

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE DAVENPORT CITY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 9, 2020**

ROLL CALL

Mayor Brad Sweet called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Council Members present were, Heath Becker, Patrick Katz, Nathan Hansen, Cory Hollis, Lance Strite, and Theresa Telford.

Absent: Chris Ruiz

Patrick Katz made a motion to excuse Chris Ruiz from the meeting. The motion was seconded by Nathan Hansen. The motion carried.

Also present were, Fred Bell, Jo Borden, Josh Dehler, Stephanie Dunn, Jade Jahn, Jamie Henneman, Steve Goemmel, Lacy Gustafson, Scott Hutsell, Jessica Smith, Kelly Watkins, Gary Sather, Tabitha Siegert, Brian Telford, and Sabrina Warwick.

***The meeting was conducted through digital media due to the novel corona virus pandemic and the City Council met at Memorial Hall.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Lance Strite made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 26, 2020 meeting. The motion was seconded by Heath Becker. The motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

None.

POLICE REPORT

No Report.

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

. No Changes.

COMMENT / SIGN IN

Scott Hutsell signed in to address the City Council. Scott told the City Council that he lives at 1700 4th Street in Davenport. He is a lifelong resident of Davenport. Scott asked the City Council why they were considering starting a Davenport PD. He chronicled the 20- years of successful contracting with the City of Davenport for law enforcement services. He commented that there could only be four reasons for the City Council to start their own police department. Cost, citizen complaints, response times, or the city wanting more control of service levels and staffing. Scott pointed out that the start up budget is more than the current contract with Lincoln County. He went on to say that no citizen complaints are reflected in the city council minutes and that Sherriff's Department provides good response times and services for the citizens of Davenport. Scott urged the City Council to continue the 20-year tradition of contracting with Lincoln County for law enforcement services.

Gary Sather signed in on Zoom. Gary told the City Council that he thinks the Lincoln County Sheriff's Deputies do a great job. He urged the City Council to continue contracting with Lincoln County for law enforcement services. He commented that it seems like the city is unprepared to start their own department.

Mayor Sweet asked for more comments or questions. There were none.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No Reports.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Sweet told the City Council that a big branch fell on the bridgeway to the city park and damaged it. He said, "we have it closed off until we can make sure it's safe for people to use."

The Mayor thanked all the State and local firefighters who are battling the Whitney Road fire which is burning in the Davenport area. The Mayor told The City Council that the DNR firefighters are using the Lincoln County Fair Grounds as a staging area. Their helicopters and planes are using the airport.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Resolution 2020-20 Supporting the Reestablishment of the City Police Department. Mayor Sweet asked the City Council to consider this resolution which would reestablish a City police department. The Mayor asked for questions or comments on this resolution. Cory Hollis commented that he felt like if the City has their own police department, the chief needs to live in town. Cory also wondered what role Reardan Police Chief Andy Manke is playing in these negotiations. Lance Strite replied that he went to Reardan to observe their operation and he questioned the Chief on how they operate.

Nathan Hansen wondered why we were looking for a police chief before we had established our own department. Lance Strite told Nathan that the Committee wanted to see if there was interest in the position if we decided to go that way. He said, "asking for letters of interest is a very common employment practice in police departments, fire departments, and for EMS departments". Nathan asked City Clerk Dave Leath to check the minutes of the previous meeting to see if establishing the list was mentioned to the full City Council.

Patrick Katz assured the City Council that the City would not be left without coverage if we started our own department.

Cory Hollis asked how the dispatch fees would be handled if we start our own department. Scott Hutsell told the City Council that Lincoln County Commissioner Rob Coffman did the math to come up the fees for the City if they contract with Lincoln County. Lance Strite commented that the calculation for Davenport would be \$63 a call and the State kicks in some money which should reduce it to \$42 a call.

Lance Strite made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-20. The motion was seconded by Patrick Katz. Lance Strite, Patrick Katz, and Heath Becker voted for the motion. Cory Hollis, Theresa Telford, and Nathan Hansen voted against the motion. The vote was 3-3. Mayor Sweet announced that the motion failed due to the lack of a tiebreaking vote. The Mayor commented that he wanted to put the resolution on the agenda for the next meeting so the whole City Council could vote on it.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Resolution 2020-19 Authorizing the Purchase of City Property.

City Administrator Steve Goemmel told the City Council that this resolution is to approve the sale of City property legally known as Block 87 of Columbia Addition to the City of Davenport. This parcel is more commonly known as 100 Morgan Street or Lyons Park. Mayor Sweet suggested that the City Council do a second reading of this resolution because the purchaser hasn't sent the City a redrafted proposal that includes a first right of refusal clause that would allow the City to retain ownership of the parcel if it's not used for a retail space. The City Council agreed in principle to sell the land but agreed to wait until they see the final sales agreement before voting on this resolution.

2. Resolution 2020-21 Establishing the Methods of Distribution of Covid-19 Related Grant Funding.

City Administrator Steve Goemmel told the City Council that this resolution allows the City to give some of its unused Covid 19 money to the Lincoln County Economic Development Council. The money will then be distributed to local businesses who are in need and apply for it.

Lance Strite made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-21. The motion was seconded by Nathan Hansen. The motion carried.

APPROVAL TO PAY BILLS

Patrick Katz made a motion to pay Claims/Vouchers #16854- #16884 in the Amount of \$87,281.78 and Payroll/Claims Vouchers #16821- #16852 in the Amount of \$71,459.25. The motion was seconded by Lance Strite. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Theresa Telford made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Lance Strite. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

David M. Leath
City Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor Brad Sweet