**SPECIAL SESSION**

March 1, 2021

The City Council of Essex met in special session in the Community Room, Essex City Hall at 6:00 PM with Mayor Durfey presiding. Council members present: Correll, Gay, Franks and Kinney. Absent: Wenstrand City Clerk Ohnmacht was also present. The public attended through the electronic means of Zoom.

The Agenda was approved. Motion by Gay, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

Public Hearing: Maximum Proposed Property Tax Levy Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022 was opened by Mayor Durfey.

No written or oral comments or objections were received. The public hearing was closed.

Approved Resolution No. 2021 – 08: Adoption of Maximum Property Tax Dollars for affected property tax levies - $250,574. Franks motioned, Kinney seconded. Ayes: Correll, Franks, Gay, Kinney. Nays: None.

Motion to adjourn at 6:03 PM by Gay, second b Correll. Ayes: All.

Marian V. Durfey, Mayor

ATTEST:

Mary A. Ohnmacht, City Clerk

**REGULAR SESSION**

March 10, 2021

The City Council of Essex met in regular session. In order to help stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus, this meeting of the Essex City Council was held electronically.  Chapter 21.8 of the Iowa Code does permit an electronic meeting where all members participate remotely when an in-person meeting is impossible or impractical, which is certainly true during this crisis.  On March 19, 2020, Governor Reynolds issued a Proclamation of Disaster Emergency which included a suspension of Iowa laws that would prevent the use of electronic meetings or the limitation on the number of people present at an in-person meeting site.  Mayor Marian Durfey, councilpersons Correll, Franks, Gay, Kinney, and Wenstrand; City Attorney Sorensen, City Clerk Mary Ohnmacht were present at Essex City Hall. Speakers present were: City employees Mark Marriott, Kelly Morehouse and Chris Sokolowski; ECC members: Cole & Heather Thornton and Cassie Lundgren; and JEO Engineer Blake Birkel. The public attended through the electronic means of Zoom.

Mayor Durfey called the meeting to order and roll call was taken showing the following members of the Council present or absent. Present: Correll, Franks, Gay, Kinney, and Wenstrand.

The Agenda was approved. Motion by Kinney, second by Correll. Ayes: All.

Public Comments: Lori Johnson requested moving the bandstand update up the agenda to go with the presentation that Dr. Wells would be giving.

Public Hearing: Budget Estimate for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2021 – Ending June 30, 2022 was opened by Mayor Durfey.

No written or oral comments or objections were received. The public hearing was closed.

Approved Resolution No. 2021 – 13: Resolution Adopting the Annual Budget for the Fiscal Year 2021 – 2022. Franks motioned, Wenstrand seconded. Ayes: all.

Public Hearing: Resolution No. 2021 – 10: Interim Loan for Water Study was opened by Mayor Durfey.

No written or oral comments or objections were received. The public hearing was closed.

Approval Resolution No. 2021 – 10: Interim Loan for Water Study. Motion by Gay, second by Wenstrand. Ayes: All.

Third reading Resolution No. 2020 – 34: Amendment of Chapter 40.03 2. Noise Control. Motion to approve by Gay, second by Franks. Ayes: Correll, Franks, Gay, Wenstrand. Nays: Kinney. Motion carried 4-1.

Motion to adopt Ordinance Amendment Chapter 40.03 2 Noise Control by Gay, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

Alexsis Fleener from Southwest Iowa Planning Council (SWIPCo) discussed grant opportunities for the Opera House and East Gym projects.

Danielle Briggs from SWIPCo updated the Council on the Comprehensive Plan. She is hoping to have a community meeting in April or May. The goal is to have the Plan done by Labor Day.

Mike Wells presented the sharing of a maintenance person with the City. Attorney Sorensen will be doing research for a 28E Agreement. Dr. Wells presented the school’s request to acquire a city owned lot on Iowa Avenue and build a restaurant. He also presented plans for painting the bandstand at the park. These items will be on the April Agenda.

Cassie Lundgren and Heather Thornton presented their ideas and some requests for Labor Day. Attorney Sorensen will look into the ordinances for alcohol at the bull riding event.

Blake Birkel, the engineer from JEO, presented finding from the water study. The study is almost complete. Motion to approve the tentative study and have JEO submit to DNR made by Gay, seconded by Kinney. Ayes: All.

City Clerk Ohnmacht updated the Council on the Rural Fire agreements. All townships agreed to the 1 year extension of the current agreement.

Acceptance of monthly police report: February 7, 2021 – March 6, 2021. Franks motioned, second by Wenstrand. Ayes: All.

Acceptance of delinquent utilities report. Motion by Gay, second by Kinney. Ayes: All.

Dumpster rentals were discussed. Attorney Sorensen will draft a resolution for the April meeting.

The Opera House was discussed. Kinney proposed that the City take care of the foundation, electrical and plumbing work. He will coordinate with Sorensen to create a bid sheet and work to have bids for the April meeting.

Proposal for Cemetery Information Management System was tabled until the April meeting to allow the Cemetery Board time to review the proposal.

Proposal to enter into contract with SOCS for city website. Motion to accept by Franks, second by Kinney. Ayes: All.

Approval of Resolution 2021 – 12: 28E Agreement with Page County Conservation for Sharing and Exchange of Equipment. Motion by Kinney, second by Wenstrand. Ayes: All.

Approval of Resolution 2021 – 09: Authorizing of Destruction of Certain City Records. Motion by Franks, second by Kinney. Ayes: All.

Approval of Resolution 2021 – 11 IMFOA Institute Support. Motion by Gay, second by Wenstrand. Ayes: All.

Approval of resignation of Ann Albert from Library Board with thanks for service. Motion by Franks, second by Gay. Ayes: All.

Building Permit compensation for second review to be set at $15. Motion by Gay, second by Franks. Ayes: All.

The Council reviewed correspondence from Iowa DOT.

Discussion on sidewalk clearing of snow. Will need to amend ordinance by resolution. To be put on April agenda.

Sorensen updated the Council on the work being done on the annexation west of town.

The Council set city wide garage sales for June 11th and 12th. City wide clean-up will be June 18th and 19th. Clean up will be comprised of roll off dumpsters on Airport Road. If citizens are in need of assistance they will be asked to contact City Hall.

A newsletter will be prepared by the Mayor and City Clerk. It will include asking for ideas for the Time Capsule. Labor Day was set as the time to retire it.

Work orders were approved. Motion by Gay, second by Wenstrand. Ayes: All.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Minutes: February 10, 2021, February 17, 2021, March 1, 2021; Treasurer’s Report: February 28, 2021; Abstract of Claims: February 11, 2021 – March 10, 2021. Motion by Wenstrand, second by Correll. Ayes: All.

Nuisances were discussed. Sorensen will check into a few vacant properties.

Franks inquired about the snow emergency parking and yield sign patrol on Nebraska Avenue. Mayor Durfey will be checking on those.

Adjournment at 8:51 PM. Franks motioned, second by Correll. Ayes: All.

Mayor Marian V. Durfey

ATTEST:

City Clerk, Mary A. Ohnmacht