

The City Council of the City of Anamosa met in Regular Session on February 24, 2014 in the Council Chambers at City Hall at 6:00 p.m. with Cody Shaffer, Bill Feldmann, Chuck Smith, Brady Reynolds, Richard Stivers and Mike Dearborn present. Absent: None. Mayor Dale Barnes presided. Also present were; Alan Johnson, City Administrator; Tammy Coons, City Clerk; Bob Simonson, Police Chief and Kate Bullen, Library Director. Guests Present Addressing the Council: Crystal Kayser and Steve West. Mayor Barnes called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with a quorum present.

**Public with Business not on the Agenda**

Crystal Kayser, 711 S. Garnavillo addressed the Council reviewing her current situation with a frozen water service line to her home and her request to the City Water Department to shut off her water at the curb stop. Discussion followed. City Clerk, Tammy Coons explained the potential issues with shutting off her curb stop if it could be found and it wasn't frozen already, as it was explained to her by the Water employee. Tammy also explained that after that her water was "locked out" inside her home at the customer's request. Crystal then explained that her bill was due on February 14 at 4:30 p.m. and that she did not put her payment in the drop box until after the 4:30 p.m. deadline due to a personal crisis and therefore she was charged the penalty fee of \$25.00 and her door was posted. Discussion followed. Alan Johnson, City Administrator reviewed the monthly billing process which allowed the customer 20 days to pay the bill without any penalty and an additional 10 days with a small administrative charge, so in total the customer had 30 days to pay the bill before the door is posted and the \$25.00 penalty is added. Crystal then inquired why the City did not offer the ability to pay the bills on-line or with a credit or debit card. More discussion followed. It was explained to her that the Council had looked into adding these capabilities, but opted not to implement them due to the initial cost, which would be paid by all the property tax payers and the cost per transaction that would have to be paid by the individual user. Tammy Coons also reviewed the option offered to all customers to set up an automatic payment (ACH) from a checking or savings account. More discussion followed.

Steve West, 303 S. Oak Street addressed the Council regarding customer service, Water & Sewer billing policy and payment arrangements. He stated that he was unhappy with all of these items. He suggested that the City offer more than one "pay station" as stated in the City ordinance. Alan Johnson, City Administrator explained to him that the City did have a "pay station" or drop box located on the North door of the City Hall building so that customers could place their payment in the box after regular City Hall hours. More discussion followed. Steve suggested that the City offer more than one "pay station" location, such as Family Foods which is open 24 hours a day and he also suggested that the cut off time be changed to midnight on the due date instead of 4:30 p.m. He asked why the police department could not pick up the payments at the midnight deadline as they were already working. Steve explained that some people live from "paycheck to paycheck" and that it is difficult to meet the bill due date.

**Council Minutes**

Motion by Feldmann, second by Shaffer to approve the minutes from the February 10, 2014 Regular Council meeting. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE**

**COMMUNITY BETTERMENT:**

**Resolution Resetting Public Hearing on Proposed Conveyance of Portion of Block 5 of Subdivision "A" of Scott & Skinner's Addition to the City of Anamosa, Iowa**

Motion by Feldmann, second by Dearborn to approve **Resolution 2014-06** resetting Public Hearing on proposed conveyance of portion of Block 5 of Subdivision "A" of Scott & Skinner's Addition to the City of Anamosa, Iowa acquired from Alan J. Gassmann to Weber Stone Company. Roll Vote. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

**Beer and Liquor Licenses**

Motion by Shaffer, second by Feldmann to approve the renewal of Class E Liquor License, Class B Wine Permit, Class C Beer Permit and Sunday Sales Privileges for Wal-Mart. All Ayes. Motion Carried

**PUBLIC WORKS: NONE**

**FINANCE:**

**Payment of Bills for the Month of February, 2014**

Motion by Feldmann, second by Stivers to approve the payment of bills for the month of February, 2014. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

Alan stated he would like to express his regret that Kathryn Bullen, Library Director has submitted her resignation effective March 8, 2014, but he would like to wish her well.

Kathryn Bullen thanked the Council for the opportunity to work with the City.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL:**

Brady Reynolds, Jones County Economic Development – stated that he had attended the recent meeting and that he had expressed his ideas to increase economic development in Anamosa.

**Adjournment**

Motion by Dearborn, second by Reynolds to adjourn at 7:10 p.m. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

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Dale Barnes, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Tammy Coons, City Clerk