

Minutes City of Mechanicsville
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
December 9, 2019

The Mechanicsville City Council met in regular session on Monday, December 9, 2019 at City Hall. Mayor David Furry called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Council members present for roll call were Dee Taylor, Pam Cavey, Rob Davis, Amy Bishop, and Andrew Oberbreckling. Others present included Dirk Wieneke, Lonni Koch, Meredith Dehmer, Becky Wheeler, Colleen Svoboda, Margaret Glover, Fran Robinson, Donna Paup, Adam Paidar, Eric Dochterman, Pat Albaugh, and Tyler Bauer.

CONSENT AGENDA: Pam Cavey motioned, Andrew Oberbreckling seconded to approve the consent agenda including the agenda, minutes from 11/12/19, 11/15/19, 11/25/19; finance reports including the transfer of budgeted funds, and claims. Roll call vote: Ayes: Taylor, Cavey, Davis, Bishop, and Oberbreckling. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The claims approved were as follows:

FMCSA	OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICE	\$5.00
ACE HARDWARE	BLDG MAINT & REPAIR	\$28.91
AIRGAS NORTH CENTRAL	OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICE	\$77.90
ALLIANT ENERGY	ELECTRIC/GAS EXPENSE	\$6,511.61
AMAZON.COM	LIBRARY MATERIALS	\$582.38
BANKERS BANK	POSTAGE/SHIPPING	\$194.70
CAR QUEST AUTO PARTS	VEHICLE OPERATIONS	\$66.14
CEDAR COUNTY AUDITOR	PAYMENTS TO OTHER AGENCIES	\$761.44
CEDAR COUNTY SHERIFFS RESERVES	OTHER PROF SERV EXP	\$1,425.00
CEDAR COUNTY SOLID WASTE	PAYMENTS TO OTHER AGENCIES	\$1,188.00
CHASE	PRINTING & PUBLISHING EXP	\$753.00
CJ COOPER & ASSOCIATES INC	OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICE	\$60.00
CLARENCE LOWDEN SUN-NEWS & ADV	PRINTING & PUBLISHING EXP	\$73.20
COLLEN SVOBODA	OPERATING SUPPLIES	\$46.04
COPPESS, LINDA	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	\$30.00
CRESCENT ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO	BLDG MAINT & REPAIR	\$1,715.52
DORSEY & WHITNEY	LEGAL EXPENSE	\$3,500.00
ENTWISLE, ANGIE	JANITORIAL EXPENSE	\$330.00
FELD FIRE CO INC_	MINOR EQUIPMENT	\$125.00
FURRY, DAVE	MEETINGS & CONFERENCES	\$105.30
HI-LINE INC	OTHER SUPPLIES	\$33.24
IOWA ONE CALL	OTHER PROF SERV EXP	\$26.10
IOWA RURAL WATER	OTHER PROF SERV EXP	\$275.00
KOCH, DANIEL & YOLUNDA	TRAINING	\$248.54
KOCHS SERVICE & SUPPLY LLC	OPERATING SUPPLIES	\$493.69
LISBON-MT VERNON AMBULANCE	OTHER PROF SERV EXP	\$600.00
MCKILLIP, MARYSUE	TRAINING	\$383.54
MECHANICSVILLE GARDEN CLUB	OPERATING SUPPLIES	\$184.10
MECHANICSVILLE TELEPHONE CO	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	\$415.96
MT VERNON LISBON SUN	PRINTING & PUBLISHING EXP	\$136.00
OVESON REFUSE & RECYCLING LLC	OTHER PROF SERV EXP	\$3,150.00
QUAD COUNTY FIRE EQUIPMENT & F	COMMISSION SALE OF TRUCK	\$2,000.00
SANDRY FIRE SUPPLY LLC	MINOR EQUIPMENT	\$559.45

