

**CITY OF PRAIRIE CITY
MINUTES
AUGUST 9, 2017**

The City Council of the City of Prairie City, Jasper County, Iowa, met on August 9, 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, Engle, Downey and Burkett. Absent: Councilor Kuecker Also in attendance: City Clerk Kane, Police Chief Bartello, Utility Clerk Voeller, Public Works Van Der Kamp and Samson.

Councilor Engle moved to approve the Agenda. Councilor Downey seconded the motion. On roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Kuecker arrived at 6:08 PM.

Public Comment:

John Lee addressed Council regarding the need for a security light request at the Rec Park stating he had been requesting lighting since February. Last month vandals broke into the Rec Center Concession stand causing damage and now is the time to act. Mr. Lee also addressed the ponds at the Rec Center. In July the fish starting dying due to low water levels and high temperatures. Mr. Lee asked the Council for their consideration on addressing low water levels and repairing the ponds.

Brian Leimbacher spoke to Council regarding his visually impaired young daughter. With his daughter's disability, Mr. Limbacher requested blind child street signs placed on 8th Street and N. Claire Street, along with an additional stop sign on 8th Street.

Diane Taylor expressed her concern with the current open City Administrator position. She inquired how many applicants had applied for the Administrator position and how the proposal in the Interim period would work with Chief Bartello and other City Staff. Mrs. Taylor questioned how this process would be reversed if the trial period did not work properly.

Brenda Downey voiced her concerns over the Building Permits and City Building Code debate. She suggested that rental properties should be inspected yearly for state safety violations. As all rental properties must be registered with the state as rental properties, in her opinion each of the rental landlords need to be held accountable for keeping their properties safe. Mrs. Downey was also concerned with the lack of fire hydrants in the north end of town.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of July 13, 2017, Council Meeting Minutes, Department Reports; Park Board Minutes June 2017; Police July 2017; Fire Report July 2017; Public Works July 2017; Building Permit Report; Financial Reports (June 2017); RESOLUTION 8-9-2017#1 APPROVING BILLS AND TRANSFERS. Councilor Downey moved to approve. Councilor Beiner seconded the motion. On roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

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Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances, Resolution, Public Hearings:

Councilor Burkett introduced and moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 8-9-2017#2 RESOLUTION SETTING the next regular Council meeting for WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2017, AT 6:00 P.M. AT CITY HALL. Councilor Downey seconded the motion. On roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 8-9-17 #3 6 MUNICIPAL PIPE AND TOOL - Payment#8 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,350.12. Councilor Beiner moved to approve. Councilor Burkett seconded the motion. On roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously

RESOLUTION 8-9-17 #4 RESALE OF REAL ESTATE 406 W. SECOND STREET 6 Motion to hire Jill Veenstra with Pella Realty Group for 6-month listing of commercial property located at 406 W. Second Street. Councilor Downey moved to approve. Councilor Engle seconded the motion. On roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 8-9-17 #5 RESOLUTION TO SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR REMOVING BUILDING PERMIT REQUIREMENTS ON COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTAL REMODEL PROJECTS THAT DO NOT CHANGE THE STRUCTURAL FOOTPRINT OF THE PROPERTY After Council discussion the resolution was tabled for clarification from City Attorney, John Judisch. No action.

RESOLUTION 8-9-17 #6 RESOLUTION TO SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR AMENDING THE PRAIRIE CITY CITY CODE CHAPTER 165.08(6) ON ACCESSORY BUILDING FROST FOOTING REQUIREMENTS. Public hearing was set for Wednesday, September 13, 2017, at 6:00 PM at City Hall. Councilor Downey moved to approve. Councilor Kuecker seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 8-9-17 #7 RESOLUTION TO SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR ADDING A EXEMPTION TO THE PRAIRIE CITY CITY CODE CHAPTER 165.08(6) UNDER ALLEYWAY SETBACKS ON PREEXISTING NONCONFORMING ACCESSORY BUILDINGS. The public hearing was set for Wednesday, September 13, 2017, at 6:00 PM at City Hall. Councilor Beiner moved to approve. Councilor Downey seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 8-9-17 #8 RESOLUTION TO ADD BLIND CHILD SIGNS TO W. EIGHTH STREET AND N. CLAIRE STREETS. Councilor Beiner moved to approve. Councilor Burkett seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL MOVED TO CLOSED SESSION AT 6:55 P.M.
COUNCIL MOVED TO OPEN SESSION 8:16 P.M.

