

**CITY OF PRAIRIE CITY
MINUTES
JANUARY 11, 2017**

The City Council of the City of Prairie City, Jasper County, Iowa, met on January 11, 2017, at City Hall in regular session at 6:00 P.M. Mayor Chad D. Alleger called the meeting to order and asked everyone to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was called showing members present and absent as follows:

Present: Mayor Alleger; Councilors: Beiner, Burkett, Downey, and Engle
Absent: Councilor Kuecker. Also in attendance: City Administrator Martin, City Clerk Kane, Police Chief Bartello, Library Director Ponder and Public Works Van Der Kamp.

Agenda: Councilor Downey moved to approve the Agenda with addition of Proclamation School Choice Week January 22-28, 2017. Councilor Engle seconded the motion. On roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: Citizen Larry Ross addressed the Council on nuisance issues around the community. Pointing out junk cars and properties that Council should address. Mr. Ross requested that nuisance notices be sent to property owners who violate City code. He asked that follow up by law enforcement be timely. Mayor Alleger informed Mr. Ross that a complaint form is available at City Hall. Mel McReynolds voiced his concern over the junk cars currently sitting on City right of way. He requested the police department have them removed. Mr. McReynolds informed Council regarding damages at his daughter's house during sewer lining project. He McReynolds stated that damages had been submitted to MPT for repairs and were not paid. City Administrator Martin said she had been made aware of the damages and asked for details. She will follow up with V&K and MPT for clarification.

Consent Agenda: Approval of Council, Boards and Commissions Minutes; Dec. 14, 2016 Council Meeting Minutes; Dec. 21, 2016 Special Council Minutes; Jan. 2017 Ambulance Report; Jan. 5, 2017 Library Minutes; Nov/Dec. 2016 and Jan. 2017 Fire Report; School Choice Week Jan.22-29, 2017. Department Reports: Dec. 2016 Police; Dec. 2016 Public Works. Bills and Transfers Resolution 1-11-2017#1. Authorizing Mileage Rate of Pay Resolution 1-11-2017#2 Declaring the City's Depositories Resolution 1-11-2017#3; Approving the Honorable Mayor and City Council's Rules and Procedures Resolution 1-11-2017#42017; Honorable Mayor's Council, Department and Committee Appointment Resolution 1-11-2017#5; 2017 Board and Commission Appointments Resolution 1-11-2017#6; 2017 Investment Policy Resolution 1-11-2017#8; Council discussed the 2017 Fee Schedule. Councilor Burkett voiced concern over the building fees that have increased. Administrator Martin explained that the City is in the process of reviewing building permits and associated fees. She stated a committee is in place and will be reviewing the process and 2017 fee structure in upcoming months. Martin requested that the 2016 fee structure stay in place until the committee has submitted the recommendation 2017 changes. Following discussion the Council agreed to continue with the 2016 Fee Schedule. Councilor Engle asked that this fee structure and contract with V&K, along with quotes from other vendors be a priority. No action taken at this time. Casey's Class B Native Wine, Class C Beer Permit, Class E Liquor License and Sunday Sales Renewal and Ownership; Proclamation of School Choice Week set for January 22-28. Councilor Burkett moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilor Downey seconded the motion. On roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

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Petitions and Communications:

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances, Resolution, Public Hearings:

Councilor Downey introduced and moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 1-11-2017#9 RESOLUTION SETTING THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2017, AT 6:00 P.M. AT CITY HALL.” Councilor Beiner seconded the motion. On roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Alleger swore in Cindy Kane as new City Clerk.

New Business:

Sanitary Sewer Lining Update: Administrator Martin provided an update on Municipal Pipe Tool (MPT) work on the north side sewer lining project. Two crews have been in town working; one will stay through the weekend. One area of pipe has a crack. Crews are grouting the crack and will be placing another section liners over the area to seal. Public Works employee Van Der Kamp spoke regarding specific issues. He noted that lines are televised before, during repairs and after work is completed.

Administrator Martin presented the Pay Request #2 - \$222,838.12 for completed work. Motion by Councilor Beiner seconded by Councilor Downey. On roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Taser Purchase – Setting Public Hearing - Chief Bartello presented the Council with a request to set a public hearing. He then provided a summary of Taser purchase options that will be discussed at the Public Hearing, and further explained that Taser has discontinued the model that the Department owns and service and batteries are no longer available. He recommends utilizing Tasers 60-month lease program and provided the Council with information. Following discussion Councilor Downey moved to approve Resolution 1-11-2017#10 Setting Public Hearing for February 8, 2017 at 6:00 P.M. Motion by Councilor Downey, seconded by Councilor Beiner. On roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Iowa Appraisal & Research – Rails to Trails Project. Administrator Martin provided a quote for appraisal services of former railroad corridor that runs through Prairie City. The \$2200 appraisal cost will be covered by the R.E.A.P. grant. Councilor Beiner moved to approve Appraisal. Councilor Downey seconded the motion. On roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Rally Appraisal – Administrator Martin reported that two individuals have inquired about City property on West 2nd Street zoned as commercial. Martin suggested an appraisal be completed. No action was taken.

Mediacom 3-year contract, following discussion no action was taken.

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Old Business:

Franchise Fee – Administrator Martin noted Council’s request for information on rebating or refunding Franchise Fees for churches. Administrator Martin researched the option and has found no one who is currently offering a refund/rebate program. If the Council chose to implement a refund/rebate program MidAmerican may be able to provide an annual report for specific organizations but there would be an associated cost/fee. Other option for tracking would be that any organization approved for the refund/rebate would need to provide copies of their bills showing Franchise Fees on a quarterly or semi-annual basis. Administrator Martin stated it is imperative that the Council make a decision in order to move forward. Our agreement needs to be submitted to the Iowa Utilities Board which has a 90-day review period. Council will not make any changes to our Ordinance and it may be submitted as adopted at our November 2016 Council meeting.

City Administrator Update: Ambulance Purchase; Buffalo Center’s new ambulance is scheduled to be completed by the end of March. Additional equipment (radio), new graphics and warranty will be updated when received. The Prairie City Rescue Association has voted to donate \$10,000 (the Prairie Meadows Ambulance Grant) to the purchase of the Buffalo Center Ambulance. Ambulance Billing; Fraser has provided Prairie City Ambulance billing services since July 2015. In August 2016, Fraser merged with Midwest Medical Transport. On December 15, 2016 we were notified Midwest Medical Transport would be terminating our medical billing services effective January 31, 2017. We have begun the process of searching for a new billing company. Seasonal Hiring; Advertisements will be placed in the Prairie City News, on the website, and in the office for Seasonal Mowing and Summer Recreation Director(s). Dugout Bids; An ad for sealed bids for Dugout covers are being sought. FY17-18 Budget process has begun, budget workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, February 1, 2016.

With no further business to discuss, Councilor Downey moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM Councilor Engle seconded the motion. On roll call, the motion carried unanimously.

Chad D. Alleger
Mayor

ATTESTED TO:

Cindy Kane
City Clerk