

April 8, 2020

Mayor Flatness called to order the regular meeting of the Rockwell City Council at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8, 2020. Council members present were Gauley, Meyer, Worley and Wentz with Koob via phone. Also present were Travis Fischer, Tom Hensley and Chief Whitney.

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

The following bills were presented for approval:

PUBLIC SAFETY

Electronic Engineering.....	Monthly Service.....	\$	9.90
Cerro Gordo County Sheriff .....	Monthly Software .....	\$	60.00
US Cellular.....	Police Phone.....	\$	97.95
Law Enforcement Systems .....	Tickets.....	\$	168.00
Rockwell Coop Telephone Assn.....	Monthly billing .....	\$	89.05
Wellmark Blue Cross.....	Monthly premium health insurance ...	\$	2390.03
Stop and Shop .....	Gas .....	\$	186.36
Don's Auto Service.....	Repairs .....	\$	181.27
Total Public Safety.....		\$	3182.56

PUBLIC WORKS

Mid American Energy.....	Monthly billing .....	\$	1996.85
Stop and Shop .....	Gas .....	\$	98.00
Absolute Waste Removal.....	Monthly Billing (March/April).....	\$	10114.40
Fastenal .....	Supplies.....	\$	81.89
Midwest Supply Inc .....	Supplies.....	\$	230.00
Menards.....	Supplies.....	\$	62.74
Jay Siefken .....	Cell Phone.....	\$	30.00
Tom Hensley.....	Cell Phone.....	\$	30.00
Speer Financial .....	Services/Storm Water .....	\$	10070.00
UMB Bank .....	Services/Storm Water .....	\$	300.00
Total Public Works .....		\$	23013.88

PUBLIC WORKS ROAD USE

Stop and Shop .....	Gas .....	\$	169.11
Don's Auto Service.....	Repairs .....	\$	260.53
Menards.....	Supplies.....	\$	152.80
Frank Dunn .....	Patch.....	\$	799.00
Total Public Works Road Use.....		\$	1381.44

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mid American Energy.....	Monthly billing/Memorial .....	\$	27.44
Rockwell Public Library .....	Monthly payment .....	\$	3833.33
Total Community and Economic Development .....		\$	3860.77

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

WebWise.....	Alert banner .....	\$	50.00
Rockwell Coop Telephone Assn.....	Monthly billing .....	\$	40.94
Mid American Energy.....	Monthly billing .....	\$	642.02

Lorna Weier .....	Allowance .....	\$	570.00
Mid-America Publishing.....	Publications.....	\$	394.25
Staples.....	Supplies.....	\$	106.71
Postmaster.....	Stamps.....	\$	55.00
Total General Government .....		\$	1858.92

**BUSINESS UTILITY WATER**

Rockwell Coop Telephone Assn.....	Monthly billing .....	\$	63.95
Mid American Energy.....	Monthly billing .....	\$	412.72
Wellmark Blue Cross.....	Monthly premium health insurance ...	\$	5736.11
Stop and Shop.....	Miscellaneous .....	\$	4.00
Eurofins.....	Water Test.....	\$	63.00
Hawkins, Inc .....	Chemicals.....	\$	5.00
Postmaster.....	Fluoride letters .....	\$	209.00
Postmaster.....	Water Bills .....	\$	140.00
Total Business Utility Water.....		\$	6633.78

**BUSINESS UTILITY SEWER**

Eurofins.....	Waste water Test.....	\$	28.93
UPS .....	Ship Water Waste water Test.....	\$	25.16
Total Business Utility Sewer .....		\$	54.09

Meyer moved to approve the bills for payment as presented. Motion seconded by Gauley, carried unanimously.

March Receipts: General \$12314.10; Road Use \$5266.71; Water Utility \$8913.41; Sewer Utility \$5353.69; Local Option \$12899.85; Storm Water \$2197.98; TIF \$1685.41

Mayor Flatness presented a letter from the North Iowa Fair Board thanking us for the donation last year and asking for our support for the fair again this year. Koob noted that they have done a lot of improvements over the years with what little they have and felt we should give them more. Gauley moved to give the North Iowa Fair \$1,000.00. Motion seconded by Koob, carried unanimously.

Koob noted the Web Wise scrolling banner is a onetime payment of \$50.00 and would be used on the website for notices. Wentz moved to approve the \$50.00 for the banner. Motion seconded by Gauley, carried unanimously.

Mayor Flatness asked the Council about the preservation of the City records. Following discussion Meyer moved to have the old City record books digitalized by Indigital to preserve the records at City Hall at a cost not to exceed \$3,000. Motion seconded by Worley, carried unanimously.

Mayor Flatness asked Council to review the information from Router 12, noting he feels we should have the City Attorney review the contract. With discussion, Koob moved to forward the contract to the City Attorney for review. Motion seconded by Meyer. Meyer asked if the revenue generated from this would be designated to something specific, such as the playground, pool or something like that. Wentz noted tower maintenance. Koob felt that could be addressed on an annual basis. Motion carried unanimously to forward the contract to the City Attorney.

