

June 17, 2020

Mayor Flatness called to order the regular meeting of the Rockwell City Council at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 17, 2020. Council members present were Meyer, Gauley and Wentz with Worley via phone and Koob via Zoom. Also present were Gina Anderson, Mark Waite, Tom Hensley, Jay Siefken and Chief Whitney with Dick Fridley via Zoom.

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

Wentz moved to approve the Library report. Motion seconded by Meyer, carried unanimously.

At 7:05 p.m. Wentz moved to open the public hearing to discuss the 2019-2020 budget amendment. Motion seconded by Koob, carried unanimously. With no discussion, Koob moved to close the public hearing, Gauley seconded, carried unanimously.

Gauley moved by Resolution 2020-9 to approve the 2019-2020 budget amendment. Motion seconded by Meyer. Mayor Flatness called for a roll call vote; Ayes: Wentz, Gauley, Meyer, Worley and Koob. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Waite was present on behalf of the Rockwell Chamber to request funding from the City for fireworks. Waite stated they would like to have the fireworks display at Chamber Acres and to follow social distancing guidelines everyone could stay in their cars. Mayor Flatness stated that they need to be sure that state and county guidelines are followed. Waite stated that they would be held on Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Wentz noted that the County is going to give funds to Mason City and Clear Lake for their fireworks display this year and asked if we could also get funding. Koob noted that normally we have given \$2,500 for the fireworks. Wentz asked if the Fire Department would be shooting off the fireworks. Meyer stated that the Fire Department will not be shooting the fireworks due to their equipment not working properly, so the Chamber has hired Flashing Thunder for \$500. Koob asked if the Fire Department will be there. Meyer noted that he was not aware that they have been asked to be present. Koob also asked if they could verify that Flashing Thunder has insurance. Following discussion, Meyer moved to give \$3,000.00 to the Chamber for the fireworks display to be held at the Chamber Acres on July 3<sup>rd</sup> with the stipulations of having proof of insurance with Flashing Thunder and a truck from the Rockwell Community Fire Service there and follow all of the County Department of Health guidelines. With no seconded made, Mayor Flatness stated that the motion dies for lack of second. Wentz noted he has concern for the location and the extra \$500.00 noting that maybe the County could be asked to donate to cover the extra \$500.00. Waite noted they would take less. With this discussion, Wentz moved to give \$2,500.00 to the Chamber for the fireworks display at the Chamber Acres on July 3<sup>rd</sup> with the same stipulations of having proof of insurance with Flashing Thunder and a truck from the Rockwell Community Fire Service there and follow all of the County Department of Health guidelines. Motion seconded by Koob, carried unanimously.

Gina Anderson was present to ask to set up and sell Johann's sweet corn on South First Street, by the tennis courts. Koob asked about permits. Anderson noted that Johann's has been selling sweet corn over twenty years in thirteen communities and do not have permits. Mayor Flatness

noted that we have no City Ordinance for this and this may set a dangerous precedence but we can take these request as case by case. Koob noted that with the pool not open this season it will work there and maybe we need to have a permit form to fill out for the next year. With that Koob moved to allow for Anderson to have a stand to sell sweet corn on First Street South, as long as it does not become a traffic hazard. Motion seconded by Gauley, carried unanimously. Anderson thanked the Council as she left the meeting. Meyer asked if anyone has thought about setting up a Farmers Market in town, noting it would be a good idea.

Gauley moved to approve the tobacco permit for Jonesy's Stop and Shop. Motion seconded by Wentz, carried unanimously.

Mayor Flatness stated the stormwater project is moving along well, they should be finishing relatively on time. Mayor Flatness stated the backhoe operator and crew are doing a great job! Meyer also noted he has watched and the progress is going fast. Koob asked if the new pipe is live. Mayor Flatness stated that it is, they have hooked in where they can to keep it going.

Mayor Flatness noted an email from Router12 stating he has engaged a lawyer to make changes to the contract, and is waiting for return. Mayor Flatness also noted that he gave him the option to use the South tower.

Siefken noted the residence on Fourth Street has a septic system and needs to hook into the city sewer system. Siefken noted he does not have any cost estimates, yet, but will have and would think the city would be responsible for some of the cost.

Mayor Flatness stated that he has talked with Pat Wright, Cerro Gordo County Treasurer, in reference to condemning the abandoned house at 213 Main Street. Mayor Flatness noted a couple of ways of dealing with the property and felt to start an Attorney could mitigate the process to dispose of this property with an approximate cost of \$2,500-\$3,000. Gauley felt we need to get an estimate to take down the house and clear the property. Koob felt we need to move forward to get something done and so moved to contact the Attorney to start legal mitigation on the property at 213 Main Street East. Motion seconded by Meyer, carried unanimously.

Mayor Flatness noted the work being done in the REDC with a residence and the water issues they are working on, when this is finished the city will need to do some grading work to keep the water flowing. Siefken stated that they can shoot the grade and may need to take the intake down and will need some grading where there is grass and gardens, and feels that we don't have the equipment and will need to hire Ries to help with this. Koob moved to pursue this project, with Gauley seconded, carried unanimously.

Council discussed the July meeting dates, setting the meetings for July 1<sup>st</sup> and July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Koob reported that he had talked with the Department of Transportation about First Street North and asked if there was any funding for street improvements following the use as the unofficial detour and they stated there is no funding. Mayor Flatness also noted he has talked with the County Engineer about this and they have a long term plan to fix this from the City limits to

170<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Flatness noted the projections are for 25% decrease in road use tax in the coming year. Siefken noted the storm water project may come in lower than bid, and we can use the bond revenues for street repairs.

Koob reported on the Pool Board meeting and the repairs needed and permits with the Iowa Department of Public Health. Meyer noted it is not pretty down there but they are getting things set to get the work done.

Gauley noted a couple of nuisance areas and situations, Chief Whitney will follow up on.

Gauley asked about a dead end sign for Mulberry Street. Siefken and Chief Whitney will get this done.

Worley asked to have Chief Whitney visit with the residents in the apartments that were shooting off fireworks. Mayor Flatness noted this has already been done. Koob noted that Mason City has in their ordinance that where the residue is left, can be fined as the place of fireworks being shot. Wentz noted we have a permit to shoot fireworks.

Wentz noted the repair on Oak Street North is good and noted another area on Third Street South.

Koob stated he would like to see the Council start a five year plan for street, equipment and repairs needed to start setting things for budget and following through to have them done.

Koob also asked about opening City Hall and having barriers in place when the time comes. Mayor Flatness noted that we will continue as we are currently and the Senior Center will remain closed due to the guidelines from the Department of Health and for the health of our employees.

Koob asked if Wentz had any information on the ADA guidelines on the website. Wentz noted he has not received a response from his contact.

Koob asked about the street light for Westview Drive North. Siefken will follow up on this.

Worley noted possible COVID cases in the area and we need to continue to be aware of this being close to us.

Mayor Flatness reported that the compressor went out on the air conditioner at the EMT/Police building and M & N is working on that repair.

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

---

Michael Flatness, Mayor

---

Lorna Weier, City Clerk