

MARCH 3, 2021

Mayor Flatness called to order the regular meeting of the Rockwell Council meeting at 7:00 p.m. Council members present were Wentz and Worley with Koob and Gauley via phone. Also present were Tom Hensley, Jay Siefken, Chief Whitney and Dick Fridley via Zoom.

Wentz moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion seconded by Worley, carried unanimously.

The following bills were presented for approval:

PUBLIC SAFETY

Electronic Engineering.....	Monthly Service	\$51.75
Cerro Gordo County Sheriff	Monthly Software	\$30.00
US Cellular.....	Police Phone	\$109.27
Rockwell Coop Telephone Assn.....	Monthly billing	\$92.08
Wellmark Blue Cross.....	Monthly premium health insurance	\$2261.09
Stop and Shop	Gas Jan/Feb	\$347.41
Total Public Safety		\$2891.60

PUBLIC WORKS

Mid American Energy.....	Monthly billing	\$1853.58
Stop and Shop	Gas Jan/Feb	\$325.14
Absolute Waste Removal.....	Monthly Service	\$5057.20
Bergo Environmental	Asbestos Test	\$675.00
DNR Environmental Dept.....	Demo Permit	\$100.00
LeDoux Signs.....	Decal/Pickup	\$95.00
Jay Siefken	Cell Phone	\$30.00
Tom Hensley	Cell Phone/Clothing	\$74.91
Total Public Works.....		\$8210.83

PUBLIC WORKS ROAD USE

Wellmark Blue Cross.....	Monthly premium health insurance	\$4522.18
Stop and Shop	Gas Jan/Feb	\$963.43
O'Reilly.....	Supplies	\$118.30
Total Public Works Road Use.....		\$5603.91

CULTURE AND RECREATION

Wellmark Blue Cross.....	Monthly premium health insurance	\$2261.09
Total Culture and Recreation.....		\$2261.09

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mid American Energy.....	Monthly billing/Memorial	\$33.91
Wellmark Blue Cross.....	Monthly premium health insurance	\$904.42
Rockwell Public Library	Monthly payment	\$3833.33
Total Community and Economic Development		\$4771.66

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Rockwell Coop Telephone Assn.....	Monthly billing	\$103.36
Mid American Energy.....	Monthly billing	\$596.37
Postmaster.....	Annual Box Fee	\$96.00
Huntbatch Insurance.....	Renewal policy	\$134.00
Webwise Solutions Inc.....	Hosting	\$240.00
Larry Wentz.....	Computer	\$564.27
Mid-America Publishing.....	Publications	\$126.44
Total General Government.....		\$1860.44

DEBT SERVICE STORM WATER

Nuehring Concrete Inc.....	Storm Water Project	\$1588.48
Total Debt Service Storm Water.....		\$1588.48

BUSINESS UTILITY WATER

Mid American Energy.....	Monthly billing	\$537.71
Stop and Shop	supplies	\$10.54
Hawkins, Inc.....	Chemicals	\$5.00
NuWay-K&H.....	LP/Towers	\$105.28
Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities.....	Membership Dues	\$683.00
Eurofins.....	Water Test	\$63.00
Postmaster.....	Water Bills	\$148.68
Total Business Utility Water.....		\$1553.21

BUSINESS UTILITY SEWER

Menards.....	Supplies	\$81.91
Stevens Water Monitoring System.....	Cartridge/Lagoon	\$79.08
Don's Auto Service.....	Police/Sewer Jetter repair	\$149.90
Total Business Utility Sewer.....		\$310.89

Wentz moved to approve the bills as presented. Motion seconded by Worley, carried unanimously.

February Receipts: General \$11843.31; Road Use \$9081.21; Water Utility \$9698.99;

Sewer Utility \$6456.15; Local Option \$13690.29; Debt Service Pool/Storm Water \$1065.89;

Storm Water \$2398.14; TIF \$717.93; EMS \$37.68; Benefits \$150.74

Mayor Flatness stated that the Council needs to discuss if the summer events should take place this year. With discussion, Wentz moved to tentatively proceed with all of the planned summer activities as to conform with the County and State guidelines that may be in place at the time of the event. Motion seconded by Worley, carried unanimously.

Mayor Flatness stated that he has tentatively set up a disaster exercise with Steve O'Neill towards the end of the summer.

