

The City Council of the City of Anamosa met in Regular Session this April 11, 2016 in the Council Chambers at City Hall at 6:00 p.m. with Rick Sanborn, Bill Feldmann, Chuck Smith, Rod Smith, Cody Shaffer and Betty Weimer present. Absent: None. Mayor Dale Barnes presided. Also present were Alan Johnson, City Administrator; Tammy Coons, City Clerk; Rebecca Vernon, Librarian; Bob Simonson, Police Chief and Adrian Knuth, City Attorney. Guests Present Addressing the Council: Randy Day, 304 S. Oak St.; John Ely, 301 N. Davis St.; Nancy Shaffer, 803 N. Division Ct; Jamie Delancey, 420 Chamber Dr. & 600 W. Main St. and Macy Soupene, 106 Theresa Ave. Mayor Dale Barnes called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll call was taken with a quorum present.

Council Minutes

Motion by Rod Smith, second by Sanborn to approve the minutes from the March 28, 2016 Regular Council meeting. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Public Hearing Regarding on Proposal to Vacate and Convey 16 Foot Wide Alley Running East-West Through Block 5 Strawberry Hill Addition to the City of Anamosa, Iowa

Mayor Barnes opened the public hearing at 6:01 p.m.

Randy Day, 304 S. Oak Street addressed the Council questioning what would happen if a future or current neighboring property owner wished to purchase the adjacent section of the alley to build on to their home. Alan Johnson explained that all the neighboring property owners had been offered to purchase their adjacent section of the alley and they have declined. The neighbors have actually signed a statement of support for Hall's to purchase the alley. Discussion followed on possible options of future property owners being able to purchase their section of the alley.

Motion by Feldmann, second by Shaffer to close the public hearing at 6:14 p.m. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

COMMUNITY BETTERMENT:

Nuisance Procedures

Alan Johnson, City Administrator stated his understanding of the council members wishes to amend the nuisance ordinance from the last council meeting. He asked the Council what in the procedure or ordinance regarding nuisances that they wished to change. Alan explained that the last step in the procedure is the municipal infraction and this step needs to be done. Discussion followed on how long that part of the process would take and if it would result in the nuisance being taken care of. Adrian Knuth, City Attorney explained that the City had three options if the property owner does not clean up the property as notified: 1 – The city go in and clean up the property and assess the costs to the property taxes. 2 – Implement the municipal infraction. (processed under the City) 3 – Charge with a simple misdemeanor. (processed under the State) Discussion followed. Adrian clarified that if the City chose to implement the municipal infraction then the clean-up by the City cannot be done and assessed to the property taxes. Adrian suggested, though it is not required by law, that a letter of intent be given to the property owner if the City chose to clean-up the property giving the property owner time to remove any item of value to them before the city removed it. He also suggested some small changes to the ordinances – Under Dangerous Buildings add the City Administrator or his/her designee and add the option of personal service to serve the notice of nuisance to the property owner. Discussion then followed on lawn mowing nuisances and “junk vehicles” and how to address them. Adrian reviewed and better defined the ordinance on “junk vehicles” for the Council. Adrian stated he will follow up with other contacts on how other communities are handling “junk vehicles”.

Motion by Feldmann, second by Rod Smith to authorize the City Attorney to prepare the proposed ordinance changes as suggested – add City Administrator or his/her designee to the Dangerous Building Chapter and add the option of personal service to serve the property owner with nuisance notice. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

First Reading of Ordinance Vacating and Conveying the 16 foot Wide Alley Running East-West Through Block 5 of Strawberry Hill Addition to the City of Anamosa

Motion by Feldmann, second by Sanborn to approve the **First Reading of Ordinance** vacating and conveying the 16 foot wide alley running east-west through Block 5 of Strawberry Hill Addition to the City of Anamosa. Roll Vote. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Motion by Feldmann, second by Chuck Smith to approve the **Waiver of the Second and Third Readings of Ordinance** vacating and conveying the 16 foot wide alley running east-west through Block 5 of Strawberry Hill Addition to the City of Anamosa. Roll Vote. 3 – Nays, Rod Smith, Shaffer and Weimer. All Remaining Ayes. Motion Failed.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Beer and Liquor Licenses

