

City of Prairie City  
Special City Council Minutes  
June 28, 2023 at 6:00 pm

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The City Council of Prairie City, Jasper County, Iowa met on June 28, 2023 in a special session at City Hall and via Zoom. At 6:01 pm Mayor Pro Tem Townsend called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL: Present: Councilors Townsend, Simmons, Holland, and Ingle. Also attending: City Administrator Jerry Moore; City Clerk Christie Busby; Library Director, Sue Ponder; Public Works Superintendent Carl Van Der Kamp; EMS Director Jody Van Der Kamp; residents Joe Disney, Beth James, Steve Zimmerman, Dane Owens. Via Zoom Ryan Martin and Jamee Pierson.

AGENDA APPROVAL: Simmons motioned to approve the agenda with the removal of New Business item 7b. seconded by Ingle. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA: Ingles asked for clarification on item F. It is for design. Simmons motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Holland. Motion carried.

a) Resolution 6-28-23-1 Approving Bills and Transfers; b) City Council Meeting Minutes from June 14, 2023; c) Park Board Meeting Minutes from May 22, 2023; d) Library Board Meeting Minutes from May 25, 2023; e) Letter from Waste Management of Iowa Announcing Service Day Collection Change; f) SRF Planning and Design Loan Application for Phase 2 Water & Phase 3 Water & Street Projects

PUBLIC COMMENT: Resident Steve Zimmerman, 407 E Kayla Lane, asked what the plan for notifying residents about the garbage day change? Moore and Busby stated all avenues of communication are being explored such as signs posted at local businesses, verbal, website, and City's Facebook page.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a) Public Hearing to Hear Comments from the General Public Regarding City Council Appointment of New City Council Member – Ingle motioned to enter public hearing. Seconded by Simmons. Motion carried. No public comment, no written communication received. Simmons motioned to close the public hearing. Seconded by Holland. Motion carried.
- b) Interviews of Candidates Seeking Appointment to City Council and Possible Discussion and Action to Appoint New City Council Member – Joe Disney and Beth James submitted applications and were present for candidacy interviews. The council went through a series of interview questions with both, alternating first to answer. Council voted. Simmons motioned to appoint Joe Disney and swear in at the next council meeting. Seconded by Holland. Motion carried. Townsend thanked both candidates for showing interest.
- c) Discussion and Possible Action on Electric Fence located at 105 N Monroe Street – Simmons stated that the council should adhere to the lawyer and insurance recommendations to have the electric fence removed. Simmons motioned to have Moore contact resident asking them to remove the fence within 60 days. Seconded by Holland. Motion carried.
- d) Resolution 6-28-23-2 Discussion and Possible Action on Hiring EMS Intern Applicant Dane R. Owens – EMS director stated she discussed Owens' qualifications at the last meeting and Ingle stated that after reviewing, he was inclined to approve. Simmons motioned to approve Dane Owens' EMS internship. Seconded by Ingle. Motion carried.
- e) Discussion and Possible Consideration of Construction and Engineering Costs for Phase 2 Water Main Project – Some confusion on wording presented. Moore clarified information that was provided in the email to council and discussion about what could be included with road improvements for \$750,000 from Main St to Marshall St and a rough estimate from Marshall St to State St. Townsend stated there will be cost savings doing all design at once. No action needed/taken by the council.

- f) Discussion and Possible Action on Request for Partial Exemption from Taxation from Dana and Ryen Allen, 600 W. North Street Under the City's Urban Revitalization Area - This was tabled from 6/14 meeting with questions on years of eligibility. A copy of URA Act was provided for review and Moore explained item L in the document. Resident originally reached out to the city in 2022 requesting assistance on how to proceed and received no information. Moore reached out to the county assessor who stated they would approve if the council approved. Simmons motioned to approve the 5-year exemption based on resident reaching out prior within deadline time. Seconded by Ingle. Motion carried.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution 6-28-23-3 Discussion and Action on City Employees Cost of Living Wage Increases – Request was made for 3% cost of living increase, in line with last year. Merit raises are being moved to individual employee reviews. Discussion to have this information included during next budget discussions. Simmons motioned to approve employee cost of living wage increases. Seconded by Ingle. Motioned carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Simmons motioned to adjourn, seconded by Holland. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 6:38pm.