

April 7, 2021

Mayor Flatness called to order the regular meeting of the Rockwell City Council at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 7, 2021. All Council members were present. Also present were Michelle Robison, Abbie Emhoff, Tom Hensley, and Jay Siefken with Dick Fridley on Zoom.

Mayor Flatness stated that in the March 17th minutes it should state that the calls for service are not “necessarily” required of Rockwell. With the correction, Worley moved to approve the minutes of the March 17th meeting. Motion seconded by Wentz, carried unanimously.

Wentz moved to approve the minutes of the March 31st special meeting. Motion seconded by Gauley, 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		
Overhead Door.....	Repair.....	\$
120.00		
Don’s Auto Service.....	Police Car.....	\$
227.99		
Rockwell Coop Telephone Assn.	Monthly billing.....	\$
79.73		
Wellmark Blue Cross.....	Monthly premium health insurance ...	\$
2261.09		
Stop and Shop.....	Gas.....	\$
225.18		
Total Public Safety.....		\$
2983.89		

PUBLIC WORKS

Mid American Energy.....	Monthly billing.....	\$
1846.35		
Stop and Shop.....	Gas.....	\$
141.73		
Absolute Waste Removal.....	Monthly Service March/April.....	\$
10114.40		
O’Reilly.....	Supplies.....	\$
59.92		
Stellar Truck.....	Pickup.....	\$
659.95		
Tractor Supply Co.....	Supplies.....	\$

33.98
 Jay Siefken Cell Phone \$
 30.00
 Tom Hensley Cell Phone \$
 30.00
 Total Public Works \$
 12916.33

PUBLIC WORKS ROAD USE

Wellmark Blue Cross Monthly premium health insurance ... \$
 4522.18
 Northland Manufacturing Inc Tractor blade \$
 130.00
 Total Public Works Road Use \$
 4652.18

CULTURE AND RECREATION

Wellmark Blue Cross Monthly premium health insurance ... \$
 2261.09
 Total Culture and Recreation \$
 2261.09

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Rockwell Public Library Monthly payment \$
 3833.33
 Mid American Energy Monthly billing \$
 31.23
 Wellmark Blue Cross Monthly premium health insurance ... \$
 904.42
 Total Community and Economic Development \$
 4768.98

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Rockwell Coop Telephone Assn. Monthly billing \$
 50.97
 Mid American Energy Monthly billing \$
 849.03
 Stop and Shop Community Center \$
 7.05
 Jenna Olson Replace Mailbox \$
 44.49
 Counsel Copier Contract \$
 42.84
 Huntbatch Insurance Property/Workers Comp Policy \$
 39103.00
 Mid-America Publishing Publications \$

124.35
 Martin's Flag CompanyFlags\$
 81.16
 Hewett WholesaleSupplies\$
 202.85
 Total General Government.....\$
 40505.74

BUSINESS UTILITY WATER

Rockwell Coop Telephone Assn.Monthly billing\$
 63.95
 Mid American Energy.....Monthly billing\$
 542.81
 Stop and ShopWater Samples\$
 6.00
 John Ries Excavating.....Water leak\$
 815.00
 Hawkins, IncChemicals.....\$
 858.45
 Midwest Pipe SupplySupplies.....\$
 88.00
 Eurofins.....Water Test.....\$
 31.50
 UPSPostage Water Test\$
 45.56
 PostmasterWater Bills\$
 149.76
 PostmasterFluoride Letters.....\$
 205.15
 Total Business Utility Water\$
 2806.18

BUSINESS UTILITY SEWER

Eurofins.....Waste Water Test.....\$
 28.93
 Total Business Utility Sewer.....\$
 28.93

Gauley questioned the payment for mail box on the bills list. Siefken noted that with the last heavy snow we had, possibly the heavy snow thrown by the plow, hit their mail box! Meyer moved to approve the bills as presented. Motion seconded by Gauley, carried unanimously.

March Receipts: General \$10745.74; Road Use \$4497.44; Water Utility \$9123.00; Sewer Utility \$5768.59; Local Option \$12612.61; Debt Service Pool/Storm Water \$1838.89; Storm Water \$2351.70; TIF \$0; EMS \$72.30; Benefits \$289.22.

Michelle Robison was present to request closing the Main Street from Third Street to Fourth Street for a bags tournament sponsored by Families of the Fallen. Robison stated they would need the street closed from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for the tournament; the Legion Club would serve a lunch and asked about drinks. It was stated the Legion will have to double fence the area and have outdoor service on their liquor license. Robison stated this would be May 1st with an alternate date of May 8th. Koob moved to allow for Main Street from Third Street to Fourth Street to be closed from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on May 1st with May 8th as an alternate date for the tournament. Motion seconded by Gauley, carried unanimously.

