

September 1, 2021

Mayor Flatness called to order the regular meeting of the Rockwell City Council at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 1, 2021. All Council members were present. Also present was Jay Siefken with Dick Fridley via Zoom.

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

The following bills were presented for approval:

PUBLIC SAFETY

Electronic Engineering.....	Monthly Service.....	\$ 9.90
Cerro Gordo County Sheriff's Office .....	Gun.....	\$ 500.00
Active 911 .....	Annual Fee .....	\$ 14.00
Rockwell Coop Telephone Assn.....	Monthly billing .....	\$ 22.00
Stop and Shop .....	Gas .....	\$ 34.00
Total Public Safety.....		\$ 579.90

PUBLIC WORKS

Mid American Energy.....	Monthly billing .....	\$ 1878.73
Stop and Shop .....	Gas .....	\$ 352.12
Absolute Waste Removal.....	Monthly Service.....	\$ 5310.06
Floyd & Leonard Auto Electric .....	Supplies.....	\$ 98.00
Menards.....	Supplies.....	\$ 108.12
Jay Siefken .....	Cell Phone.....	\$ 30.00
Total Public Works .....		\$ 7777.03

PUBLIC WORKS ROAD USE

Fastenal .....	Supplies/Speed Bumps.....	\$ 158.06
John Ries Excavating.....	Haul Rock .....	\$ 222.24
Martin Marietta .....	Rock .....	\$ 493.22
Total Public Works Road Use.....		\$ 873.52

CULTURE AND RECREATION

Stop and Shop .....	Gas/Cemetery.....	\$ 133.76
Clear Lake Sanitary District.....	Water Testing/Pool .....	\$ 35.00
Total Culture and Recreation .....		\$ 168.76

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mid American Energy.....	Monthly billing/Memorial .....	\$ 29.59
Blanchard Tree Service.....	Tree Removal.....	\$ 19250.00
City of Rockwell.....	LGCC Water .....	\$ 31.22
Total Community and Economic Development .....		\$ 19310.81

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Rockwell Coop Telephone Assn.....	Monthly billing .....	\$ 33.53
Mid American Energy.....	Monthly billing .....	\$ 228.72
Wellmark Blue Cross .....	Monthly Premium Health Insurance..	\$ 2261.09
Bell's Fire Stop .....	Annual Fire Extinguisher Service.....	\$ 271.00
Mid-America Publishing.....	Publications.....	\$ 334.37
Total General Government .....		\$ 3128.71

BENEFITS LEVY

Wellmark Blue Cross.....	Monthly Premium Health Insurance..	\$ 904.42
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Total Benefits Levy.....		\$	904.42
<u>BUSINESS UTILITY WATER</u>			
Rockwell Coop Telephone Assn.....	Monthly billing .....	\$	63.95
Mid American Energy.....	Monthly billing .....	\$	462.55
Wellmark Blue Cross.....	Monthly Premium Health Insurance..	\$	3165.51
Menards.....	Supplies.....	\$	26.55
John Ries Excavating Inc.....	Water leak .....	\$	290.00
State Hygienic Laboratory .....	Water Test.....	\$	243.50
Eurofins.....	Water Test.....	\$	31.50
Hawking.....	Cylinder.....	\$	5.00
Postmaster.....	Water Bills .....	\$	170.00
Clear Lake Sanitary District.....	Water Testing.....	\$	70.00
UPS .....	Shipping Water Test .....	\$	24.26
Total Business Utility Water.....		\$	4552.82
<u>BUSINESS UTILITY SEWER</u>			
Postmaster .....	Postage .....	\$	56.20
DNR .....	Annual Fee .....	\$	210.00
Total Business Utility Sewer .....		\$	266.20

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

August Receipts: General \$9599.98; Road Use \$10482.08; Water Utility \$12105.51; Sewer Utility \$7239.52; Local Option \$16064.38; Debt Service Pool/Storm Water \$0; Storm Water \$2476.62; TIF \$0; EMS \$0; Benefits \$0.

Meyer reported on behalf of the Public Safety Committee that following several interviews, discussions and tough decisions the interview committee has made a conditional offer to Cody Brunstein for the Rockwell Police Chief position. This is conditional upon the MMPI testing and background check. As Brunstein is ILEA certified he was offered \$63,000.00 and we will buy out the remaining contract for this certification from his current employer. With discussion, Meyer moved to accept the agreement with Brunstein for the Police Chief position. Motion seconded by Wentz. Mayor Flatness asked for a roll call vote; Aye: Koob, Gauley, Meyer, Wentz and Worley. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Flatness stated he will follow up with the testing and background. Mayor Flatness stated that he looks forward to Brunstein in this position and feels it will be a good fit.

Mayor Flatness noted that the interview process for the public works position will begin this week.

Koob asked to review the current pay for Siefken and Weier, noting the increase in pay for new hires and the additional tasks. Koob noted we have employees with a significant amount of time here and feel they deserve a bump in wages as well, suggesting a \$1.00 an hour for each. Gauley agreed with the statements. Following discussion, Koob moved to increase the pay for Siefken and Weier by \$1.00 per hour in the next pay cycle. Motion seconded by Worley, carried unanimously.

Mayor Flatness reported that the crews working on the bridge are somewhat on schedule and the project will not be done until November. Worley asked about having 140<sup>th</sup> Street graded, it is

being used a lot and getting rough. Siefken will talk to the County about this.

Mayor Flatness stated that he had talked with Steve O'Neil during the rain storms, their consensus was to postpone the emergency preparedness drill. Mayor Flatness felt this is an important drill for the community to participate in. Koob asked if the south siren went off manually. Meyer noted he was at the fire barn that Friday night and they did not set off that siren, so it must have.

Mayor Flatness noted that the new police car is still in pieces, they are waiting on the camera system. Koob stated that D&D will be putting the decals on the car while it is in the shed at Electronic Engineer. Mayor Flatness also stated that he has picked up the gun from Cerro Gordo County Sheriff's Department.

Mayor Flatness reported that we have received word that the ARPA Non Entitlement Unit Funding will be coming through in a few weeks, the first payment will be \$73,766.72. Mayor Flatness stated that we have the fencing for the south water tower in the works and possibly fencing at the lagoon. Siefken noted that River City Fencing will be looking at the work for several areas.

Gauley asked how the Chicken BBQ went. Koob noted they have not yet tallied all the figures.

Mayor Flatness thanked the Public Safety Committee for the time and service to fill the police position. Worley stated he is excited to have a new officer with the new vehicle and all.

Gauley asked about using a split shift when hiring the new public works employee, feeling this may help with overtime. Meyer felt this is a good idea but with equipment involved it may be a safety issue since there are only be two employees and they would be working alone at times. Koob asked about a part time person to mow and do extras with summer work. Meyer felt a new position could be a certified pool manager that would also take care of the Linn Grove Rec area and could help with snow removal in the winter. Mayor Flatness felt this is a commendable idea. Meyer felt this is an idea to work with the new budget year.

Meyer noted a complaint about water standing on Main Street at the end of the new asphalt by the tracks. Siefken stated he had noticed that and will have Heartland look at this, probably won't be repaired until next season.

Siefken reported that he had a DNR water inspection and it went really well, everything is good.

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

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Michael Flatness, Mayor

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Lorna Weier, City Clerk