

April 6, 2015

Atkins, Iowa

Council met in regular session. Members present were: Weston Bishop, Tim Harbach, Kevin Korsmo, Diane Herman, and Bill Lynch. Absent: None. Mayor David Becker called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Also present: Melissa Rammelsberg, City Clerk/Treasurer; Heather David, Deputy Clerk; Peter Shaw, Above the Influence Coalition; David Condry, Above the Influence Coalition; Dennis Knock; Molly Stark; Bree Hepker; and Mike Jennings, Public Works Director.

Korsmo made a motion, second by Herman, to approve the Consent Agenda which consisted of the minutes from March 16th, and list of bills for approval. Ayes: Bishop, Herman, Harbach, Korsmo, and Lynch. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Bills approved:

AffinityCare, Inc	EAP Services April – June	\$12.60
Alliant Energy	Fire Dept – Utility Expense	119.22
“ “	Utility Expense	4,804.82
Atkins Lumber Company	Water Supplies & Forklift Rent	77.63
Atkins Telephone Co	Fire Dept – Telephone Expense	133.81
“ “ “	Telephone Expense	290.12
Benton County Solid Waste	Landfill Tipping Fee (2/26 – 3/19/15)	649.00
Furler Utility Service LLC	Wastewater Testing	360.00
Hach	Water Supplies	170.98
Hawkins	Water Supplies	737.50
Payroll	Wages	6,016.88
L. B. Anderson	Fire Dept – Insurance Premium	16,357.00
“ “	City Insurance Premium	28,096.00
Marco	Copier Agreement – Quarterly	322.26
Mike Jennings	Health Insurance	173.40
Northeast Iowa Regional League	Annual Membership Dues	15.00
P&K Midwest	Lawn Mower Parts	171.08
Qtech Automation, Inc	Water Plant Valve Repairs	1,327.90
Rexco Equipment	Lawn Mower Parts	145.03
Ricklefs Excavating	Release of retainage on 33 rd /71 st Alignment	16,176.34
Snyder & Associates	Future Land Use Map Research	653.25
The Depot Express	Fire Dept – Fuel	58.02
“ “ “	Fuel	182.95
WageWorks	Flex Pay	1,213.30
Mayor & Council Payroll	Wages	2,126.56

Library bills:

Payroll	Wages	\$1,124.08
AffinityCare, Inc	EAP Services April – June	4.20
Alliant Energy	Utility Expense	426.89
Atkins Telephone Co	Telephone Expense	67.41
DP Properties LLC	Janitorial Services	240.00
Golden Horse LTD	Books	14.12
Jones Library Sales, Inc.	Library Shelf Units	2,046.24
L. B. Anderson	Insurance Premium	3,323.00
MicroMarketing	Books	35.00
WageWorks	Flex Pay	45.00

Mayor Becker opened the Public Hearing for the Sewer Revenue Loan and Disbursement Agreement Anticipation Project Note. The Clerk reported there were no written objections filed. Becker asked for comments from those in attendance. None were offered. Public Hearing was closed. Harbach made a motion to approve Resolution #616, a resolution taking additional action with respect to a Sewer Revenue Loan and Disbursement Agreement and authorizing, approving and securing the payment of a \$366,500 Sewer Revenue Loan and Disbursement Agreement Anticipation Project Note (IFA Interim Loan and Disbursement Agreement). Lynch seconded the motion. Ayes: Bishop, Herman, Harbach, Korsmo and Lynch. Nays: none. Resolution was approved.

Bree Hepker and Molly Stark with the Early Beginnings Daycare shared an update from Roy John Becker and the Benton County Soil Conservation about the drainage easement and overflow swale not being needed along the east side of their property. Hepker shared concerns with how the outstanding items for a permanent occupancy permit were communicated from the City Engineer. The communications began March 18, 2015, and Hepker advised that some verification of information for accuracy before the engineering memo was sent would have handled the situation better. Council requested any feedback through the process to help for future commercial property development would be appreciated.