Motion by Feldmann, second by Weimer to approve the renewal of Class C Liquor License, Class B Wine Permit, Outdoor Service with Sunday Sales Privileges for Americinn Lodge & Suites, LLC. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC WORKS: NONE

FINANCE: NONE

CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

Alan reminded the Council that he and Tammy Coons, City Clerk would be at the Spring IMFOA conference April 20-22nd.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL:

Proposed Change in Agenda Format to Include Open Forum Statement

Rod Smith explained that this was his request for the agenda resulting from Citizen Randy Day’s suggestion at the previous council meeting. Rod stated he is recommending that the Council adopt the City of Mt. Vernon’s open forum statement from their agenda format. Rod also stated for clarification that the citizens address the Council members not the engineers, etc. Shaffer expressed his support. Feldmann suggested moving agenda item 12.0 – public addressing the council on items not on the agenda to the front of the agenda to allow them to comment on upcoming agenda items. Feldmann stated he is not in favor of allowing public comment on each agenda item as it is brought up. Several council members expressed the desire to leave the agenda item 12.0 at the end of the meeting as the public seems to stay for the entire meeting which helps keep the public informed. Weimer stated that once a particular point is made by a citizen that only new or different points should be made after that.

Motion by Rod Smith, second by Weimer to adopt the City of Mt. Vernon’s open forum statement and leave agenda item 12.0 at the end of the agenda. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Public with Business with the Council on Items not on the Agenda

John Ely, 301 N. Davis St. addressed the Council expressing his support of upcoming workshop on Open Meeting Law as presented by Patrick Callahan, Jones County Supervisor. He also expressed his support of the new “open forum” on the agenda. John expressed his disagreement that the name of the person who files a nuisance complaint is confidential. He asked when the Police Department would

determine the copy fees for records requested. Bob Simonson, Police Chief stated they are working on it.

Randy Day, 304 S. Oak St. addressed the Council asking again if the Council packets could be put on the City website. He was informed that when a new website was chosen that the packets would be available. He stated that in talking to Officer Amy Ford, that some of the nuisance property owners cannot afford to clean up their properties or do not have the ability to do it. He suggested that City put together a referral list of people or organizations that can assist the property owners. Alan clarified that the City cannot make a "referral", but a list of contacts may be given to the property owner. Randy also stated that he is favor of the City using inmate labor to assist with work and projects. He suggested that it is important that the City Supervisors be trained on how to handle the inmates.

Nancy Shaffer, 803 N. Division Ct. addressed the Council stating that the City of Monticello charges tag fees to provide City Wide Clean Up and the service is actually not for "free".

Jamie Delancey, 420 Chamber Dr. & 600 W. Main St. addressed the Council stating in an interview he had with Fareway Stores he was told that the City recommended their electrician, who Jamie states is not licensed. He questioned why the City is using that electrician who is not licensed. He also stated that in using this contractor it requires that two electricians do the work. Jamie stated that there are plenty of electricians here in Jones County that are licensed. He stated that he cannot believe that using an electrician that requires two electricians to do the work would be cheaper. Alan Johnson asked who made the recommendation to Fareway. Jamie stated that it was either someone with the Water Department or the Wastewater Department. Alan stated he was unaware of this, but he will look into this. Jamie questioned whether this electrician is insured and bonded. He asked the Council what he did to upset the City. He is a taxpayer and has helped the City out by donating a \$15,000 Polaris Ranger to the Fire Department. He questioned what the other electrician has done to help out the City. Several of the Council members indicated that they were not aware of what Jamie was discussing. Discussion followed on the process to verify proof of insurance and bonding for contractors.

Macy Soupene, 106 Theresa Ave. addressed the Council regarding a small "park" area on Theresa Avenue that the City maintains. She requested that the table be put back and that repairs be done to the swing set. Macy also requested that the contractor who is building at the end of Theresa Ave. be required to install the hammerhead as she believes was included in a previous written agreement. She states that the trucks are using neighbor's driveways to turn around and this has damaged their driveways and has also tracked mud onto the street.

Adjournment

Motion by Feldmann, second by Shaffer to adjourn at 7:23 p.m. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Dale Barnes, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tammy Coons, City Clerk