50
OFFICE EXPRESS, Office Supplies	72.35
PLAY IT AGAIN SPORTS, Park League Vendor Concessions	274.25
PLUMB SUPPLY, City Park Women's Bathroom Repair	24.24
PRO VIDEO, Movie Projector/Speakers Earth	100.00
LINN COUNTY REC, Electrical Services	290.03
RON STARK, Reimbursement WA/WW Certificate	120.00
SARAH SELLON, Reimbursement Mileage	77.28
SENSOURCE, Door Counter	180.00
SITEONE LANDSCAPE SUPPLY, Field Chalk	129.65
SOLON STATE BANK, Library Petty Cash	91.43
SOUTH SLOPE, Phone/Internet Service	785.50
STATE HYGIENIC LABORATORY, Lab Testing	1,147.00
SWEET AUTO REPAIRS, 1999 Wht Ranger R15X1XP68692	3,500.00
TO THE LETTER TYPE & DESIGN, Newsletter Typeset	55.00
TRACY CLAIR, Reimbursement Mileage	12.32
VAN METER, Drive Startup Pwerflex 750	913.00
WM OF CEDAR RAPIDS, Refuse Services	13,236.09
WOODWARD COMMUNITY MEDIA, NoJoCo Publication	167.45
Accounts Payable Total	46,701.35
Payroll Checks	16,123.81
Total	62,825.16

City Department Reports Updates from City Administrator

- Thank you to the people that were able to attend the Citizen of Year and volunteers thank you event last Saturday night.
- Thank you to Ely Fire Department for AED purchases for City Hall/Parks & Rec and the Library.
- Clean up day was well organized and smoothly.
- All seasonal & parttime hires complete; Jaymeson and Riley in Parks and Recreation; Matthew and Brennan in Public Works.
- PW making changes and updates to well #2
- Sheriff's Report given toward end of meeting.
- Special meeting for sale of bonds May 27, 2021 7:30am Zone Meeting Approve Preliminary Official Statement. June 14, 2021 5:30pm Bond Sale Award/authorizing/issuance.

Community Comments/Requests No community comments or requests.

Business-Resolution 2021-05.023 approving employee health insurance renewal was presented for City Council's consideration a resolution approving the employee health insurance policy with Trustmark Small Business Benefits. The policy provides a \$0 deductible, and maximum out-of-pocket expense of \$3,000/\$6,000 for single and family, respectively. The policy is a non-PPO plan than pays a percentage based off Medicare rates. It is also in our contract the any amount not covered by the base coverage will be handled and paid for by the insurance company. This insurance policy has been reviewed and vetted by Dean Zelle and his staff. The City of Ely can provide a better insurance plan with better benefits at a lower cost to the employee and to the City. Motion by Whitaker 2nd by Hale. Roll Call Wery, Tuthill, Hale, Whitaker. 4-Ayes Motion passed as submitted.

Resolution 2021-05.024 approving emergency purchase during Derecho emergency response was presented for City Council's consideration a resolution approving the emergency purchase of rental equipment from JDM (\$5,750) and contracting with JDM to assist with storm cleanup (\$15,080). Under our purchasing policy the City Administrator is allowed to make emergency purchases but need to get approval from council after the purchase is made. Council was informed of our recovery purchases, but no official approval was given. This approval is necessary for FEMA assistance. Motion by Hale 2nd by Wery. Roll Call Wery, Tuthill, Hale, Whitaker. 4-Ayes Motion passed as submitted.

Resolution 2021-05.025 approving write-off of bad debt was presented for City Council's consideration a resolution approving the write-off of bad debt in the amount of \$1,652.62. Periodically the City acts to write-off uncollected payments. The payments are uncollected because the City did not have a forwarding address and/or a SSN for the residents. We continue to make improvements to our process but sometimes residents are still able to slip through. Writing-off the debt will always the city to balance accounts before the end of the fiscal year. Motion Hale 2nd by Wery. Roll Call Wery, Tuthill, Hale, Whitaker. 4-Ayes Motion passed as submitted.

Resolution 2021-05.026 amending City Hall hours of operation from 7am – 3pm Monday – Friday and 7am-7pm on the first Monday of each month was presented for City Council's consideration a resolution approving the change of City Hall. Open Hours to 7am-3pm Monday-Friday and 7am-7pm on the first Monday of each month. Staff believes this change will allow for better service for the community by allowing those who commute for work and opportunity to stop in early and by allowing a late night gives an opportunity for those who only have evening available. Residents can still make appointments. to meet with staff from 7am-5pm and full-time staff will continue to work 40 hr. per week. Motion by Tuthill 2nd by Wery. Roll Call Wery, Tuthill, Hale, Whitaker. 4-Ayes Motion passed as submitted.

Request to open City Hall to the public beginning June 1st, 2021 was presented for City Council's consideration is a request to open City Hall to the public beginning on June 1st, 2021. Staff believes the time has come that City Hall can be safely opened again. Staff recommends the continuation of masks to be worn by visitors to City Hall for the time being. Motion by Wery 2nd by Whitaker to reopen City Hall June 1st. Roll Call Wery, Tuthill, Hale, Whitaker. 4-Ayes Motion passed as submitted.

Discussion and potential action related to a request by a resident to remove a dying tree in the right-of-way. A request was made by the resident of 1475 Walker street to have the City of Ely remove a dying tree from the right-of-way in front of their property. City Code does not require the City to remove dead

or dying trees from the right-of-way. Staff talked with previous officials and staff and could not determine why right-of-way trees would have been removed over 10 years ago. It is not the cities current practice to remove trees from the right-of-way at the cities expense. Furthermore, it is staff's recommendation not to remove the tree at the cities expense. Motion by Tuthill 2nd by Whitaker not to remove right-of-way tree, it is homeowner responsibility to remove and assume costs. Roll Call Wery, Tuthill, Hale, Whitaker. 4-Ayes Motion passed as submitted.

Discussion and potential contract extension with Waste Management. Waste Management is offering an extension of our current contract for one year or a 5-year extension with a 3.5% increase in years 2-5 or a set rate at \$18.33 per unit. Our current annual increase is 3%. Waste Management is incurring increased costs, and this is the reason for the increase to 3.5%. Staff recommends a 5-year extension of our current agreement. Motion by Hale 2nd by Wery. General Discussion and short presentation by Dave Schaab of Waste Management. Motion by Whitaker to amend initial motion to extend the current contract with one time 3.5% increase year one and flat fixed rate of \$18.33 for years 2-5 and 2nd by Hale Roll Call Wery, Tuthill, Hale, Whitaker. 4-Ayes Motion Passed as submitted.

Discussion on American Rescue Plan Funding. Ely designated amount of approximately \$325,000; half to be received this FY21 and other next FY22. We have 5 years to use it. Can be used for restricted specific uses. Staff recommendation is for water and sewer infrastructure. Welcoming any other ideas or add to wish list.

With no further business being evident, council adjourned the meeting at 8:11 pm. Motion by Hale, 2nd by Wery. 4-All Ayes motion carried.