

August 17th, 2015

Atkins, Iowa

Council met in regular session. Members present were: Weston Bishop, Tim Harbach, Kevin Korsmo, Nathan Shepard and Mayor Becker. Absent: Diane Herman. Mayor Becker called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Also present: Amber Bell, City Clerk/Treasurer; resident Dick Lange, Kelly Scott, Civil Engineer, Lindsay Beaman, Civil Engineer, Nick Eisenbacher Engineer Intern, and Mike Jennings, Public Works Director.

Korsmo made a motion, second by Bishop, to approve the Consent Agenda which consisted of the minutes from August 3rd, 2015 and list of bills for approval. Ayes: Bishop, Shepard, Harbach and Korsmo. Nay: None. Motion carried.

<b>Bills Approved</b>		
Amber Bell	Wages (through August 8th, 2015)	\$ 1,579.28
Mike Jennings	Wages (through August 8th, 2015)	\$ 1,618.49
Todd Damon	Wages (through August 8th, 2015)	\$ 1,264.76
Richard Lange	Wages (through August 8th, 2015)	\$ 488.76
Alliant Energy	Utilities	\$ 7,146.89
Atkins Automotive	Headlamp	\$ 12.99
Chase	Postage - City Hall	\$ 141.68
Chase	Postage - Newsletter	\$ 226.45
Chase	Postage - Water Bills	\$ 229.78
Chase	Software Subscriptions	\$ 50.00
Crawford Quarry	Fill for walking trails	\$ 161.88
ECICOG	Comprehensive Plan Update	\$ 1,078.00
Firehouse Pyrotechnics LC	Atkins Watermelon Day Fireworks	\$ 2,500.00
Garbage Tags Reimbursements	Garbage Tags Reimbursements	\$ 2.40
Hawkins	Water Treatment	\$ 1,312.23
Iowa Department of Natural Resources	Annual Subscription NPDES Permit	\$ 210.00
Iowa One Call	Location Services	\$ 71.10
Linn County REC	Sewer Utilities	\$ 662.45
MidAmerican Energy	Utilities	\$ 58.12
Poweshiek Publications	Publication Expense	\$ 479.17
Pro Hydro Testing	Hydro Testing SCBA and DOT	\$ 1,192.00
Office Express	Park supplies	\$ 52.96
The Depot Express	Fire Department	\$ 202.10
The Depot Express	Mower	\$ 116.07
The Depot Express	Road Operations	\$ 109.34
Thompson Truck & Trailer	Fire Department Repair	\$ 2,256.26
US Cellular	Telephone Expense	\$ 135.89
Waste Management	Garbage/Recycle Services	\$ 8,947.95
Wellmark	Health Insurance	\$ 1,183.54
<b>Library</b>		
Cathy Becker	Wages (through August 8th, 2015)	1037.04
Vicky Myers	Wages (through August 8th, 2015)	\$ 163.47
African American Publications	Books	\$ 292.10
Alliant Energy	Utilities	\$ 687.82
Chase	Books	\$ 625.44

Chase	Postage	\$ 38.06
Chase	Audio/Video	\$ 43.85
DP Properties	Janitorial Services	\$ 240.00
Iowa Library Services	Subscription Fees FY16 EBSCO Host	\$ 108.50
Micro Marketing	Audio/Video	\$ 74.99
MidAmerican Energy	Utilities	\$ 11.53
Midwest Alarm Services	Fire Alarm Services	\$ 343.68
Sam's Club	Books	\$ 51.28
Stu Campbell	Books	\$ 90.12
The Library Store	Supplies	\$ 324.49
Wellmark	Health Insurance	\$ 763.81

The Council discussed moving the date of the next City council meeting. The original meeting was scheduled for 7:30 pm on Monday September 7<sup>th</sup> 2015. This day is Labor Day and is a recognized Federal Holiday. A motion was made by Harbach to move the next City Council Meeting to Tuesday September 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM. The motion was seconded by Korsmo. Ayes: Bishop, Shepard, Harbach and Korsmo. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The Council discussed Engineers Report from Kelly Scott, civil Engineer. Scott stated the Parkridge sidewalk project is over half completed. In the contract the city still has an incentive that can be paid if the project is completed 1-5 days early.

