

Belle Plaine, Iowa

July 15, 2020

The Belle Plaine City Council met on July 15, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Dave Fish presiding in the council chambers. Council members who answered roll call were Mitch Malcolm, Mary Pech, Judy Schlesselman, and Mark Tegeler. Garrett Landuyt arrived at 6:26 p.m. Also attending were City Administrator Stephen Beck and City Clerk Jacki McDermott. The meeting was also displayed on Belle Plaine Parks and Rec Facebook page. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Pech, seconded by Malcolm to approve the Consent Agenda, the Special Council Minutes of June 29, 2020, the Council minutes of July 1, 2020, receiving and filing of the minutes from the June 23, 2020 Belle Plaine Community Library Board of Trustees meeting and bills received. On roll call vote, all voted Aye, motion carried.

Resident Comments: none.

The Mayor opened the public hearing on a proposal to enter into a General Obligation Refunding Loan Agreement and to borrow money thereunder in a principal amount not to exceed \$1,275,000. Heidi Kuhl from Northland Securities was present to explain to the Council about the refunding bond. No one appeared for or against the matter and the Mayor closed the public hearing at 6:12 p.m.

Motion by Malcolm, seconded by Tegeler to approve Resolution 20-07-03: A Resolution taking additional action on a proposal to enter into a General Obligation Refunding Loan Agreement and authorizing the use of a preliminary official statement in connection therewith. On roll call vote, all voted Aye, motion carried.

Morgan Mitchell sent a written report from Belle Plaine Community Development Corporation that told about the Iowa Fiber Mill, which had a grand opening recently, and other activities that she has attended.

Kris Hudson sent a written police report.

The City Clerk reported that the end of the year reports are being prepared and that the City Administrator has a meeting with the solar company to explain the solar bills.

Motion by Tegeler, seconded by Landuyt, to approve Resolution 20-07-02 a resolution raising the reserve police officers' hourly rate to the same rate as a beginning police officer, which is currently \$19.93. On roll call vote, all voted Aye, motion carried.

Motion by Schlesselman, seconded by Landuyt to approve the first reading of Ordinance 70: an ordinance amending the Code of Belle Plaine, Iowa, by amending provisions pertaining to traffic code enforcement procedures. Parking fines will increase to \$25 and \$10 extra after 30 days. On roll call vote, all voted Aye, motion carried.

Motion by Landuyt, seconded by Malcolm, to approve Resolution 20-07-04 a resolution transferring funds. On roll call vote, all voted Aye, motion carried.

The Committee of the Whole discussed which paper should be recognized as the official newspaper for the City of Belle Plaine. The Star Press Union has 473 subscriber copies and 88 single copies; however, it is not known at this time how many are from the City of Belle Plaine. The Hometown Current has 1614 total subscriptions with 80 of those being from Belle Plaine. More information will be gathered.

Stephen Beck, City Administrator, told the council that he had a recent meeting with Housing 360 about marketing and matching loans to houses. He told the council that sewer operator Nick Viall has started working for the City of Cedar Rapids. Viall trained on first shift last week and is now on 3rd shift so he is able to spend time in Belle Plaine now. Beck has a training session planned for Public Works staff. He also told the Council about issues with mowing at Belle Plaine Village and how he worked with them to correct the problems.

The time for submitting a historic RFP for the Herring Hotel is drawing to an end. There has been zero interest in historic restoration. The next step will be a RFP for possible historic and new uses, which Beck will draft with the city attorney. The Council also urged Beck to find out the timelines on Iowa demolition grants.

Mayor Dave Fish reported that he has a landfill meeting tomorrow night. He reported that the East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) obtained a four-million-dollar economic development grant and he will be inquiring about the details. He reported that Benton Development Group will meet the last week of July in the first live meeting since March. He asked the City Administrator, Al Dvorak from Public Works, and one council member to sit on the hiring committee for a new sewer operator with him. Beck is sending a letter to operators in the state. Since Nick Viall is still working, the city might hire someone who is coachable and can learn. He asked Steve Beck to work on a RFP for a housing inspector.

He reported that he will call ECICOG about the composting program and that mosquitos have been sprayed once and they will spray again.

Old Business: None. Correspondence: None.

Motion by Tegeler to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Landuyt. On roll call vote, all voted Aye. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Dave Fish, Mayor

Attest: _____
Jacki McDermott, City Clerk

Transcribed by the City Clerk subject to Council approval