STATE HYGIENIC LABORATORY	OTHER PROF SERV EXP	\$1,855.00
TIPTON CONSERVATIVE & ADVERTIS	PRINTING & PUBLISHING EXP	\$439.76
US CELLULAR	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	\$95.63
WALLYS WELDING	BLDG MAINT & REPAIR	\$306.76
WALMART	OPERATING SUPPLIES	\$145.53
WENDLING QUARRIES INC	STREET MAINT EXP	\$53.98
PAYROLL	WAGES	\$13,531.83

Total Receipts and Disbursements for month of November by fund

Fund	Receipts	Disbursements
General	56,982.10	42,851.49
Road Use Tax	12,571.39	4,378.59
Employee Benefit	4758.59	2,500.82
Local Option Sales Tax	6,846.48	
Library Trust Fund	12.60	
Ambulance Trust	13,677.45	1,657.71
Fire Trust	4,900.00	
Debt Service	3,235.43	6,918.07
Water Utility	8,137.52	2,269.26
Sewer Utility	12,808.86	4,067.08
Solid Waste	10,934.40	6,767.73
Storm Water Utility	1,001.93	
Water Deposit	100.00	

Receive visitors/public comment: Margaret and Fran addressed the council regarding a storage shortage issue for Christmas decorations that are used in the Memorial Building. Pam will check to see if auxiliary storage room has space available.

REPORTS:

Garden Club/Flower Pot: Colleen Svoboda requested that city approve applying for a grant similar to last year to obtain 4 more flower pots for along the old Lincoln Highway. Amy Bishop motioned to secure the grant and utilize the city as the financial sponsor for 2020 similar to the 2019 grant. Dee Taylor seconded. Ayes all. Motion carried.

Library budget/annual report: Librarian Meredith Dehmer provided council with annual report on library activities and a recap of the updates that have been completed at the library including new flooring, fresh paint, replacing furniture and chairs, and the LED lighting. Libraries are trending to be fine free but still have replacement costs applied if material is lost or damaged. Review of the proposed budget reflected minimal changes.

Park Board Budget: Becky Wheeler presented a prioritized list for the park with identification of maintenance needs and proposed some activities for July 4th and potential movies in the park for the upcoming budget.

Ambulance Report: Ambulance had 20 calls for the month, with 202 calls YTD, 7 ALS calls, 7 BLS calls, 1 DOA, 1 A-4 tier, 1 Mutual aid with JCAS, 1 refusal and 2 cancel.

Assisted with welcoming NC Dance team home from State Competition. Pam Cavey motioned, Rob Davis seconded to approve the ambulance incentive payments for the year. Ayes all. Motion carried.

Fire Report: Fire had 9 calls with 5 being medical assist, 2 auto accidents, and 2 public service. Santa will be at fire station at 1 p.m. on December 21.

Police Report: Resumes that have been received to date were reviewed with 1 being selected for potential interview. Pam Cavey motioned, Amy Bishop seconded to have clerk contact regarding setting up a time for possible interview. Ayes all. Motion carried.

Public Works Report: Dirk reported running street sweeper, hauled out 2 loads of brush, hauled rock to an area on Crestview to fill in wash outs, proposed snow fence along sidewalk by school, got some pricing on pallet racking, and had log sheet for November and was directed to put in notebook, will retake water treatment on January 8, not able to take waste water class at Kirkwood until April.

Administration Report: Completed IDPH survey for information to be eligible to receive grant for an AED in police car, WB Roofing was here to check out MB roof leak, Keltec was called regarding dead battery in police car and provided information for the work around until officer is hired; Nuisance abatement for red van was resolved, grant for Veterans headstones was completed asking for \$2400, Phosphate pump quit on Friday ordered new one and Steve installed today; 1996 Dodge Fire truck was sold, 6 parking tickets issued for complaints on vehicles that had not moved; Community Foundation of Cedar County grant close out was completed, Alliant rebate form completed and received back for the library light project, and all Medicaid ambulance billings are required to be filed electronically, several days working on the training materials and establishing user ids to get access to the web portals. Answering machine is set to not record messages due to the messages are not clearly recorded on the machine making it unreliable for receiving messages.