Clerk shared that Roger & Mary England and Linda Gerhold have agreed to provide an easement to the city for the Parkridge Sidewalk Project. The design plans are in progress and planned to wrap up for review at the next Council meeting.

David Condry shared information about the Social Host Ordinance, and shared a proposed version that Council could adopt. Council expressed concerns with the vagueness in the enforcement language about “reasonable” measures to keep illegal substances out of the hands of youth under 21 years of age. He shared concerns about the trickledown effect with kids that have younger friends, and shared that local enforcement would really apply to the 18, 19, and 20 year olds consuming illegal substances (alcohol, marijuana, prescription drug abuse, etc.) and enforcement would take place at the state level for anything that state code covers. Lynch asked about survey results from Benton County residents and if it was possible to have the breakdown for Atkins residents. Harbach made a motion to table the discussion for further investigation on the topic, seconded by Lynch. Ayes: Bishop, Herman, Harbach, Korsmo and Lynch. Nays: none. Motion carried. Condry shared that he is working on setting up another information session to help with education and would share the time and date when it is set.

Harbach made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance #200, an ordinance adding a new section for Parking Violations: Alternate. It was seconded by Lynch. Ayes: Bishop, Herman, Harbach, Korsmo and Lynch. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Deputy Clerk Heather David shared an update on delinquent water bill accounts. She shared since September 2014 the city has recovered \$9,973.70 in delinquent water payments. David shared that there are nine (9) accounts on payment plans to recover \$12,465.93 in past due water bill balances, and shared that all of those accounts are keeping up on their payment plans. David shared there are five (5) accounts that either have gone through foreclosure/bankruptcy or were renters that have been gone from Atkins for over a year. Clerk and Deputy Clerk shared that they have tried to recoup the costs, but are not able to do to the circumstances and requested permission to write-off (total of \$2,299.40). Clerk shared that the revised policy is helping to cut down on these losses going forward. Lynch made a motion to begin the process of writing off the account but to check if those losses could be recouped if any of those occupants returned to Atkins, seconded by Korsmo. Ayes: Bishop, Herman, Harbach, Korsmo and Lynch. Nays: none. Motion carried.

David shared that 102 people were late by two days or more during March. Clerk asked the Council to consider adding a late fee in the next ordinance. Herman made a motion to include a 5 day grace period before a \$10 late fee is imposed to be included in an updated water ordinance, seconded by Lynch. Ayes: Bishop, Herman, Harbach, Korsmo and Lynch. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Clerk also shared about research on new water billing software that would offer improved functionality. Harbach made a motion to table the discussion until the next meeting, seconded by Bishop. Ayes: Bishop, Herman, Harbach, Korsmo and Lynch. Nays: none. Motion carried. Clerk shared information from other communities that have deposits for homeowners and renters. Korsmo made a motion to table the discussion on water deposits, seconded by Herman. Ayes: Bishop, Herman, Harbach, Korsmo and Lynch. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Mayor Becker requested Clerk to advise the Mayor and Council when meetings with Snyder & Associates are being held for city-specific projects/items.

Jennings shared that LL Pelling was in Atkins today to look at the streets, and the estimate is much higher than last year due to many repairs needed.

Dennis Knock shared he drafted a letter and shared with neighbors about the potential for Casey's General Store to come to Atkins.

Council expressed concerns about the condition of Linn-Benton Road and Ellis Road. Council requested Clerk to send a letter to the Linn County Engineer.

On motion by Harbach, second by Lynch, voted to adjourn. Ayes: Bishop, Harbach, Herman, Korsmo, and Lynch. Nay: None. Motion carried. The next regular council meeting will be on Monday, April 20, 2015 at City Hall, 480 3rd Avenue, starting at 7:30 PM.

David Becker, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Melissa Rammelsberg,
City Clerk/ Treasurer