

August 4, 2021

Mayor Flatness called to order the regular meeting of the Rockwell City Council at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 4, 2021. Council members present were Meyer, Wentz and Worley with Koob and Gauley via phone. Also present were Larry and Cathy Degen, Caleb Nuehring, Ken Meyer, Tom Hensley and Jay Siefken with Dick Fridley via Zoom.

Koob noted that he will not be fixing the sand volley ball court right away; this will be done when they get to that part. Wentz moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting noting Kobo's amendment. Motion seconded by Worley, carried unanimously.

The following bills were presented for approval:

PUBLIC SAFETY

| | | |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----|
| Iowa Department of Public Safety | Annual Billing for Service | \$ |
| 1200.00 | | |
| Electronic Engineering..... | Monthly Service..... | \$ |
| 19.80 | | |
| Mason City Ford | Police Car | \$ |
| 20000.00 | | |
| Total Public Safety | | \$ |
| 212198.00 | | |

PUBLIC WORKS

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----|
| Mid American Energy..... | Monthly billing | \$ |
| 1865.96 | | |
| Dearborn Group | Quarterly Life Insurance | \$ |
| 69.60 | | |
| Stop and Shop | Gas | \$ |
| 395.30 | | |
| Absolute Waste Removal | Monthly Service..... | \$ |
| 5310.06 | | |
| Don's Auto Service | Mower | \$ |
| 13.00 | | |
| Tractor Supply..... | Spray Gun | \$ |
| 64.99 | | |
| Floyd & Leonard Auto Electric..... | Supplies..... | \$ |
| 53.25 | | |
| Menards..... | Supplies..... | \$ |
| 197.91 | | |
| Jay Siefken | Cell Phone..... | \$ |
| 30.00 | | |
| Tom Hensley | Cell Phone..... | \$ |
| 30.00 | | |
| Total Public Works | | \$ |

8030.07

PUBLIC WORKS ROAD USE

Mason City Tire ServiceTire Repair\$
56.10
Menards.....Signs.....\$
34.11
Barco Municipal Products.....Signs.....\$
1299.59
FastenalSupplies/Speed Bumps\$
585.15
Deano’s Road Dust ControlIndustrial Park Dust Control\$
611.00
Cerro Gordo County EngineerGrading Industrial Park Road\$
304.29
Heartland Asphalt, IncStreet Work\$
258656.03
Total Public Works Road Use\$
261546.27

CULTURE AND RECREATION

Wellmark Blue CrossMonthly Premium Health Insurance..\$
6783.27
Stop and ShopGas\$
100.23
Floyd & Leonard Auto Electric.....Supplies.....\$
7.62
Eurofins.....Water Test/Pool.....\$
30.40
Total Culture and Recreation\$
6921.52

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mid American Energy.....Monthly billing/Memorial\$
30.16
Keeling Tree Service.....Main St Tree Removal\$
325.00
City of Rockwell.....LGCC Water\$
188.63
Aredale Fire Assoc.....Tables\$
400.00
Mason City FordPolice Car.....\$
11132.00
Total Community and Economic Development.....\$
12075.79

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Wellmark Blue Cross Monthly Premium Health Insurance..\$
904.42

Total Employee Benefits.....\$
904.42

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Rockwell Coop Telephone Assn. Monthly billing\$
75.99

Mid American Energy..... Monthly billing\$
286.41

Dearborn Group Quarterly Life Insurance\$
34.80

Mid-America Publishing..... Publications.....\$
79.90

WebWise Solutions Domain Name\$
18.00

Huntbatch Insurance Police Vehicle\$
378.00

NIACOG Membership Dues\$
831.20

Postmaster Postage\$
55.00

Total General Government.....\$
1759.30

BUSINESS UTILITY WATER

Rockwell Coop Telephone Assn. Monthly billing\$
63.95

Mid American Energy..... Monthly billing\$
471.99

O'Reilly..... Generator Supplies.....\$
26.51

Plumb Supply..... Supplies.....\$
53.27

Municipal Supply..... Lions Water Hookup\$
504.45

Service Tech of Central Iowa..... Hydrant Extension\$
1053.22

Iowa One Call Locates\$
19.90

Eurofins..... Water Test.....\$
293.00

Kwik Star Fuel/Generator\$
23.00

Postmaster Water Bills\$

151.56
 State Hygienic Lab.....Water Test.....\$
 20.00
 John Ries Excavating Inc.....Water/Curb Stop.....\$
 707.50
 Total Business Utility Water\$
 3388.35