RESOLUTION 8-9-17 #12 APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM CITY ADMINISTRATOR. After discussion it was decided to offer Chief Joe Bartello a position as City Manager/Chief of Police at the rate of \$75,100 effective July 1, 2017. Councilor Beiner moved to approve the motion, Councilor Downey seconded. 4 yes, with Councilor Burkett abstaining from voting.

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RESOLUTION 8-9-17 #13 PROMOTION FROM BILLING CLERK TO DEPUTY CLERK FOR EMILY VOELLER. With the promotion an increase of \$1.00 per hours, her salary change of \$20.33 to \$21.33 effective 7-1-2017. Councilor Downey moved to approve. Councilor Kuecker seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 8-9-17 #14 PROMOTION OF OFFICER MIKE GERMAN TO SERGEANT. With the promotion, Sergeant German will receive a 7.5% increase. His hourly rate \$20.42 to \$21.95 effective August 14, 2017. Councilor Downey moved to approve Sergeant German's promotion and salary increase. Councilor Kuecker seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 8-9-17 #15 HIRE OF PART-TIME POLICE OFFICER DIXIANA CRUZ AT THE RATE OF \$17.30 PER HOUR. Councilor Kuecker moved to approve the hire. Councilor Beiner seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 8-9-17 #16 PURCHASE OF HANDHELD RADIO FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. Chief Bartello presented the proposal for the radio in the amount of \$4920. He reported that the Walmart Grant of \$500 received would be placed towards the purchase. Councilor Beiner moved to approve the purchase. Councilor Downey seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 8-9-17 #17 LIGHTING AT THE RECREATIONAL COMPLEX. Park Board Chairperson, Natalie Owen recommended that the Council approve the lighting estimate from Kamp Electric in the amount of \$1,425. Council agreed to pay for half of the cost of the lighting and the other half would be paid out of the Park budget. Councilor Downey moved to approve the lighting proposal. Councilor Kuecker seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 8-9-17 #18 CITY STAFFING. After discussion, Council purposed a Public Works Support/EMT position at the rate of \$14.00 per hour. Council also purposed an Interim Administrative Assistant position at the hourly rate of \$19.72 per hour. Councilor Downey moved to approve. Councilor Beiner seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

Veenstra & Kimm representative was unavailable to provide a report on Municipal Pipe and Tool.

Chief Bartello informed Council that Calgon Carbon representatives reviewed the Waste Water Treatment plant in July. The Calgon representatives indicated that possibly running excessive hours on the bulbs, which is approximately two years, could be part of the issues. Public Works plans to replace the bulbs and ballast cards at their suggestion. Bartello reported this month an engineering firm, MSA, reached out offering to review the plant issues. Councilor Burkett questioned the suggestions of Calgon Carbon. After a lengthy discussion, Councilor Downey suggested that City Attorney, John Judisch should be contacted.

Chief Bartello reported that Planning and Zoning Commission has set August 14, 2017, for a Public Hearing on Building Permits and Building Code discussion.

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New Business:

Chief Bartello presented Council with a proposal to add a new stop sign at the intersection of W. Eighth Street to make it a 3-way intersection. With Council's approval resolution will be presented at the September Council meeting.

Librarian, Sue Ponder reported on the Rec Complex low water levels at the ponds. During the month of July high temperatures and lack of rain caused numerous fish to die from lack of oxygen. Mayor Alleger and Public Works employee, James Clark, removed the dead fish. Ponder reported that the low water level has been an issue for the past several years. She contacted the engineering firm of Snyder and Associates and they will review the original plans and property to provide options to Council. Brian Townsend an original member of the CIARAD (Citizens in Action for Recreational Area Development, Inc.) who was instrumental in the development of the Rec Center provided additional background on the Rec Complex and the ponds. He spoke passionately about preserving the ponds, grounds and parks. Councilor Downey responded by stating budgeting constraints were a strong consideration for the Council and Park Board on what projects could be addressed each year.

With no further business to discuss, Councilor Downey moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 PM. Councilor Engle seconded the motion. On roll call, the motion carried unanimously.

Chad D. Alleger
Mayor

ATTESTED TO:

Cindy Kane
City Clerk