Old business discussion and possible action on:

Input for Cedar County Great Places Grant 12/5 meeting: Feedback from attendance at meeting included one of the grant reviewers providing feedback on the original grant and going forward each represented community should bring the top 3 items related to arts, history, or culture from each community. The kiosk example discussed last month would not be a viable project on its own, but could potentially be tied with additional wayfinding signage or other arts, history, or culture projects. The walking trail could work too but would need some sort of art, history or culture incorporated along the trail. Council brainstormed and suggested incorporating the wandering path at Cruse Park with information or ties to the history of the canon and perhaps other history or art projects in the community. A second suggestion was an outdoor bandstand or stage area that could be utilized for music in the park. Coppess was asked to take these ideas back to the meeting in January.

Review of mowing agreement: Dee Taylor motioned, Pam Cavey seconded to approve the written agreement and present it for Steve's approval. Ayes all. Motion carried.

Third reading and adoption of Lawn Maintenance Ordinance: Rob Davis motioned, Dee Taylor seconded to approve the third reading of the Lawn Maintenance ordinance as follows:

LAWN MAINTENANCE

53.01	Definition.	53.03	Penalties
53.02	Noxious Weed and Grass Control	53.04	Methods of Service and Billing

53.01 DEFINITION. For use of this chapter, "parking" means that part of the street, avenue or highway in the City not covered by sidewalk and lying between the lot line and the curb line; or, on unpaved streets, that part of the street, avenue or highway lying between the lot line and that portion of the street usually traveled by vehicular traffic.

53.02 NOXIOUS WEED AND GRASS CONTROL. All property owners shall maintain or cause to be maintained, their property and the abutting parking area according to the following standards:

1. All property within the City, whether developed or vacant, shall be mowed anytime the grasses, noxious weeds pursuant to Section 317.1A of the Iowa Code, or brush reaches a height of ten (10) inches.
2. The mowing requirements of Section 53.02(1) above shall be completed by the first (1st) and the fifteenth (15th) day of each month for the months of May, June, July, August, September and October of each year.

53.03 PENALTY. Any person or entity violating the provisions of this Chapter shall be cause for the City or its agent to mow the property in question. All costs associated with the mowing shall be charged to the property owner. There shall be a minimum charge for one hour of work at the rate of \$100.00 per hour. Any property owner who fails to pay the charges of the City for the City's mowing of the property after being billed risks the assessment of those charges for collection with the real estate taxes assessed against the property as in the case of any other nuisance. In addition, persons or entities violating the provisions of this chapter may be cited with a municipal infraction citation.

53.04 METHODS OF SERVICE AND BILLING.

1. Annual publication of a summary of this ordinance shall serve as notice to all property owners.
2. If the City finds a property in violation of this chapter, it shall either (1) send one complimentary letter along with a copy of the published notice to the property

owner and occupant if different from the owner or (2) hang a door hanger on the door of the main entrance to the building giving notice that the property is not in compliance with the ordinance and of the consequences that may follow.

Whether by letter or by door hanger, the property owner and occupant if different from the owner shall be put on notice that immediate and continued compliance is required and that no additional or further notices are required

3. Any billings for mowing done by the City or their agents shall be sent by regular mail to the owner and occupant of the property if different from the owner and are payable within 30 days of billing date.

Ayes: Bishop, Cavey, Taylor, Davis, and Oberbreckling. Nays: None. Motion carried. Rob Davis motioned to adopt the ordinance, Dee Taylor seconded. Roll call vote: Ayes: Davis, Cavey, Taylor, Oberbreckling, and Bishop. Ordinance adopted.

