

City of Prairie City  
City Council Minutes  
May 10, 2023 6:30pm

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: The City Council of Prairie City, Jasper County, Iowa met on May 10, 2023 at City Hall and via Zoom. At 6:30pm Mayor Pro Tem Deb Townsend called the meeting to order

ROLL CALL: Present: Mayor Pro Tem Townsend; Councilors Simmons, Holland, Ingle, and Laidig. Also attending: City Administrator Jerry Moore; City Clerk Christie Busby; Police Chief Gott; Public Works Superintendent Carl Van Der Kamp; Fire Chief Ryan Van Der Kamp; EMS Director Jody Van Der Kamp; MSA representatives Andrew Inhelder and Preston Moon; Joe Disney; Dan Riemersma. Business owner Ed Pagliai and residents Beth James and Steve Zimmerman also in attendance. Absent: Mayor Alleger.

AGENDA APPROVAL: Simmons motioned to approve the agenda. Motion seconded by Ingle. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA: Simmons motioned to approve the consent agenda with a correction to Board of Supervisors letter adding City behind 'City of Prairie'. Motion seconded by Holland. Motion carried.

a) City Council Meeting Minutes from April 27, 2023; b) March Financials; c) April Claims; d) Resolution 5-10-23-1 Approving Bills and Transfers; e) Letter in Objection to Proposed CO2 Pipeline and Booster Station; f) New Liquor License for Sacred Willow Farms, 1120 Poplar Avenue; g) Cigarette License for Casey's, 1002 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street

PUBLIC COMMENT: Ed Pagliai, Whiskey Barrel Pub & Eatery at 112 E Jefferson St, addressed the council requesting consent to allow blocked off parking for the cruise night on most Saturday nights this summer. He is willing to set up the barricades for protected parking for the classic cars. City Admin Moore added comments from his conversations with Pagliai.

Steve Zimmerman, 407 Kayla Ln, addressed the council expressing opposition to consent agenda item E and the city's involvement. The pipeline is nowhere near the city so the city should not be involved.

OLD BUSINESS:

MSA UPDATE (ANDREW/PRESTON): Preston asked if there were any questions on the update supplied in the packet, no questions presented. Councilor Simmons asked if there was any update on the townhomes area and Andrew stated we can reach out to the owner for an update. No action by council needed.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE (CARL): Carl advised the council he's currently the only employee on duty, so water and sewer tasks are taking priority, then the numerous One Calls due to alley work and new homes being built. Will be starting on lift station and wastewater computer upgrade soon. Unauthorized dumping of items not allowed at treatment plant is becoming a concern. Westrum Leak Detection was here to listen to water lines and detected up to five hydrants are possibly leaking, as well as the Norris St area of town. The hydrant at water tower will be coordinated with tower painting/cleaning so new valve can be put in. No action by council needed.

POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE (CHIEF GOTT): Chief Gott gave report of 226 calls and issued 24 citations and 23 warnings. Traffic numbers are up with better weather and area events happening and there are two new GTSB programs officers will participate in. New GTSB grant to cover salaries and equipment. Assisted on 11 fire/EMS calls, which is up. Still using speed trailer to gather data on problem areas in town. Received estimates for additional cameras for the city, some will get done now while others will need to wait until due to logistical issues. Advised council that May 15-25 is National Police Week and Officer St. Ores will be traveling with the German family to DC ceremonies honoring late Officer German. No action by council needed.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE (JERRY): Jerry advised of documents regarding Xerox contract, Gworks software transition, and letters received placed before councilors for review. Website is being finalized and will roll-out in June. Gave an update on his ISU teaching assignment that is now completed, back in office full-time. The comprehensive plan open house went well and received good feedback from citizens. Public works working on 8<sup>th</sup> St re-grade/seeding and have a list of homes with concerns for the contractor. Working on an RFP/RFQ for street

cleaning/stripping. Held a meeting with both alley project and library project contractors to discuss electrical work, storage, and staging concerns. Councilor Simmons asked about status of city siren. Carl advised battery has been replaced and siren was tested, working now. Jasper County tests on 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month at 10am. Asked city clerk to post a notice for citizens advising that monthly testing will be resuming. No action by council needed.

PUBLIC HEARING ON AMENDED FY2022-2023 BUDGET: Simmons motioned to enter public hearing. Seconded by Laidig. Motion carried. No comments, verbal or written, received. Simmons motioned to close the public hearing. Motion seconded by Ingle. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 5-10-23-2 ADOPTION AMENDED FY2022-2023 BUDGET: Simmons motioned to adopt Resolution 5-10-23-2. Motion seconded by Holland. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION OF DRAFT ORDINANCE REGULATING CHICKENS IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS OF CITY AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON SETTING PUBLIC HEARING FOR 1<sup>ST</sup> CONSIDERATION OF CHICKENS ORDINANCE FOR JUNE 14, 2023, CITY COUNCIL MEETING: The ordinance draft includes annual inspections with municipal infractions for violations. Ingle requested changes of items E, F being struck as they are redundant, item G be struck as unnecessary with FDA restrictions, and change 50' minimum setback restriction. Laidig wanted to keep 50' requirement, but agreed with E, F removal. Also requested clarification on application fees in the draft. More discussion and recommendations on the setback requirement with comparisons to other animal requirements. Simmons motioned to accept ordinance draft with edits: correcting item C to add "to meet state regulations; removing items E, F; change item G to say "chickens and egg production not for commercial use"; and add item requiring removal of dead chickens. Motion seconded by Holland. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR AMENDMENT TO CODE OF ORDINANCES INCREASING WATER AND WASTEWATER SEWER RATES: Simmons motioned to enter public hearing. Motion seconded by Holland. Motion carried. No comments, verbal or written, received. Simmons motioned to close public hearing. Motion seconded by Ingle. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON ORDINANCE NO 395 ADOPTING WATER AND WASTEWATER SEWER RATES: Simmons motioned to approve 1<sup>st</sup> reading of Ordinance No 395. Motion seconded by Laidig. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR AMENDMENT TO CODE OF ORDINANCES INCREASING SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING RATES: Simmons motioned to enter public hearing. Motion seconded by Ingle. Citizen Steve Zimmerman, 407 Kayla Ln, addressed the council voicing opposition to raising all the city's rates stating they are already too high. Laidig stated solid waste and recycling rate raise was a pass through from contractor. City Administrator Moore will do survey on costs. With no further comments, Simmons motioned to close public hearing. Motion seconded by Ingle. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON ORDINANCE NO. 396 ADOPTING SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING RATES: Simmons motioned to accept 1st reading of Ordinance No 396. Motion seconded by Holland. Motion carried.