Mayor Flatness stated that Absolute Waste Removal is still planning for the large garbage pickup in Rockwell on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Flatness introduced Ordinance 2-2020  
3-3-39-1A

There shall be an embargo placed upon First Street within the City limits of Rockwell, Iowa, from the southern most city limit to the northern most city limit, not to exceed 5 (five) tons. This Ordinance shall not apply to implements of husbandry as defined in Code of Iowa Section 321.1, loaded implements of husbandry on hauling units for transporting of husbandry to locations for repair, fire apparatus and road maintenance equipment owned by, under lease to, or used in the performance of a contract with a state or local authority. (Code of Iowa, Sec 321.473)

Mayor Flatness stated this is imposing an embargo on First Street through the City limits. Koob asked about the signage prior to First Street. Chief Whitney noted he has worked with Siefken and the County to make sure we have what is needed and specifics on where to put the signs. Chief Whitney noted a couple exemptions; this will be done only through him and notice given by City Code. Following discussion Wentz moved to adopt Ordinance 2-2020 3-3-39-1A. Motion seconded by Gauley. Mayor Flatness called for a roll call vote; Aye: Koob, Meyer, Wentz, Gauley, Worley. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Flatness shared a letter from Cutting Edge Tree Service with their recommendation to remove a tree on Fourth Street North. Cutting Edge Tree Service included an estimate with their recommendation. Koob stated that we should have more estimates on removing this tree, and so moved to have three estimates on tree removal. Motion seconded by Gauley, carried unanimously.

Weier noted the Iowa History Journal has written an article about Rockwell to be published in their upcoming issue, including information about Rockwell's 150<sup>th</sup> celebration. Weier stated they are asking if we would like to advertise in the journal that includes the article. Koob asked to discuss the 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration first. Mayor Flatness noted the only thing expended monetary is the Fire Departments commitment with the band and street dance. Meyer stated the Fire Department would like to go ahead with this, state allowing at that time, even if the Council puts off the 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration. Worley felt it might be too early to tell what to do at this time with things changing daily. Following discussion, Koob moved to table the decision on the 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration until the May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Motion seconded by Wentz, carried unanimously.

Council discussed the advertisement for the Iowa History Journal, Gauley moved to not pay for an ad in said magazine. Motion seconded by Wentz, carried unanimously.

Mayor Flatness presented the amendment to the agreement for engineering services for the storm water improvements with McClure for the \$58,000.00, as the undetermined amount for services. This was within the original contract with the amount not set. Meyer moved to approve the amendment for the agreement with McClure Engineering. Motion seconded by Worley, carried unanimously.

Mayor Flatness noted that with the gas lines being moved there was an incident with a sanitary sewer line hit, this has been taken care of and our insurance will be covering the expense to the home owner for the issue. Hensley stated the sewer lines are normally run under the water line and in this case the line was not close to where it was anticipated to be. With that, Mayor Flatness noted the project is progressing as much as it can.

Mayor Flatness noted the application with the DOT for the sign replacement program was resent and approved this week. So, signs will be ordered and replaced.

Koob stated the work to be done at the pool will be moving forward, as can, with weather and guidelines. Koob noted they are on hold for their hiring process as they cannot meet with applicants. Koob stated they still hope to open this year, maybe not at the original planed date.

Wentz asked about Chief Whitney's locations. Chief Whitney noted he is trying to keep visible with the increased traffic on First Street due to the detour. Chief stated he has requested the speed trailer and will get it out there as soon as he can.

Wentz also noted kids driving on golf carts. Mayor Flatness noted that Chief Whitney can watch for this, and by City Code there is directive given. City Code states: 3-3-63 OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS. Golf carts may be operated on City streets by persons possessing a valid driver's license. The City Council may impose restrictions and conditions in addition to those set forth in this section. A golf cart shall not be operated upon a City street which is a primary road extension, i.e., State or Federal highway, but shall be allowed to cross a City street which is a primary road extension through the City. The golf cart shall be equipped with adequate brakes. The golf cart shall be operated only on the street from sunrise to sunset unless equipped with proper headlights and tail lights. Golf carts operated on City streets need not be registered under Chapter 321 of the Code of Iowa.

Wentz asked about the exceptions for the embargo on First Street for trucks. Mayor Flatness stated this will be at Chief Whitney's discretion to grant any exemptions as directed by City Code.

Koob shared concerns with COVID-19 and the City employees and asked about having split shifts. Mayor Flatness stated that he has talked with the employees in reference to this and has talked about staggering times and such. Mayor Flatness feels that they are all taking this seriously with hand washing and sanitizing as much as possible. Hensley noted he has mixed feeling about the split shifts and they have things to do that they do not work together all the time. Koob noted that the virus can be spread with contact and lingering in the air. Meyer also noted that he would not feel comfortable with the city guys working alone and not having a check point to assure that everyone is safe. Worley felt the employees are the best judges for their health and everything is day by day with this virus. Mayor Flatness feels that staggering start times next week would be good.

Koob also felt that no one should be allowed to have meetings or gatherings in the Community Center and we should have remote council meetings. Wentz will work on the remote meeting set up for the next meeting.

Koob noted that we had discussed at the mock disaster about the generator, at the water tower, should the gas source be stopped. Mayor Flatness noted this is a concern we will need to address.

Mayor Flatness stated the County and Hensley did the shouldering on First Street and it looks great. Hensley noted we have a resident that is concerned with the traffic on First Street as they are driving on yards past the gravel shoulder. Council agreed this is city right of way, and hopefully the embargo helps with the traffic.

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

---

Michael Flatness, Mayor

---

Lorna Weier, City Clerk