

CITY HALL
EVANSDALE, IOWA, JULY 5, 2022
CITY COUNCIL
DEANNE KOBLISKA, MAYOR, PRESIDING

The City Council of the City of Evansdale, Iowa met in regular session, according to law, the rules of said Council and prior notice given each member thereof, in the Council Chambers of City Hall of Evansdale, Iowa at 6:00 p.m. on the above date. Council members present in order of roll call: Smock, Bergman, Nichols, Seible, and Osborne. Quorum present.

Nichols/Seible to approve the July 5, 2022 agenda. Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

Nichols/Smock to approve the June 21, 2022 regular meeting minutes. Roll call vote. Ayes-Five.

Seible/Bergman denied request from Animal Control Officer Schares to remove vicious animal from city. However, required Angela Hernandez to have Milo licensed, on a leash, and be muzzled when outdoors. Mayor Kobliska stated that she had received a call from Angela Hernandez this afternoon stating that her daughter would be representing her at the council meeting tonight. They have not secured a pet license for the pet in question but stated she would license the pet later this week. Veronica Santos, 310 W. Gilbert Dr., stated that they had had an accident with their dog, and they had taken action by making the fenced in area smaller and closer to the house. She also stated that she was waiting for the pet to be off quarantine so she could license the pet. Councilor Osborne stated that their presence was requested at the last meeting and wondered why they weren't there. Ms. Santos responded that she had been at work and couldn't make the meeting. Osborne questioned if the owners couldn't be present at the meeting how they expected the council to allow the dog to remain in the city. Osborne also questioned why the dog was not restrained and on a leash. Ms. Santos responded that the dog didn't belong to her, and she wasn't responsible for the care of the dog. Osborne questioned who was responsible for the dog. Santos responded that her younger siblings that were seven and eight were responsible for walking the dog. Councilor Seible stated that the dog needed to be confined as it was being consider a dangerous dog as it had bitten a person. He also stated that the pet needed to be licensed, on a leash, and muzzled when it was outside, and these items needed to be in place before council would make a consideration. Councilor Smock stated that the young lady representing the dog may not have all the answers, but this wasn't the first time they were asked to license the pet as it was stressed four times previously that the pet needed to be licensed. So, if we take it back to trust and it must be done immediately, he didn't think that they would comply. Seible stated that everyone deserves a second chance, and Ms. Santos did show up to represent their case. He also stated that it was urgent that they come into compliance otherwise the council may choose to have the dog removed from the city. Councilor Nichols stated that he agreed with Seible and was a dog lover himself and wanted to give the family a second chance if they would come into compliance. Councilor Bergman stated that the city is setting a precedence on compliance throughout the city. Seible responded that they need to immediately comply and if they don't the dog will be removed from the city. Kobliska questioned if this would be the motion to have requested items completed within 24 hours. Seible responded yes. Chris Schares stated that when Animal Control had addressed the hearing with the owner, Animal Control Officer Adams was thrown off the property. The victim of the dog bite took the podium and stated that she had not been contacted and that she was a human being and she had been bit by the dog. Ms. Santos stated that she had given the victim time to heal before she contacted her, she had given the officers her phone number, so the victim could contact her. Roll call vote: Ayes-Four. Nays (Smock).

Seible/Smock to approve the request to cease the appointment of the acting city clerk effective July 6, 2022. Mayor Kobliska thanked Amy Schaefer for helping the city out for the last two months as it was appreciated. Councilor Seible questioned if the city clerk to appoint was present so that the council could meet her. Mayor Kobliska introduced Dana Laidig to the council. Dana Laidig introduced herself and stated that she was looking forward to working with the city. Councilor Smock stated that the

council's personnel committee did meet and had interviewed and made a recommendation to council to hire and it was on the agenda to do so. Councilor Seible stated that the council should be involved in the decision but didn't want to go into it as he was looking forward to working with the new city clerk but wanted the hiring process changed. Councilor Osborne stated that she did have the opportunity to interview Dana, however, if she hadn't had the chance to meet the person, she would have felt left out and thought it should be a team effort. Councilor Nichols stated that he hadn't been informed as he didn't receive an email regarding the hiring of the position. Kobliska stated that we aren't even on the request to hire the clerk but ceasing the appointment of the acting city clerk. Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

Smock/Seible to approve request to appoint new City Clerk, Dana Laidig. Councilor Nichols stated that council didn't have input into the salary or benefits that the new city clerk received, and council needed to be a part of that decision. Councilor Smock responded that Nichols was correct she is not hired until council approves the appointment and resolution to hire. Councilor Seible questioned when an offer is made that council should be made aware of the decision made. Councilor Osborne questioned the vacation offered on the resolution. Mayor Kobliska responded that we are not on the resolution to approve at this point. Roll call vote: Ayes-Five.