Scott also reviewed the Waste Water Treatment Plant plans. Scott found that the current plant only has 1 Phase electrical service. A lot of the equipment that would be needed requires 3 Phase electrical service. Scott got some price quotes from Linn Co REC to bring 3 Phase electrical service. The price quote had two options. The first option was to pay \$250,000.00 then the city would be paid back for every connection that was added along the way. They would bring service from Heck Lane which is about 2.5 miles. The second option would be to pay 50% or \$125,000.00 up front but would not get any pay back options for new connections. Scott did warn that the quotes may need to be a little lower, because the quotes are based on current usage, but if you have new blowers the actual usage may be higher. Scott stated that she was going to fill out new forms to reflect this to see if the pricing would change.

Bishop stated that he know of someone with Phase 3 in Atkins, and questioned if we could connect from them. Scott stated that there is a dispute over which area we are in. We may be in Alliant's area but being serviced by Linn Area REC. Scott was under the impression that Alliant would not provide service based of the location. Scott was directed by the council to contact Alliant Energy to see if they have any options available.

Bishop questioned why Scott would be proposing 3 Phase equipment vs. 1 Phase Equipment. Scott stated that the 3 Phase would be much more efficient and the size of equipment that is needed may not be available in 1 Phase. Scott will check more into the equipment. Bishop then brought up the question of using a converter that would convert from 1 Phase to 3 Phase. Bishop thought this may be a more cost effective idea. Mayor Becker stated that using a converter could lead to more equipment failure which is very hard on equipment. Scott stated that she talked with an electrical engineer about this and he stated that we would not be able to run converters in our plant. Scott will go back and get more details and deeper explanation for why that is.

Scott then shared that she went to Atkins Telephone and asked about sharing the cost of bring rural water into the Waste Water Treatment Plant. This would save the potential \$13,000.00 for the city. Scott stated that she will double check the quotes to do this project as she was told a different amount when she originally checked into this. She will update the council on her findings.

Scott stated that she received a subpoena order in relation to highpoint drive. This is the second subpoena, and this one was for the lawyer of the contractor. Scott stated that information was sent in response to this. The City of Atkins has also gotten and responded to. Bishop stated that he believed the

home to be vacant now but that is unconfirmed. Mayor Becker expressed hope that the City of Atkins would not be pulled into the litigation, but said it is possible. The city has shared all requested information, and is open and willing to work with all parties involved.

Harbach mentioned that there may be a need to look at the city building codes to prevent such issues in the future. Resident Dick Lange stated that builders make plans based on 100 year flood events, and we have had 6 of these in the last 10 years. Harbach also stated that homeowners expect the homes to be built to prevent future damage and would not necessarily know if something on the home is not planned out well. Bishop stated that most new home buyers are looking at functionality and cosmetics of the home, and most would assume the home inspector would catch any potential problems. Mayor Becker brought up that North Liberty tends to have very tight building codes and that maybe we should look into those to see if any may be helpful in Atkins.

Harbach and Scott then discussed regrading around Parkridge Rd and along the easement at the back of Harbach's property. Scott said that she was limited to a 1% grade due to the culverts on both ends of the end's easement. Scott stated that the other option would be tile. Scott is also going to do some checking into the original plans to see if there is any additional information.

The City Council discussed the second pay request from Schrader Excavating & Grading Co. The amount of the request is \$41,904.36. Korsmo motioned to pay the second pay request. This was seconded by Harbach. Ayes: Bishop, Shepard, Harbach and Korsmo. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The City Council discussed a repair that was needed to the parking lot of the Fire Department. LL Pelling had looked at this spot in the early spring. At the time it was not a very big issue, and they agreed to do a patch at no charge. Due to scheduling and timing LL Pelling was not able to come back out until recently, and the spot was looked at again because it had gotten much worse. LL Pelling determined that it would cost \$1,500.00 to patch the spot and that it may last a year or so. The other option was to actually repair the spot and correct the issue for \$7,500.00. Mike Jennings the Director of Public Works stated that LL Pelling was already repairing the parking lot, and that the city was getting some funds in September that will help fund it. Resident (and former City Clerk) stated that the Rural Fire Bond would reimburse the city for ½ of the expense. A big part of the problem is the weight of the equipment on the parking lot. Bishop expressed that it would be nice and possibly more cost effective to have a concrete parking lot in the future. But the Fire Chief likes to be able to use the funds available for updating equipment.

