

MAYOR
Tim Stearns

"A valley
of
Friendliness"



COUNCIL MEMBERS
Adam Blackburn
Dave Mull
Kevin Pieters
Cory Schurman
Jon Schurman

The Steamboat Rock City Council met in regular session June 12, 2023, 6:30 p.m. in the City Council chambers. Present were Mayor Stearns and the following council members: Adam Blackburn, Kevin Pieters, Jon Schurman and Cory Schurman. Absent: Dave Mull. Also present were JJ Veld, Scott Williams, Dianne Haywood, and Bill Gross.

Mayor Stearns called the meeting to order. Pieters moved, seconded by C. Schurman to approve the posted agenda including moving Dianne up in the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Schurman moved, seconded by Blackburn to approve City bills as presented with some further discovery about the Midwest Wheel bill. Motion carried unanimously.

Public comments: None.

Library- no report C. Schurman moved to approve Library PO for \$194.93, seconded by J. Schurman, motion carried unanimously.

Fire Department – Chief Williams reported they had responded to 24 calls already this calendar year. The Fireman’s Breakfast at the Hardin County Conservation Lodge was well attended. J. Schurman moved to approve PO #s 96 & 97, Blackburn seconded, motion carried unanimously. Pieters abstained.

JJ Veld gave the City works report: Have identified 50% of a 12,000 gallon per day excessive water use source, but still seeking the source of the other 6000-gallon unusual usage. Plan to take the end loader to Ag Repair to get the brakes fixed. Discussion about where to take the Dump truck/snow plow for hydraulics and starter repairs. The large Ash tree next to the Shelter house is being taken down by Affordable Tree Service this week. Discussed what to do with the wood. Will contact Eric, Tom, & Travis. When Kelly retires as public works director in Eldora, the City of Steamboat Rock needs to find an Affidavit Operator, unless Kelly figures out how to be able to keep doing that service for us. Plan to replace the manhole in the 200 block of W Market St in late June.

Update on distressed properties: Mayor Stearns advised on the property at 208 3rd St, the IRS has agreed to file a release. Mayor Stearns will contact the owner of the properties at 308 6th St & 601 W Sycamore to find out his intentions to act within a limited time frame.

City insurance policy was discussed by our agent Dianne Haywood from the Brownhurst Agency. The City insurance is through EMC. EMC has dropped physical coverage on the entire old school house structure but maintained liability coverage. The policy went from individual coverage on City properties to blanket coverage with about 2 times the prior coverage even without the old school house structure. The entire insurance industry has taken steps such as this with all municipalities. Difficult to get the “re-insurance” investors on board with other deposit rates offering a higher return with less risk.

Road repairs: Discussion with Bill Gross from Blacktop Services who provided an estimate to patch 7 spots and put an average of ¾” hot mesh leveler on a strip 24 feet wide down the middle of West Market St from 3rd St to 8th St at a cost of \$45,000. No action taken.

Mayor Stearns provided information on account balances, but stated our financials are still being brought up to date by our interim City clerk and the fund balances are not yet available.

Nuisance Ordinance Update. final pending.

Municipal Infractions Ordinance Update. final pending.

Animal Control Code Ordinance Update. final pending.

Mayor Stearns reported on the periodic state Audit that is in process. State staff is collecting data and worked at City Hall one full day on June 7th, 2023. Estimate of exit review is second week in July.

Second day of the Spring Clean-up scheduled for Saturday June 17th. Discussion of the \$1000+- these cleanup days cost the City in terms of continuing in future years. The folks who have helped reported that many people are very thankful we have provided this service.

Mayor Stearns again requested input on where and how to advertise for a new City Clerk. Suggestion to post on INDEED. Blackburn offered to take a run at the wording of our ad.

Mayor Stearns reported the third engineering firm has not yet provided any documentation for the west side sewer project.

Mayor Stearns reported that the Hardin County secondary Road department plans to completely replace the culvert under West Main street in the 400 block. Expect the replacement to be completed in June 2023.

Mayor Stearns received information from City attorney Niederhoff that we need to set a special Public Hearing to vacate an ally. C.Schurman moved to set the date as Monday June 26,2023 at 6:30 pm. J. Schurman seconded, Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Stearns reminded the Council of the Iowa DNR 6th and final Steamboat Rock Dam removal public meeting to be held tentatively on July 13th, 2023 at the Hardin County Conservation Lodge.

Pieters moved to adjourn the meeting, C. Schurman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:01 pm.

Timothy A. Stearns, Mayor