Mayor Flatness stated that an unusual opportunity has arisen with the

availability of a Police Interceptor at Mason City Ford. After looking at this vehicle and talking with Pritchard's Lake Chevrolet, Mayor Flatness presented information and bids from Mason City Ford and Pritchard's Lake Chevrolet for a new Police vehicle along with this is the up fit for the equipment in the car as well as new car camera and body camera. Wentz noted that Mason City Ford is a lower bid and has the vehicle on the lot and Pritchard's would have to order. Koob questioned if a new squad car is needed, what do we have to justify a new car, we should look at the call volume and residents feeling an Officer is not needed in town before spending \$50,000 on a vehicle. Worley stated that a few months ago we discussed having a second officer, now we don't need one? Koob stated that he is not comfortable making a decision on a vehicle tonight and feels we need more to justify the expenditure and so moved to table the purchase of a car. Gauley seconded, motion carried.

Mayor Flatness stated that Chief Whitney has asked to purchase stop sticks at a cost of \$493. Wentz asked if these are needed. Chief Whitney noted that he had one time in his years here that he could have used them, but that need could happen anytime. Koob noted that he was surprised that we do not have them; they would be good if a high speed situation was coming into town. Wentz moved to table this along with the other equipment and vehicle. Motion seconded by Worley, carried unanimously.

Chief Whitney stated that the training he had previously discussed is May 25-28 at a cost of \$135.00 for the conference and \$106 a night for a room. Chief Whitney noted they did not have an itinerary yet but would cover training needed. Koob noted other training requirements coming into effect and felt we should make sure these are covered and asked that he check with Sheriff Pals to see what might be on the itinerary and cost of other training. Mayor Flatness noted that conferences also offer opportunities to network with other like employees. Worley stated he will work with Chief on this for the next meeting.

Mayor Flatness asked the Council if they want to pursue the tobacco free policy as presented at the previous meeting. Worley feels this is a good idea but doesn't feel this will be easy to enforce with the County Park and school grounds. Mayor Flatness stated this will provide signage and making it visible will be a good reminder. Following discussion, Wentz moved to pursue the tobacco free/nicotine free policy with Cerro Gordo County Department of Health. Motion seconded by Gauley, carried unanimously.

Weier presented a request from the Mason City Kennel Club requesting to rent the community center for their obedience classes this spring. Worley did not feel the room would allow for adequate space and so moved to not allow at this time. Motion seconded by Gauley, carried unanimously.

Worley asked if Chief Whitney has had any speeding complaints on Elm Street. Chief Whitney noted he has not, but would check on getting the speed trailer to place around town for a few days.

Mayor Flatness noted that the weather is getting nicer and the construction of the bridge on Highway 65 could start at any time and we need to be prepared for the official and unofficial detour from this. Mayor Flatness noted the Council put the five ton embargo on First Street from South to North and that will still be enforced. Siefken asked about using the gravel road, if the County would rock and oil the road it would save some traffic on First Street South. Worley also felt this would be a good option.

Wentz asked if there is a time line on the nuisance house. Mayor Flatness noted the demolition permit has been sent in. Siefken stated that Ries has this project first one on their list, when conditions are fit. Mayor Flatness noted the tree would be trimmed after the house is cleared.

Koob reported that they had a pool board meeting and noted they plan to open, there is work to finish yet from the projects being done. Koob also noted they have been contacting previous guards and there is an application available on the City website, Sarah Staudt will return as the manager. Wentz asked if they have a tentative date for opening. Koob noted they will tentatively shoot for Memorial Day, as in the past. Hensley asked if there will be another person with their CPO license. Koob will look into this.

Worley stated that he has been looking at things for the 150th celebration and has a list of parade entries and would like someone to chair the parade.

Wentz noted that Elm Street is getting pretty beat up. Siefken agreed, and they will be working on patching. Worley also noted Third Street South and feels it should be closed for the block that is so bad, as has been discussed before.

Siefken stated that he has talked with a representative from Hawkins about an alarm for the chlorine room at the water tower, as a safety feature. Siefken also stated that he and Hensley have talked about keeping the red pickup for jobs like fixing potholes, picking up branches and such that would beat up the new pickups. Council felt this was a good idea.

Mayor Flatness noted the thank you note from Penny McCaslin with Cerro Gordo County Department of Health for allowing her to present at the meeting.

With no further business, Wentz moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Worley, carried unanimously.

Michael Flatness, Mayor
Lorna Weier, City Clerk