

Minutes
City of Griswold
Regular Council Meeting
Council Chambers, April 21, 2009 6:00 p.m.

The Griswold City Council met in regular session at City Hall. Mayor Putnam called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Council present: Wyman, Carlisle, Rink, Bergstrom, Shields.

Motion by Rink to approve the agenda after removing items 3b and 5b and moving item 6b to after the consent agenda; seconded by Shields. Approved 5-0.

Mayor Putnam made a statement informing the public that the city does not have the audit report. There will be an exit conference for the council some time in May and the report will be available to the public in June.

Rink requested to have the claim from Iowa Workforce Development removed from the claims list for discussion. The claim is a request for unemployment benefits by Mitch Kline. Rink feels the city should file an appeal. Shields questioned if there was ever a hearing and if the city was represented. Clerk Ridlen said she participated in a telephone hearing and gave the information from the hearing to the committee members. Wyman apologized for not forwarding this on to the other council members, and Workforce Development's decision was that the city is responsible for the benefits. Shields asked what reason Mitch gave for quitting, as this could be an argument for appeal. Clerk Ridlen said she did not know without looking at the documentation. Motion by Rink to have Shields review the documentation and contact Iowa Workforce Development on the city's behalf; seconded by Wyman. Approved 5-0.

Motion by Wyman to approve the following items under the Consent Agenda:

- a. Claims with the exception of the claim from Iowa Workforce Development.
- b. March Treasurer's financial report.

Seconded by Rink. Approved 5-0.

Jon Bruning. Mr. Bruning asked if the city clerk has paid the money back. When Mayor Putnam responded yes, Mr. Bruning questioned if that was not an admission of guilt and if so why is nothing being done. Shields said he was speaking only for himself but the purpose of the audit is to find out if anything was taken, was something done wrong and what that amount is. He feels a decision should be based on all the facts and that is what they will do when the audit is complete.

Water Department. Written report submitted by Water Supt. Jipsen. Jipsen presented a quote from Feldhacker Contracting for pothole repairs. The price is the same as last year at \$1,800 for 10-ton of material including labor. About half a dozen areas have come back out due to the moisture and several areas were missed last year. Motion by Carlisle to hire Feldhacker Contracting to repair the potholes at \$1,800 for 10-ton of material and labor; seconded by Wyman. Approved 5-0.

Shields asked Jipsen to contact the State regarding the no parking signs in need of replacing along Highway 92.

Jipsen reported that Cahoy Well and Pump Service have inspected the west well house. The pump is in bad shape and the casing is rusted through. Pump repairs will cost \$11,237.00 and piping replacement will be \$10,983.00. Motion by Shields to have Cahoy Well and Pump Service do the repairs at a total cost of \$22,220.00; seconded by Wyman. Approved 5-0.

Committee Reports. Shields reported he has made some contacts regarding the Safe Routes to School program and the committee would begin meeting around May 1st. He requested council approval to obtain the speed trailer from the City of Atlantic to gather data for the grant. Rink said he wanted to be sure that this project would not interfere with the sanitary/storm sewer project. Shields said the Safe Routes to School grant would pay for this and unless the project goes over budget, the city would not have to put any fund towards the project. Motion by Wyman to request the use of the speed trailer from the City of Atlantic; seconded by Carlisle. Approved 5-0.

Shields said he spoke with the City Attorney about the liability for volunteers. The City Attorney said the city would just need an hold harmless form signed by the volunteers.

Resolution 4-2009 to Hold a Hearing on a Proposal to Dispose of Real Property Owned by the City of Griswold, Iowa. Motion by Wyman to adopt Resolution 4-2009; seconded by Rink. Approved 5-0.

Griswold Youth Sports Complex. Dan Rossell, representing the Youth Sports Complex Board, said after the meeting with the committee, the board contacted Brown Electric to get a cost estimate for electrical work needed on the lights. Due to new State regulations, a new electrical box will need to be installed along with new wiring for all the lights. The board does not yet have the cost estimate for these repairs, but feel it may be around \$8,000-10,000 per pole. Rossell said the board's initial request from the city was for around \$4,500-5,000 to help cover start-up expenses, which includes the concession stand. They are now asking the council to consider putting more funds towards the lighting repairs and the board will use their funds for the start-up costs. The board is working on raising funds to help with the repairs, but will not have the funds available as soon as is necessary to take care of some the immediate needs. Shields questioned if the City were to allocate funds in their annual budget for the ball fields if all the funds would run through the city and the board would oversee the operations of the ball fields in the same manner as the Library Board. Rossell said the board would have no problem with that. Motion by Shields to allocate \$10,000 towards the Griswold Youth Sports Complex for this fiscal year 2009, which is to be used towards the upkeep of the fields; seconded by Rink. Rink wanted to be sure the board understood the \$10,000 allocated this year does not mean they will get the same amount next year. The city would have control of the expenditures as the purchases would be made through the city. Approved 5-0.

Land Use Regulations Scope of Services – MSA Professionals. Rink questioned the need for this. Clerk Ridlen commented that the ordinances pertaining to Planning & Zoning have not been updated since 1970 and the council had considered updating them a few years ago, but could not find a company to do the work. Council asked that requests for proposals be sent out to 3-4 other firms so they can something to compare MSA's proposal to.

Public Comments: Vernon Brawdy asked how old the casing and pump were at the West well house. Jipsen answered the casing had never been replaced and the pump is over 7 years old. Robin Drake: As the Senior Class sponsor, she asked Deputy Ryan Johnson to be in town this Sunday morning for the Senior breakfast.

Sandy Tye: Is the city going to fix the pothole by her house? Jipsen answered yes, they would. Ms. Tye said the pothole slows the traffic down and she has requested that the school buses not drive on that street, but one driver still does. She suggested not allowing any of the buses to drive on that street as the buses cause damage to the street.

Kim Kemp: Noticed the police car Deputy Johnson is driving has Cass County Sheriff on it. Did the city supply the county with a car? Mayor responded that the car Deputy Johnson is driving is the one purchased by the city.

Jon Bruning: Questioned if alcohol is allowed in the City Parks. Mayor Putnam responded that there is no ordinance prohibiting alcohol on City property. Mr. Bruning also asked if anyone had looked at the drainage problem at his property on 901 2nd St.. Jipsen will take a look at it.

Messages and Papers from the Mayor. Mayor Putnam thanked all the volunteers for the work done at the Fish Farm, Main St. nodes and the wooden playground.

Propositions and Remarks from Council Members. Carlisle reported the Friends of the Fish Farm had their clean-up day and planted 123 trees donated by Canoyer's greenhouse. Shields requested a closed session meeting to discuss legal matters. Council agreed to have the meeting on Monday, April 27 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion by Carlisle to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Rink. Approved 5-0 6:58 p.m.

Jerry Putnam
Mayor

Dawn Ridlen
City Clerk