BUSINESS UTILITY SEWER

Stop and ShopSupplies.....\$
 41.92
 Iowa Rural Water Association.....Classes/Jay and Tom\$
 320.00
 Midwest Pipe SupplySupplies.....\$
 54.00
 Mark Ames.....Sewer.....\$
 177.50
 Clear Lake Sanitary District.....Sewer Testing.....\$
 37.20
 Total Business Utility Sewer.....\$
 630.62

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

July Receipts: General \$11708.93; Road Use \$16252.89; Water Utility \$14745.93; Sewer Utility \$6150.10; Local Option \$16471.34; Debt Service Pool/Storm Water \$2207.62; Storm Water\$2114.14; TIF \$; EMS \$86.81; Benefits \$347.21.

Larry and Cathy Degen were present to discuss the removal of their sidewalk noting there is only a few sections, they are sinking and with the rain washes out with dirt, and lead to nowhere. Degen noted he would have them taken out and put in fill and seed. Koob stated that if the City were to implement a sidewalk program he may have to put this back in. Siefken noted this would run into a culvert and cause drainage issues if it went farther West. Following discussion, Worley moved to allow Degens' to remove the said sidewalk sections. Motion seconded by Gauley. Koob asked to be certain that they will put in fill and seed. Motion carried unanimously.

Caleb Nuehring was present on behalf of the Rockwell Lions Club. Nuehring thanked the City for their previous support of the events they have hosted and stated they will be holding the figure eight races on August 21st. Nuehring asked to have the noise ordinance waived and the liquor license approve for said event. Wentz moved to waive the noise ordinance from 6:00 pm until midnight on August 21st for the Lions Club event. Motion seconded by Koob, carried unanimously.

Meyer moved to approve the liquor license for the Lions Club event on August 21st. Motion

seconded by Gauley, carried unanimously.

Weier told the Council she had received two proposals to perform the annual exam for the City, following up on references both would be good. Weier noted the cost and the hours given for the work with Rachelle Thompson, of Hampton, Iowa, estimating 65 hours at \$85.00 an hour and allowing three clerical hours at \$40.00. The other proposal was from Faller, Kincheloe & Co, of Des Moines, Iowa; their estimate was for 45 hours at \$95.00 an hour with travel, report, postage expenses at an additional \$200. With discussion on the hourly rate and proximity of the two proposed firms, Wentz moved to accept the proposal with Rachelle Thompson, CPA, PLLC. Motion seconded by Worley, carried unanimously.

Ken Meyer was present to state his concerns with possible closing of Third Street South. Meyer noted that he sees a lot of traffic on Third Street South, with school busses, bikes, EMS. With this, Meyer noted that the safety of kids to and from the school with First and Second Street busy and Fourth Street being used for a lot of Agriculture it leaves Thirds Street as a safe alternative. Mayor Flatness noted that this street has been discussed many times prior with the rise and fall of the street at the box culvert, with the possible clay pocket and geography of this it could be costly to fix. Siefken noted that we have the bump signs there so everyone should be aware of the condition of the street. Worley felt the public would want to leave this open. Wentz noted the cost to fix this would be prohibitive. Koob noted that if we paved over this to make it smooth there would be issues with speeding and we need to consider the long term plan with making a repair like this and the structural issues with the culvert. With discussion, Meyer moved to leave Third Street South as it is and move forward with taking core samples to see about the geography and work in the 2022-2023 budget year. Motion seconded by Koob, carried unanimously.

