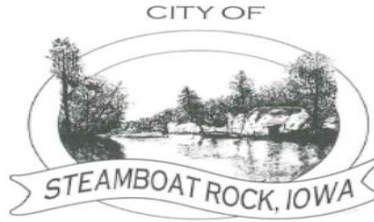


MAYOR
Tim Stearns

"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 on October 9, 2023, 6:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Stearns and the following council members: Adam Blackburn, Dave Mull, Kevin Pieters, Jon Schurman, and Cory Schurman. Also present Linda Whitt-Jensen, Melissa Johanson, James Green, JJ Veld, Mike Vandy, Jersey Flanagan, and Scott Williams.

Mayor Stearns called the meeting to order. C. Schurman moved, seconded by J. Schurman to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously. J. Schurman moved, seconded by Mull to approve the September 11, 2013 minutes. Motion carried unanimously. Pieters moved, seconded by C. Schurman the motion to approve City bills as presented with the addition of two other pending bills to DENCO and staff salaries. Motion carried unanimously. Mull moved, seconded by Cory to approve employee hours as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Public comments: Mull discussed repairs needed to raise a flag at the north entrance to the old school house. Mull will research and report in new business in November. Representatives from All Star Wrestling proposed a "family-friendly" event maybe 3 times per year in SBR gym. Mull to meet with representatives to consider any building maintenance and insurance requirements to hold the event(s) with information in November.

Library: Melissa Johanson, librarian, provided minutes of the last Library board meeting and agenda for the 10/11/23 meeting. Library planning a Halloween party and hand out hot dogs to the first 100 people. Blackburn offered additional hot dog provisions provided by Dollar General for this event. Council supported \$1600 fee for short year to Whoopla for subscription to digital books/audio books/magazines/music. Full year is \$2,000. Paid out of Library's book/movie purchase budget. Supports state book requirements.

Fire Department: Scott Williams, Fire Chief, reported we are presently in a burn ban. Fire hoses were all tested and passed. Windows on the south end of firehouse need repaired before winter. Two firefighters have left the department recently and presently the count is 12. Discussion about how to get the semi van trailer out of the overnight truck parking (fire department practice) area that has been there for two years. Owner has been asked multiple times to remove the trailer. Mayor Stearns will contact City attorney for advice. Request by resident for the fire department to be in attendance during a burn of a building already pushed into a hole. Fire department considers it to be uncomfortably close to another building on the property. Council agreed to have fire department attend fire at a fee if the fire appeared to be getting out of control.

Public Works Report: JJ Veld reported that ammonia levels have come down and are now at compliant levels. JJ Veld proposed developing a designated truck route to protect streets. Discussion about a 15 Ton embargo on all city streets with special permit and designated route for a loaded truck when necessary. JJ presented a annual pump maintenance contract in the amount of \$2100/inspection for discussion. Inspection is multipoint and includes pump flow rate and a multitude of other things that are required annually by the DNR. Follow up research pending. C. Schurman moved to use the contract if it is less cost for one inspection/year than what would be billed for a single inspection call. Seconded by Blackburn, motion carried unanimously. Linda asked if we could get our renters across the hall to reduce the noise level which is distracting to City business.

Distressed Properties – 208 3rd St: IRS guy that City Attorney Niederhoff needs to have sign off is back in his normal office and will call him again. 308 6th St & 601 W Sycamore St; Niederhoff will file suit against property.

Nuisance reports: none

Account balances were presented: Mayor Stearns noted that out of the \$149,536.37 balance in the General checking account: \$42,112.84 belonged to Water Fund, \$121,532.83 belong to Sewer fund, \$12,688.30 belong to Sanitation(garbage) fund. Leaves City operating balance at (\$26,797.60). A budget amendment will be required to transfer some other account balances to shore up the general operating account.

Mayor reviewed fund balances with water \$68,274.75, sewer \$235,973.96, and garbage \$20,313.19.

Old Business: Road repairs completed. Nuisance Ordinance update-no report. Municipal Infractions Ordinance-no report, Animal Control Code Amended Ordinance- Attorney Niederhoff stated the court case he had been waiting for to read the outcome is complete and he will be finishing up these ordinance updates. EMC Insurance policy requirements: long term lessee insurance requirements have been met, waiver system pending for other gym users. ICAP insurance is working on a quote for the City which should be complete in February 2024. State Auditor report pending. Motion to adopt Resolution #2023-11 for the Hardin County 5 year disaster Mitigation plan tabled pending discussion with Tom Creighton, Hardin County Disaster Coordinator. East Market St storm water mitigation project is complete except for the final grading after a rain. Mull reported \$7000.00/acre to purchase an acre of land from Shores is available to extend the sewer plant operations to the west. Mayor reviewed the highly restricted ARPA funds with remaining undesignated of \$12,741. Sewer plant land acquisition qualifies for ARPA \$. New Iowa Select food pantry will be filled by Iowa Select staff Payton Williams.

Mayor Stearns presented the money flow for the west side sewer project as we understand it today. C. Schurman moved, seconded by Mull the motion to approve hiring CGA Consultant Engineering firm for the west side sewer project. Motion carried unanimously.

New business: Discussion about an open Deer hunting season within the City limits determined to pose an unnecessary hazard. Favorable discussion about Saturday open gym for local children with the requirement of a responsible adult present. Discussion about installation of a grate over the north end of the new culvert under Main St, tabled until further safety research and costs are obtained.

C. Schurman moved, seconded by Mull, motion to go to Closed Session to discuss Personnel. Motion carried unanuously.

Pieters moved, seconded by Mull to re-open Open Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor's Comments: Water Code update pending before we begin to shut water off to properties with past due City bills.

Mull moved to adjourn, seconded by J. Schurman, motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Timothy A. Stearns, Mayor

Linda Whitt-Jensen, City Clerk