UPDATE ON COMMUNITY CATALYST BUILDING REMEDIATION GRANT 20-CTBF-021-DEADLINE 06-30-23 (SCOTT DEVRIES): Scott sent a letter stating that he cannot meet the set June deadline for the project to receive the remaining percentage of the grant. Townsend request that Scott call the Downtown Resource for an extension of the deadline. No action by council needed.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE RESULTS OF THE LMI SURVEY REGARDING PHASE 2 WATER MAIN AND PLAN MOVING FORWARD: Survey results showed the city qualified for up to \$500,000 in CDBG grant which requires a matching contribution from the city. Results are good for three years and can apply every three months for funding. The LMI addresses smaller lines that frequently break and high priority. The Jefferson St project is included in the plans, and all of Jefferson does not need to be done to proceed with the fire/EMS building project. This is a very competitive grant and dependent on applicants each year. MSA will do the applications and administration. Simmons commented she would like to see focus on sections 1 and 3 since if we only did part of

section 2, qualification would be lost. Laidig commented that we need to keep sections of the plan whole. With the city's qualification and required matching contribution, a FY2024 budget amendment will likely be needed. Council requested the city administrator reach out to PFM to discuss financing options for Phase 2 water. No action by council, tabled until June.

#### DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON SITE SELECTION OF FIRE/EMS BUILDING AND AUTHORIZING DESIGN

WORK: MSA wanted this item back for discussion. PRHC has not responded to the mayor's requests to discuss land options. Townsend asked the firefighters present if they were going to do any fundraising to help offset costs, they have no plans at this time. Simmons voiced agreement that the site across from city hall had everything qualified and was the site of choice by the fire department. She would like city staff to investigate grant options or low interest loans available. Townsend mentioned asking Jeff Davidson for assistance locating a grant writer within Jasper County area. Ingle motioned to set site for fire/EMS building as the 300 block of E Jefferson, east from city hall, and authorize MSA and MGA to begin design work. Motion seconded by Holland. Motion carried.

UPDATE ON LIFT STATION PUMPS AND PIPING PROJECT SOUTH OF CASEY'S: Current pumps are starting to slow down again and trigger alarms. DNR permit has been approved. Can now go back to Iowa Pump Works to get the necessary pumps and plan work schedule to have everything ready for when shutdown is needed to do the project. New planned pumps will sustain new development in the area. No action by council needed.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON ALLEY PROJECT COST INCREASE DUE TO EXPLORATORY EXCAVATION WORK: No discussion. Simmons motioned to approve payment of increase in project costs. Motion seconded by Holland. Motion carried.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON REQUEST FOR PARTIAL EXEMPTION FROM TAXATION FROM EMILY AND DARIN GRABER, 505 S. HALEY LN, UNDER CITY'S URBAN REVITALIZATION AREA: Councilors advised that S Haley Lane does not qualify due to being within TIF district. Advised city administrator to draft letter to the Graber's explaining why it does not qualify.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON REQUEST FOR PARTIAL EXEMPTION FROM TAXATION FROM DANA AND RYEN ALLEN, 600 W. NORTH ST, UNDER CITY'S URBAN REVITALIZATION AREA: Councilors advised that W North St qualifies since outside of TIF district, but it was questioned if this request qualified since the location did not utilize city infrastructure due to crossing another property when new house was built. Request tabled for clarification on eligibility.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON WEED SPRAYING AND FERTILIZING CONTRACT WITH TRUGREEN: Simmons asked if we had utilized TruGreen before, Carl explained what city areas they had done. No city staff hold spraying licenses. Carl explained that he tried to get three bids and TruGreen was the only respondent. Discussion on the quoted costs within the contract. Ingle asked if there were sections that could be eliminated to help save costs. Laidig questioned not doing spring treatments and focus on doing fall treatments, stating fall is the appropriate time to spray. No action taken by council, tabled to investigate possibly options with nearby communities.

RESOLUTION 5-10-23-3 APPROVING TIME AND PLACE FOR REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS: Motion by Townsend to move meeting start time back to 6pm with June meeting. Motion seconded by Ingle. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Simmons motioned to adjourn. Motion seconded by Ingle. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 9:01pm.