Third reading and adoption of Grass Clipping Ordinance: Rob Davis motioned, Dee Taylor seconded to approve the third reading of **ORDINANCE NO. 309**

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 135 OF THE CITY CODE (STREET USE AND MAINTENANCE) TO ESTABLISH SEPARATE SECTION FOR PROHIBITION OF GRASS CLIPPINGS BEING BLOWN INTO ANY STREET OR GUTTER, CLARIFYING THAT THE CITY MAY ENGAGE THIRD PARTIES TO CLEAN UP GRASS CLIPPINGS AND PROVIDING FOR ADVANCE NOTICE TO OWNER OR OCCUPANT OF A PREMISES CAUSING GRASS CLIPPINGS TO BE BLOWN UNTO THE STREET OR GUTTER

WHEREAS Section 135.03 of the City Code currently deals with both placing debris in any street or alley and the blowing of grass clippings into any street or gutter; and,

WHEREAS this Council believes there should be a separate section dealing with grass clippings, that the City Code should be clarified to establish grass clipping cleanup work may be performed by third parties at the request of the City and that there should be advance notice published and given the owner or occupant of any premises causing grass clippings to be deposited or blown into any street or gutter before the City or its agent cleans up the grass clippings;

BE IT ORDAINED, THEREFORE, that Section 135.03 is amended by deleting therefrom all but the first sentence thereof.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that Chapter 135 is amended by adding thereto the following new section:

135.15 GRASS CLIPPINGS PROHIBITED. The owner or occupant of a premises shall ensure that grass clippings do not become deposited or blown unto any street or gutter. Any owner or occupant of a premises who causes grass clippings to be deposited or blown into any street or gutter shall remove and clean up the material immediately and in no event later than three (3) hours thereafter. If removal and cleanup is not completed within 3 hours, the City shall arrange for the work to be done with the entire cost thereof charged to the owner of the property,

which costs if not timely paid within 30 days shall be certified to the Cedar County Treasurer for collection with the real estate taxes for the premises just as in the case of the abatement of any other nuisance. Annually the City shall cause a notice to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the City summarizing the provisions of this section. Further, before cleaning up another's grass clippings, the City shall either (1) send one complimentary letter or (2) hang one door hanger on the door of the main entrance to the building warning the owner and occupant if different from the owner that future violations of the provisions of this ordinance will be enforced as called for by the ordinance without further notice. Violations of this ordinance may also subject the owner and/or occupant of the premises to the issuance of a municipal infraction citation.

Ayes: Bishop, Cavey, Taylor, Davis, and Oberbreckling. Nays: None. Motion carried. Rob Davis motioned to adopt the ordinance, Dee Taylor seconded. Roll call vote: Ayes: Davis, Cavey, Taylor, Oberbreckling, and Bishop. Nays: None. Ordinance adopted.

Community Revitalization & City financial/in-kind contribution: Amy Bishop presented information on the Malaby project and council reviewed options for in kind or financial contribution. There was potential need for removing dirt from basement floor and hauling it away with dump truck or other means. The use of tractor or city equipment is valued at approx. \$75/hour, however, retail value is generally between \$80 and \$120. Dee Taylor motioned, Amy Bishop seconded to commit \$7500 of in kind service towards the project for the preliminary grant application which is due January 20, 2020. Ayes all. Motion carried.

Holiday schedule: Dee Taylor motioned, Andrew Oberbreckling seconded to add ½ day holiday for Christmas Eve 12/24 and ½ day for New Year's Eve 12/31 and a full day each for Martin Luther King and for Columbus Day effective immediately. Ayes all. Motion carried.

Dental/Vision plan coverage: Information reviewed from Schroeder Insurance with the start dates being flexible with what council desired to do. Could be calendar year, could coincide with existing health plan, or could be another option. Most plans are calendar year though with annual deductibles. Consider baseline of compensation package. No action at this time.

