

September 16, 2020

Mayor Flatness called to order the regular meeting of the Rockwell City Council at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 16, 2020. Council members present were Wentz, Meyer and Koob with Gauley via Zoom and Worley by telephone. Also present were Janelle and Bill Nuehring, Opal and Don Brass, Molly and Dennis Viet, Chris Vaughn, Megan Wentz, Pat Hurley, Tom Hensley and Chief Whitney, also via Zoom were Dick Fridley and Caroline McManigal.

Wentz moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion seconded by Meyer, carried unanimously.

Meyer moved to approve the financial report for the Library. Motion seconded by Wentz, carried unanimously. Caroline McManigal, Library Director, updated the Council, via Zoom, stating the patron count is up, they have done a lot of organizing and updating with her laptop and will be adding a new computer to the circulation desk; she has been doing training and excited to be working in the community.

Mayor Flatness noted that the Attorney taking care of the nuisance property at 213 Main Street is moving forward with the process.

At 7:05 p.m. Koob moved to open the public hearing on Ordinance 3-3-31. Motion seconded by Meyer, carried unanimously.

Mayor Flatness read the proposed Ordinance 3-3-31 TRUCK AND TRAILER PARKING LIMITED. Trucks licensed for ten (10) ton or more, loaded or empty, shall not be parked on any public street in the business district or in residential areas. In addition, recreation vehicles or trailers exceeding fifteen (15) feet in length shall not be parked on City streets or right-of-way used for a residential purpose within the City from November 1 to April 1.

An exemption for the November 1 to April 1 restriction would apply to driveways. For this ordinance a driveway is defined as “a short road leading from a public road to a house or garage”. Recreational vehicles or trailers exceeding fifteen (15) feet may be parked in a driveway as long as it is perpendicular to the roadway and not parallel. No trailer or RV shall protrude onto the paved or gravel roadway or block any sidewalks. (Code of Iowa 321.358)

Mayor Flatness opened this to discussion. Hurley asked if the date could be changed from April 1 to March 31. Koob stated that it would be until midnight on the 31st so there really wouldn't be any change. Megan Wentz noted a situation with a trailer parked in the right of way that blocked the site of another car and was a close collision. Koob noted this would be covered under another Ordinance stating the ten foot to be parked from an intersection. Following discussion, Koob moved to close the public hearing at 7:14 p.m. Motion seconded by Wentz, carried unanimously.

Meyer moved to approve the Ordinance 3-3-31 changes by Ordinance 5-2020. Motion seconded by Worley. With roll call vote; Aye: Wentz, Meyer, Koob, Gauley and Worley. Mayor Flatness stated motion carried.

Wentz moved to set a second public hearing on the reading of Ordinance 3-3-31 for October 7, 2020 at 7:05 p.m. Motion seconded by Koob, carried unanimously.

Don Brass stated concerns with an empty lot in their neighborhood and vehicles and trailers being parked on the lot. Dennis Viet stated that the lot has been cleaned up and vehicles have been brought in, but there are a lot of unknowns with not knowing his intentions so since Chris is here he could tell us. Chris Vaughn, the property owner, stated he purchased the property three weeks ago and as cleaned the lot up and has filed a building permit to put up two soft side ten by seventeen structures on the North West corner of the property. Vaughn is waiting for the permit process and currently has one licensed vehicle and one junk/storage vehicle. Mayor Flatness questioned nuisance violations and would have Chief Whitney look at this. Mayor Flatness stated we can table this until the next meeting giving Vaughn more time and allow more time for the permit process. Janelle Nuehring asked about the lot lines and survey process and felt this should be done so there is a definite property line for footage with buildings. Wentz moved to table this. Motion seconded by Koob, carried unanimously.

Wentz moved to table the tree removal request until there is more information on this property. Motion seconded by Koob, carried unanimously.

Hensley reported to the Council on the issues at the water tower with the hose breaking and water being sprayed on the interior of the tower causing damage to the pump, electrical panel and chlorinator pump. Hensley noted that most of the equipment has been repaired and replaced but they are having control panel issues and are running the tower manually due to this. Mayor Flatness stated that the guys scrambled and got the tower filled and have worked long hours to keep things going safely. Mayor Flatness also thanked the citizens for their diligence in conserving water during this crucial time.

Mayor Flatness had the updated bid from Heartland Asphalt for the tennis court and basketball court to pave the North side up to the fence at a cost of \$48,176.15. Wentz moved to approve the expenditure for paving the said courts. Motion seconded by Meyer, carried unanimously.

Wentz moved to table the Codification of City Code until the trailer parking ordinance is finalized. Motion seconded by Gauley, carried unanimously.

Mayor Flatness stated that work has begun on the drainage issue in the Westview Drive South area; it was decided to do more following elevation shots they are putting pipe in. Wentz noted complaints from the neighbors not being notified and losing gardens and shrubs; he thought the plan was to grade the drainage. Mayor Flatness stated changing the plan has saved some trees and will allow for the drainage to be done right, and it is moving along nicely.

Koob reported that everyone is on standby to get the repairs done at the pool. Koob noted that they have built shelves in their storage building and everything can be put up off the floor.

Wentz asked about setting trick or treating. Mayor Flatness noted he has been watching this from the Department of Health stand point; we can put this on the upcoming agenda.

Wentz questioned a tree that was taken down, if a request had been filed. Weier noted there had not been.

Koob asked about changing the code to increase the distance on right of ways at intersections for clearance and visibility above the state law distance. Chief Whitney noted we can do more but not less than state law.

Worley asked if they will be trimming trees on the right of ways for clearance of vehicles this fall. Hensley noted this is still on the list to do.

Chief Whitney reported that he has the new computer and will be having Electronic Engineering install it next week.

Mayor Flatness also noted the activity report provided by Chief Whitney in the Council boxes. Koob asked if Chief's vest has expired. Chief Whitney will be measured and order through Gall's. Mayor Flatness noted this is a part of Chief Whitney's equipment.

Weier stated that the Cerro Gordo Department of Public Health has scheduled influenza vaccinations for here on Tuesday, September 29th at 1:00.

With no further business, Wentz moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Meyer, carried unanimously.

Michael Flatness, Mayor

Lorna Weier, City Clerk