

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 August 14, 2023, 6:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Stearns and the following council members: Adam Blackburn, Dave Mull, and Jon Schurman. Absent were: Kevin Pieters and Cory Schurman. Also present Linda Whitt-Jensen, Craig Babcock, Michelle Kelley, Jim and Julie Green, Dianne Haywood, JD Holmes, and Scott Williams.

Mayor Stearns called the meeting to order. Blackburn moved, seconded by Mull to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously. Blackburn moved, seconded by J. Schurman to approve the minutes from July 10, 2023. Motion carried unanimously. J. Schurman moved, seconded by Mull the motion to approve City bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Blackburn moved, seconded by J. Schurman to approve employee hours as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Public comments: Property owners, James and Julie Green, 207 Madison St., SBR asked for alley abandonment update with city clerk to follow up. Michelle Kelley, 207 Madison St., requested legal and permitting requirements to convert a 2-stall garage into a market selling eggs and produce with other homemade products. City clerk to follow up and put on September agenda. Craig Babcock representing the Presbyterian Church, asked about using the school gym as a back-up for their annual community dinners to be placed on September's agenda. Mull moved, seconded by Blackburn to approve request for a permit to install fencing at 408 Madison St. SBR. Motion carried unanimously. Mull asked if the City would allow having a Deer Hunting season inside the City limits. Mull asked if the County will be placing a grate over the new culvert installed on Main Street.

Melissa Johanson submitted the minutes of the last Library board meeting.

Scott Williams, Fire Chief, reported that three members will attend fire convention in September located in Iowa Falls again this year. A life sized training dummy was donated to the department.

Public Works Report: Provided by Mayor Stearns: new well panel (\$4000-\$5000) and new sewer meter (\$1000) are ordered. The snow plow truck is at Shaun Rogers for repair.

Distressed Properties – Property owners, 308 6th St & 601 W Sycamore St, SBR were sent letter requesting property update no later than 09/1/2023.

Old Business: Dianne Haywood compared benefits between EMC Insurance versus Iowa Communities Assurance Pool (ICAP) with ICAP providing better coverage. Dianne left a packet for the City to begin filling out for a potential transition to ICAP. Mull moved, seconded by J. Schurman to approve a change to existing EMC policy to go from \$25,000 deductible down to \$5,000 deductible for a \$700 increase in premium. Motion carried unanimously.

Road Repairs – Road repairs are planned for later this week. Discussion about number of block-aids needed to keep traffic off Market St. Mayor Stearns presented bids for a storm-water drainage project which would protect the integrity of East market Street. Decision tabled until next meeting.

Nuisance Ordinance-no report. Municipal Infractions Ordinance-no report. Animal Control Code Amended Ordinance-no report.

New business: Mayor Stearns presented the proposed/ in process 5-yr. Disaster Mitigation Plan for the City to become part of the Hardin County Plan which would run through 2028. Council will need to be prepared to do a Resolution in September 2023. Mayor Stearns asked for discussion if the City needs to develop an Emergency Operation Plan.

The new/ additional food pantry provided by Iowa Select Farms is scheduled for installation during the last week of August.

Visionary Group will transplant 3 Oak trees to around the Shelter House in the park in the next couple months. Also thinking about transplanting a Spruce to that location.

Mayor Stearns asked the Council to think about the purchase an acre of land from Shores, west next to sewer plant. This purchase can be included in the west side sewer grant application and will allow us to accept fill to be piled there to be available for future sewer plant upgrades.

Mayor Stearns asked for further discussion and clarification about the gym lockers. City plans to keep those lockers for now.

Future development on the west side of the Iowa River; Discussion centered around annexation further west from the existing City Limits, providing water service to the west side residents, City park restoration, and street repairs. Generally council members were in favor of all those developments.

Mayors Comments: Audit exit review pending- not allowed to have a quorum at the meeting. Should have completed financial by next meeting. Nomination papers are due in to the County Auditors office by 5:00 pm on September 21, 2023.

Mull moved to adjourn, seconded by Blackburn, motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:22pm

Timothy A. Stearns, Mayor

Linda Whitt-Jensen, City Clerk