Hensley had a bid from Blanchard Tree Service of \$3,750.00 for the removal of four trees that have previously been discussed and looked at. Wentz moved to have Blanchard Tree Service remove the trees as stated. Gauley noted we have already spent more than the budgeted amount on trees, how will we pay for this. Weier noted this can come from community betterment funding and the budget will have to be amended. Motion seconded by Koob, carried unanimously. Hensley noted they may be starting on Monday. Koob asked if they would start in the Cemetery. Hensley stated that is where he was planning to have them start.

Mayor Flatness stated that by City Code the Mayor can authorize nuisance letters and the City Attorney asked that the Council confirm this as a Mayoral action. Worley moved to authorize the Mayor to act in an official capacity to issue nuisance letters. Motion seconded by Wentz, carried unanimously.

Mayor Flatness noted the \$3,000.00 authorized to purchase a police radio; the current radio is what Cerro Gordo County recommends, just needs to be upgraded. Wentz moved to approve the radio upgrade with the county grant funding. Motion seconded by Meyer, carried unanimously.

Mayor Flatness stated that the old police vehicle has been taken to Electronic Engineering to be stripped of the equipment that will be used on the new vehicle and taken to Mason City Ford. Koob noted the dock for the computer and programs that allow for GPS with other officers and the specific needs. Koob noted he had sent pictures to the Council for the decals for the car. This is \$435 for decals and \$150 to install with D & D Sales. Worley moved to have the decals purchases and installed with D & D Sales. Motion seconded by Wentz, carried unanimously. Mayor Flatness also noted that D & D Sales does the patches that are needed on the uniforms and coats. Worley moved to order twenty-five patches at \$7.00 each. Motion seconded by Meyer, carried unanimously.

Mayor Flatness noted the preparedness drill for the 28th, he has talked with the school and emergency agencies and all are on board for the realistic training. Mayor Flatness noted he would have more information and a sign up for volunteers.

Mayor Flatness stated that the perspective police officer candidate declined the offer. Mayor Flatness noted that ILEA will work with us on the spot reserved as we continue to look for an officer; also noting that Mason City has upped the ante as they are looking for officers as well and offering more in pay and benefits. Mayor Flatness stated this puts us between a rock and a hard spot with officers needed all over. Meyer stated he has been looking at this and with the changing culture and workforce he still feels we need an officer in town and have done due diligence in trying to find one, has put together a revised offer. Meyer proposed \$65,000 for a forty hour week, plus comp time, for ILEA certified officer with three weeks of vacation. Applicants could live up to thirty miles away and we would buy out a contract for an officer that is in the process of certification. Meyer stated for an uncertified applicant the proposed salary would be \$60,000 with the same benefits. Following discussion, Worley moved to raise the pay scale for a qualified applicant with ILEA certification to \$65,000.00 or \$60,000.00 for an uncertified qualified applicant, allowing three weeks' vacation, living within thirty miles of Rockwell and would buy out a contract from certification. Motion seconded by Meyer. Mayor Flatness asked for a roll call vote. Ayes; Meyer, Wentz, Worley, Koob, and Gauley. Mayor Flatness stated the motion carries unanimously. Mayor Flatness will get advertising out for this.

Koob noted the Chicken BBQ is Sunday, August 8th from 11:00-2:00.

Koob asked about the speed limit signs. Siefken noted they are in and are working on them. Koob also questioned if the toilet at the pool has been fixed. Hensley noted it is not.

Meyer questioned Siefken on his retirement, so we can be prepared for training and such. Siefken noted he will be here for another year.

Wentz asked about the pickup parked along Fourth Street South that has a flat tire and dented front quarter. Meyer stated it was a hit and run. Wentz also noted another un-registered vehicle to check on.

Worley told the Council that with city elections coming up, his term is ending this year and he will not be seeking re-election. Mayor Flatness also stated that he will not be seeking re-election. Gauley stated that she will not be seeking re-election either. Nomination papers can be filed in the Auditor's Office from August 23rd to September 16th.

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

Michael Flatness, Mayor

Lorna Weier, City Clerk