Abbie Emhoff presented a plan for beautifying Main Street with flower planters by the decorative light post. Emhoff stated that she has contacted the Elementary Garden Club to see if they would help with this as well as her Learning Pod kids, as well as soliciting from social media for volunteers and donations. Emhoff had an estimated cost of about \$50.00 per planter to start the project. Council felt the idea is certainly worth pursuing, and starting with Main Street and using the poles that have banners for now. Wentz moved to allocate \$600.00 from Local Option funds to help purchase the planters. Motion seconded by Meyer, carried unanimously.

Mayor Flatness opened discussion for a request to have chickens. As the resident requesting was not present, Wentz moved to table this. Motion to table seconded by Koob, carried unanimously.

Mayor Flatness asked the Council about putting the speed bumps down with the detour that will take traffic through on Madison Street for the bridge work on Highway 65 this summer. Flatness stated this will be the same issue as last summer, except going south this summer, noting the detour will be by the pool. Wentz asked if the street is still embargoed. Siefken stated yes, First Street from the North City limits to the South City limits is embargoed. Meyer moved to put the speed bumps down, with locations to be determined. Motion seconded by Worley, carried unanimously.

Koob stated he has been informed by the company the playground equipment will be purchased from that there will be a price increase the first of May. Koob was requesting of the Council to use reserve Local Option funds to get the equipment purchased, \$100,000.00 would leave about \$30,000.00 left to be raised. Koob stated that putting the \$100,000 into this project to better the community would be better than leaving the money sit, and this would be a commitment to get the playground started. Worley suggested we have one more meeting before May, maybe we can see what else can be done for fundraising, check with the Lions Club and any businesses that have not been asked for donations. Mayor Flatness stated that we are one of the only communities that do not have a playground, the vision for the family recreation includes more and with the growth of Rockwell and young families this will be an asset. Mayor Flatness shared a letter from Cerro Gordo County stating that at the fiscal year they will be donating \$5,000.00 more towards this, showing a commitment in the project and community. With discussion, Worley moved to table this for the next meeting. Motion seconded by Wentz, carried unanimously.

Mayor Flatness noted that Mason City Ford had agreed to hold one of the police vehicles for us until July, with Chief Whitney's retirement and the process of looking for an officer, the Council needs to decide if we want them to hold a vehicle yet. Koob stated that we had discussed prior to have a vehicle held until July, and we could look at the equipment needed and maybe get some on this current budget rather than taking it all from the next year's budget. Meyer felt we could hold off until the first of May to make a decision. Mayor Flatness will contact Mason City Ford.

Mayor Flatness told the Council that the Public Safety Committee has been reviewing the Police Policy and will present this to the Council soon.

Gauley questioned waiting on the equipment for the police vehicle with the time it will take to get everything. Koob felt that it will be within a time frame we would need, and also asked about checking pricing for markings for a new vehicle.

Mayor Flatness also stated that the Public Safety Committee has put together an advertisement for the Police position for publication in the paper and social media. Mayor Flatness asked the Council about a farewell for Chief Whitney prior to the April 21st Council meeting. The Council set an open house, inviting the public, from 5:30-6:30 on the 21st.

Mayor Flatness noted the demolition on the house on Main Street is possible for next week. Mayor Flatness noted the furnace and doors are out and that is the only thing that appears to be salvageable. Meyer asked about taking a trade out with M&N on the furnace, rather than going through the bid process. Koob moved to contact M&N in reference to taking a trade out in service for the furnace and then he can sell the furnace. Motion seconded by Gauley, carried unanimously. Mayor Flatness noted the cost and the reimbursement from Cerro Gordo County for the legal fees and demolition to be turned in when demolition is finished.

Koob noted nuisance properties that need to be addressed.

Gauley questioned the request to purchase the right of way from Fourth Street North. Siefken noted this right of way has utilities and not a good idea to allow to be purchased by abutting property owners. Siefken also asked about making this not a through street, and fine those who use it as so. Gauley also noted the issue with someone driving through and going on private property. Council discussed setting a sign stating no vehicles beyond this point.

Koob reported on the pool committee; applications in, still needing guards, interviews coming up and the cleanup day for May 1st. Koob noted that Nuehring will be working with the Electrician to get the concrete finished and they are looking at an autofill system to help cut the cost of chemicals.

Mayor Flatness reported on the funding coming from the Federal Government in response to the COVID relief, there is no guarantee on the amounts or clear parameters for expending these funds as of yet, other than this is to be used in some way for lost revenue.

Worley noted he is looking for ideas for the teens and young people for the 150th celebration and will get with Gauley for more information.

Wentz noted the problem with kids driving golf carts is going again! Mayor Flatness stated we can put this out on social media and elsewhere about the code and driving on city streets.

Worley asked if we would be shouldering First Street South with the detour. Siefken noted we will want to contact the County to hire them for shouldering.

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

Michael Flatness, Mayor

Lorna Weier, City Clerk