September 18th, 2017 Atkins, Iowa

Council met in regular session. Members present were: Mayor Kevin Korsmo, Tim Harbach, Diane Herman, Rodney Haerther, and Frank King. Absent: Nathan Shepard. Mayor Kevin Korsmo called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Also, present: Amber Bell City Clerk, Todd Damon from Atkins Public Works, Atkins Volunteer Fire Department Dan Rammelsberg. resident Dave Duball, Bruce Visser, Kim and John McElree, Dori Nickell, Cathy Becker, Kristin Ristine, David Herman, Carrie Herman, Dave Herman, E.J. Bell, Steve Haar, Rob and Carolyn Spading, Noah Hull, Anna Sebetka, Dolores Sebetka, Larry Jawbus, Phill Kolek, Sara Mclain, Doug Woltemath, Terry Ford, Brent Moore, Mike Palumbo, Jessica Hoppe, Kayden Scott, Rachel Kenney. Austin Earhart, and Roger Stien.

The Council reviewed the poll results.

The City of Atkins Website Poll was multiple choice. This Poll asked your opinion on Firework use in Atkins. Below are the possible answers and the number of votes and the percentage.

Answer Number of Votes Percentage of Votes

Ban all Fireworks 47 28.8%

Allow Firework use per state code 87 52.4%

Allow a two-week time period and

New Year’s Day 18 10.8%

Allow Fireworks for two or three days

And at New Year’s day 14 8.4%

Another Poll was taken in the Atkins Monthly newsletter. The questions were

Do you think Atkins should allow the use of fireworks? Yes or No

7 responded with a yes and 20 responded with a no.

Would time & date restrictions on the use of fireworks be an acceptable option?

7 responded with a yes and 17 responded with a no and 3 had other comments or did not circle an answer.

This survey also allowed room for written comments. The council was able to review all of those comments.

Rammelsberg from the Atkins Volunteer Fire Department did not endorse the use of fireworks in the City of Atkins due to the potential fire hazards. The council reviewed a statement from the city insurance representative saying that banning or allowing fireworks would not impact the rates either way. The council asked a Benton County Sheriff some questions about the enforcement of fireworks, and how calls are taken and handled.

The council also heard from many residents both pro and against fireworks. Some of the concerns against fireworks were Safety (harming someone or causing property damage), the stress on pets, veterans and young children, the mess it can leave behind in neighbor’s yards, some were concerned with the excessive noise and disturbance. There were more comments the these seemed to be the most common.

Many residents were also pro firework use. Many were happy when fireworks use was allowed by the state. Most states already allow fireworks. Many comments were made that supported allowing the use of fireworks.

Many in the meeting and many who participated in the survey were willing to allow a compromise to allow fireworks but have some restrictions to date and time they would be allowed. The council will continue the discussion in later meetings.

Harbach made a motion to adjourn the meeting and this was seconded by King. Ayes: Herman, Haerther, King, and Harbach. Nay: None. Motion carried. The next regular council meeting will be on Monday, September 18th, 2017 at City Hall, 480 3rd Avenue, starting at 7:30 PM.

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Mayor Kevin Korsmo

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Amber Bell, City Clerk/ Treasurer