

April 21, 2021

Mayor Flatness called to order the regular meeting of the Rockwell City Council at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 21, 2021. All Council members were present. Also present were Janelle Nuehring, Molly and Dennis Viet, Jenny Grant, Brian Hermann, Tom Hensley, Jay Siefken and Chief Whitney.

Mayor Flatness thanked Chief Whitney for his twenty years of service!!

Koob 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 Worley, carried unanimously.

Mayor Flatness noted that the Library Director would not be present due to a family death and gave his condolences.

Janelle Nuehring was present on behalf of the Linn Grove Country Club. Nuehring thanked the Council for their past support and noted that this past year was the first year they have used the \$5,000.00 that allotted them. Nuehring asked for the Council to again grant the course funding to pay for watering the course. Koob noted they have done some nice improvements at the course. Nuehring stated they just added the steel railings on bridges to number three and eight and with so many requests for cart storage, just put up an additional cart shed. Koob moved to allow for the \$5,000.00 from local option funds for the course watering. Motion seconded by Meyer, carried unanimously.

Koob stated that with the donations from Cerro Gordo County coming in July, there will be \$51,000 raised for the playground. Koob stated that the structure cost is about \$67,700 and the surface is \$96,400 and the cost will be going up May first. Koob also stated he has contacted the Lions Club and several other businesses as well as more grants he has written. With that Koob was asking for a commitment from the Council to financially support this project so that it can be ordered before the price increase. Following discussion, Meyer moved to allow \$100,000.00 of local option money, to see this project for the Rockwell Family Recreation through. Motion seconded by Gauley. Wentz asked if this would be up to \$100,000. Koob stated up to that as needed. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Flatness read a letter from the Zeidler Trust Board stating the area at the Zeidler Park that has been deeded to the City for a future cemetery, if and when the Rockwell Cemetery is full. Mayor Flatness noted we will need to figure out how this is going to be done.

Koob stated that he would like to have written responsibilities of the committees and boards that the Council is comprised of so that everyone is aware of the responsibilities and expectations of each. Mayor Flatness felt he could write this up.

Siefken told the Council that Cerro Gordo County will be resurfacing B60 from the East County line to Quince, the City limits. Heartland Asphalt has the bid on this and has given a quote for the City of \$164,600.00 to resurface from Quince to First Street. Siefken noted this is about a \$20,000 savings for this work. Mayor Flatness noted this will be the perfect storm, again, this summer with the detour also being on B60. Siefken also gave the Council quotes for street work from Heartland Asphalt; Main Street resurfacing to 7th Street and work on Elm Street West at \$57,000; also on Main Street from Seventh Street to Fifth Street would be an additional \$39,000. Siefken stated that we could use the remaining bonding funds for street work. Koob asked to have the current amount of the remaining bond funds and see what kind of break Heartland would allow for doing all of the work at the same time. Worley asked how far down the road will it be before we do work on First Street, noting that may need to be fixed up to preserve until it is time to resurface. Mayor Flatness stated we will have more information for the next meeting.

Siefken explained to the Council an issue with the stand pipe and an expansion joint on the South water tower. Siefken had a quote from K & W Coatings not to exceed \$8,000.00 to repair this. Siefken also noted that the tower would have to be emptied and while it is emptied they would clean and inspect inside and clean the outside of the tower for an additional \$4,500.00. Siefken also asked the Council about purchasing a chlorine detector at a cost of \$2,300. Siefken noted we have \$15,000 in the budget for tower work. Koob moved to make the repairs to the stand pipe, do the exterior and interior of the tower and install the chlorine detector at a cost of \$14,800. Motion seconded by Gauley, carried unanimously.

Koob reported on the Landfill of North Iowa meeting, noting an employee honored there for thirty years of service.

Koob also reported on the Pool Board meeting noting the cleanup day will be May 1st. Koob noted that the hiring process is finished, and they are planning to open Memorial weekend. Koob thanked Hensley for attending the meeting and felt this would allow better communications on what needs to be done. Koob noted other items discussed at the board meeting: finishing the electrical and concrete work, replacing lighting with LED lights at a cost, after rebates, of \$5,600, and painting the pool prior to filling.

Koob asked about food during the 151st celebration. Worley was uncertain about the Churches at this time. Koob asked if the playground committee could grill food and make it a fund raiser. Meyer stated the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts will be selling food during the street dance. Worley asked for anyone wanting to be a part of the parade to contact himself or City Hall.

Mayor Flatness noted that with Chief Whitney's last day approaching we have advertised in several places and hoping to find a good fit for our community. Mayor Flatness stated we will need to order badges to have available when the position is filled. Council was in agreement to get the badges ordered.

Koob stated that it was just posted on social media about the Sheriff's Office being around and ticketing. Koob noted they are doing their job.

Koob thanked the Council for their support on the playground. Worley noted that Koob has worked hard for this and appreciates the efforts.

Gauley asked about the nuisance house. Siefken stated it will be done the first part of May.

Gauley noted the use of golf carts by kids on the streets. Wentz also noted the same issues. Mayor Flatness noted the City Code does not allow for anyone under sixteen to drive golf carts on city streets.

Wentz asked about police activity. Koob noted the Sheriff's Office has been more visible, noting when kids are coming and going with school. Mayor Flatness noted all calls will go to the Sheriff's Office.

Siefken stated there are several areas that have been dug up with work from water leaks and such and asked for Council approval to have Weier's Lawn Service till and seed these. Hensley asked to include the area by the pool. Council stated this would be fine.

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

Michael Flatness, Mayor

Lorna Weier, City Clerk