New business discussion and possible action on:

Stop signs at X-40 and E First Street: Council considered the possibility of swapping the stop signs at this intersection to accommodate trucks from having to stop on the hill and to potentially slow down the east-west bound traffic on 1st Street. Some thoughts towards a possible 4-way stop as well. No motion or action taken.

Abstract of Votes: Cedar County abstract of votes cast at the election held on November 5th were as follows: Jennifer Lester, 98; Andrew Oberbreckling 101; Adam Paidar, 104; Rebecca Wheeler 79; scattering 7 and Jennifer, Adam, and Andrew were

declared duly elected. The votes cast to fill a Vacancy were Amy Bishop, 132 and scattering 1 and Amy declared duly elected.

Request for no parking on one side of E South Street at dead end: Residents along the street section were sent letters requesting their input were reviewed. Additional consideration on potentially relocating the mailboxes to 1 side of the street into a bank of boxes. The council agreed to remove the November 15-April 15 to make it all year if change is made. Dee Taylor will follow up with the post office and residents on the possibility of moving mail boxes to one side. The topic tabled until next meeting for further discussion.

Resolution 2019-17 setting date for public hearing on proposal to vacate and convey that portion of south Walnut Street lying south of E Cedar Street and lying between Lots D & E of Iroquois addition: Dee Taylor motioned, Rob Davis seconded to approve the resolution setting the date for public hearing on the sale of the property for January 6th at 6:00 p.m. Roll Call vote: Ayes: Davis, Cavey, Taylor, Oberbreckling, and Bishop. Nays: None. Resolution 2019-17 adopted.

Resolution 2019-18 setting salary for public works director (and for budget preparation): Dee Taylor motioned, Rob Davis seconded to approve Resolution 2019-18 setting the wage for the public works director. Roll call vote: Ayes: Davis, Cavey, Taylor, Oberbreckling, and Bishop. Nays: None. Resolution 2019-18 adopted. Clerk was directed to use a 3% wage increase for determining salaries for 2021 budget.

Appoint Chris Weber to Library Board: Amy Bishop motioned, Dee Taylor seconded to appoint Chris to the Library board. Ayes all. Motion carried.

Power point material for IPIB training: Mayor and Council received the power point slides in the form of a printed handout with their packet. Each member was asked to acknowledge that they received and read the training material as documentation to support compliance with the complaint filed by Donna Paup.

Snow plow street priority list: Council reviewed the policy on the order in which the streets are plowed. No changes at this time. Amy requested sand/salt be applied on S. John Street and E 1st Street.

Notice to property owner for removal of bush at corner of W Cedar and S Monroe due to visibility issue: Mayor Furry reported talking with property owner who assured him it would be taken care of.

Closed meeting information: If issues come up in the future regarding topics discussed during closed meetings, council was made aware that the recordings of those meetings are required to be sealed and remain sealed unless opened by court of law. It would take an attorney opinion as to whether information should be shared with new council persons.

Appoint Planning and Zoning to fill vacancy: Person who had volunteered withdrew application. Position still open.

Request to extend probation: Wieneke provided information on testing schedule and availability of classes at Kirkwood in Cedar Rapids, Dee Taylor motioned, Rob Davis seconded not to extend the probation date. Ayes: Taylor and Davis. Nays: Bishop, Oberbreckling, and Cavey. Motion failed. Pam Cavey motioned, Andrew Oberbreckling seconded to let new public works director work with Wieneke for 30 days and reevaluate request at January 6 meeting. Ayes all.

Correspondence: Hazard Mitigation plan meeting will be December 19 at 6 p.m. at fire station in Tipton.

Set next meeting date: 01/06/20 6:00 p.m.

Mayors Comments: Mayor Furry extend his thanks and appreciation to Rob and Pam for their years of service on the council.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, council member Pam Cavey motioned, Rob Davis seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 p.m. Ayes all. Meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:

Linda K. Coppess, MMC

David L. Furry, Mayor