Seible/Osborne to approve Resolution 6615 compensation of City Clerk Dana Laidig. Mayor Kobliska responded that the city doesn't normally offer vacation until after the first year, however, Laidig had vacation planned and it was a concession the city could make. Roll call vote: Ayes-Five.

Seible/Bergman to approve the Resolution Calendar as amended by request to remove Resolution 6570 and act on it separately. a. Resolution 6616 authorizing payment of bills and transfers. b. Resolution 6617 approving the final plans for the Central Ave. Rehabilitation Project. c. Resolution 6618 Payment #1 to Municipal Pipe Tool in the amount of \$88,214.88 for the Miner and Saunders Lining Project (verbally approved by council). d. Resolution 6619 bank signatories. e. Resolution 6620 approving annual transfers. f. Resolution 6621 approving repayment of loan from New housing TIF to East Heights TIF. Councilor Seible questioned if the project on Saunders and Miner is finished. Mayor Kobliska responded that the project has not been completed as the service lines still need to be grouted. The project will stay within project costs and not as stated in the first payment request. Mayor Kobliska also stated that on the Central Ave. Project that due to the city's work on the project the final cost came in around \$40,000 less. Roll call vote. Ayes-Five.

Bergman/Smock to approve the consideration of proposal from Andrew Lusson for an Event Center/Winery development concept for lot No. 16 in Eagles Landing. Andrew Lusson presented his plan to the council that would include a 60x84 building that would be utilized for special events and winery concept in the future. Lusson explained the plan and ultimately the project value at 1.7 million in project costs. Councilor Nichols questioned if the building would be a pole building or on a foundation. Lusson responded that it would be on a foundation with wood surface. Councilor Smock stated that he appreciated the planning and the entrepreneurship spirit going into the project. Mayor Kobliska stated that the agenda item was only a consideration and if council approved of the concept, we would move forward with discussions that would consider the proposal. Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

Seible/Smock to approve the request from Micah Hadley to install mini library on west side of city trail at Brookside. Micah Hadley explained his project concept and his care of the library. Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

Smock/Bergman to approve the appointment of Dottie Wear with term expiring 06/30/2025 to the Library Board. Ayes-Four. Nays-One (Nichols). Nichols later rescinded his motion and approved. Motion carried.

Seible/Osborne to approve the appointment of April Russell with term expiring 06/30/2025 to the Library Board. Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

Smock/Seible to approve the appointment of Joel Osborne with term expiring 06/30/2025 to the Library Board. Ayes-Four. (Councilor Osborne abstained). Motion carried.

Bergman/Seible to table the appointment of Abbie Chronister until an application was received. Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

Seible/Osborne to approve Resolution 6622 hiring of an interim Deputy City Clerk. Councilor Seible stated that he believed it wasn't necessary to retain a deputy clerk as he didn't believe the city needed a deputy clerk. Councilor Smock responded that it was an investment utilizing the time to properly train the new city clerk to our processes. Roll call vote: Ayes-Five.

Public discussion: Eric Giddens, State Senator, District 38. Mr. Giddens stated that he was now a part of district 38 as part of the redistricting that happened last year, and that Evansdale was now a part of his district. He encouraged council to reach out to him concerning city government and community affairs. He also stated that his assignments were education, transportation, state government, commerce, and veteran affair policies that he dealt with most commonly and would represent the city in state government in any way it would be helpful. He also wanted to thank the elected officials for their service through these difficult times. Kelly Parker, 117 Marion, questioned if Mr. Dotzler was our current state senator until the next election. Mr. Giddens responded that he took over this district until 2024.

Public Discussion: Kelly Parker, 117 Marion St., wanted to thank the council and the mayor for working so diligently to obtain a bonded city clerk.

Mayor/Council Reports: Councilor Osborne questioned if we had a policy regarding the hiring process. Mayor Kobliska responded that a policy had been put in place, however, she wasn't certain when the process began, but would be happy to investigate. Councilor Smock stated that there had been some confusion on when the times and hours of the fireworks ordinance were established and that we needed to work on clarification in the future. He also stated that hiring new staff is important, however, retaining good personnel is even more difficult in these times. He believed we needed to review our wage structure for all departments. Councilor Seible stated that we needed to have special sessions to plan for the future of the city. The council had agreed to start planning sessions on the following Tuesday. Councilor Nichols questioned if special sessions were budgeted. Kobliska responded that she would review what was budgeted.

There being no further discussion, Seible/Bergman to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Ayes-Five. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

DeAnne Kobliska, Mayor

Amy Schaefer, City Clerk