This discussion led into a discussion about this same issue with the city of Atkins streets. There are many streets that keep getting overlaid versus torn up and replaced. The council would like to discuss setting aside funds in the budget to replace streets in the future.

Bishop brought up the sweeper of LL Pelling was leaving piles of stuff in his front yard. Mike Jennings is going to check into this.

The City Clerk updated the council on 74 Second Street. The City Clerk informed the City Council that the lean the city had against the property has been paid in full. The City Clerk also informed the council that the disclosure for the home now includes the restrictions on the property. Bishop stated that the city should look at rezoning or grandfathering in this property to widen the possibility of what could be built on it.

The Council discussed a list of properties that were in violation of putting structures on city property. The City Clerk shared the list of properties and what structures there were to the council. Mayor Becker asked how far onto city property these structures were. Jennings responded that some were fully on city property and others were close to the property line. Korsmo stated that some had gotten prior approval from the city to have gardens on city property. Those are to be researched by the city clerk. Some of the violators have fire pits on city property Korsmo asked if those should be permitted. Harbach stated there was a difference is a pile of bricks and a structure. A motion was made by Harbach to send a letter to the violators. The letter is to state that the structures are to be moved within 30 days of the letter. This was seconded by Bishop. Ayes: Bishop, Shepard, Harbach and Korsmo. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Resident Dick Lange updated the council on the AIM project to add concessions and restrooms to the pavilion at the soccer fields. AIM will donate all the materials needed and they hope to have volunteer labor. Dick asked for permission from the council to go ahead with the plans to add to the pavilion. Korsmo made the motion to allow this and Harbach seconded. Ayes: Bishop, Shepard, Harbach and Korsmo. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The City Clerk updated the council on the progress of finding a deputy clerk. The City Clerk stated that she had interviewed all 8 applicants for the Deputy Clerk position. The City Clerk stated that she had two candidates that stood out and she would like to extend an offer to one of them. The City Clerk stated that the applicant's qualifications and specialized experience for the deputy clerk position warranted more than the advertised wage. The position was advertised for \$15.00 per hour for up to 28 hours a week. The city clerk asked the council to consider an offer up to \$17.00 per hour. Bishop stated that she knew that she was applying for a position that stated a wage. Harbach asked do we want to bring someone in here that can to the job or do we want to bring in the right person for the job. Harbach also stated that the council had asked the City Clerk to interview candidates and to present the top couple of candidates to the council and that was done. Shepard made a motion that we hire at the advertised wage, and give the applicant a 90 days trial period. At the end of the 90 days the city can give the person a raise to the \$17.00 if they have shown there expertise. The motion was seconded by Korsmo. Ayes: Shepard, Harbach and Korsmo. Nay: Bishop. Motion carried.

Jennings stated there was a utility pole on 71<sup>st</sup> st near the new development. The utilities on this pole are being put underground. There is a street light on the pole as well. The light pole is not needed anymore for utilities. Does the council want to leave the pole there so the city can still utilize the street light? The Council agreed that the pole should stay as is.

Harbach brought up that there is construction being done one Parkridge Rd, and it is partially blocking traffic. His concern was that there was no flag man to direct traffic. Scott stated that she would look into it.

Harbach also asked if the council could review the property lines around the pond area. One of the homeowners along the access point to the pond put up a "No Trespassing" sign. Harbach was questioning if they could do that or if the location of the sign was correct. He expressed concern for marking were the public was and was not allowed to go.

Bishop brought up concern about the parking violation tickets that the city of Atkins has started using. He stated that the tickets do follow city ordinance, however there is not a place to check mark on the ticket what the violation is. The City Clerk will be checking into this.

On motion by Harbach, second by Korsmo, council voted to adjourn. Ayes: Bishop, Harbach, Herman, and Korsmo. Nay: None. Motion carried. The next regular council meeting will be on Monday, August 17, 2015 at City Hall, 480 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, starting at 7:30 PM.

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Mayor David Becker

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Amber Bell,  
City Clerk/ Treasurer