REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – Monday, May 4, 2020

The Cambridge City Council met in regular session on Monday, May 4, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at the Cambridge Community Center and remotely via Zoom ([www.cambridge-ia.us](http://www.cambridge-ia.us)) with the following council members present: Mayor Kovarik (in-person), Todd (Zoom), Macki (Zoom), Thom (Zoom), Baxter (Zoom), McBreen (Zoom). Absent: None. Visitors: Taylor and Clinton Eichinger, Garbage Guys, 305 S. Water Street, Cambridge, IA 50046 (In-person); Dale Hennick, 119 S. Vine Street, Cambridge, IA 50046 (in-person); Joe Marchesano, Huxley Police Department, 515 N. Main Avenue, Huxley, IA 50124 (Zoom); Andrew Larson, Ankeny Sanitation, P.O. Box 487, Ankeny, IA 50021 (in-person).

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kovarik at 7:00 p.m. He led the council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Kovarik opened for public comment the hearing to consider making an application for an SRF loan, environmental information and the facility plan related to the proposed improvements to the city’s wastewater treatment system. He made the following statements related to the project: This is a public hearing to offer the opportunity for public comment on the environmental impacts of the Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Improvements Project. The scope of the project includes three main improvements:

1. New baffle curtains will be installed in the existing aerated lagoons to

meet IDNR requirements.

2. A new ultraviolet light system will provide disinfection, as required by IDNR.

3. A new outfall pipe will be installed to allow higher effluent ammonia

limits than the existing treatment system will be capable of meeting.

The new outfall will discharge to the South Skunk River downstream

of the existing outfall.

The baffle curtains and disinfection improvements will be constructed at the existing treatment plant site on property owned by the City of Cambridge. The new outfall pipe will be installed on property owned by the Story County Conservation Board, so temporary and permanent easements will be required.

Several other alternatives were considered for addressing Cambridge’s wastewater treatment needs. Adding a treatment process to the existing lagoons for ammonia removal was investigated. This would have allowed continued use of the existing discharge. Replacing the existing plant with a new mechanical treatment system was also investigated. These options were found to be undesirable due to cost, complexity, and sustainability concerns.

The total estimated project cost is $630,000. The City will apply for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to potentially cover a portion of the project costs. It is anticipated that the City will need to raise utility rates to pay any remaining project costs.

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The project will utilize a loan from the State Revolving Fund, or SRF. This public hearing is a requirement of the SRF process. IDNR has conducted an environmental review of the project and found that there is no reason to believe the project will have a significant environmental impact. IDNR coordinated with many other organizations to make this determination, including the IDNR, US Army Corp of Engineers, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the State Historical Society of Iowa, and several Native American tribes. To date, no adverse comments were received from any agencies.

Following this public hearing, we anticipate that IDNR will issue a Finding of No Significant Impact, or FONSI, which will be available for public comment for 30 days. Comments can be submitted to IDNR during this period.

Mayor Kovarik asked the council and citizens in attendance if they had any questions or comments concerning the project. No comments were brought forward, and no written comments were received prior to the hearing. A motion by Thom, seconded by Todd, to close the public hearing. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Mayor Kovarik opened for public comment the hearing to consider amending the city’s Urban Renewal Plan to include the Cambridge Opera House project. No comments were brought forward by citizens in attendance, and no written comments were received prior to the hearing. A motion by Macki, seconded by Thom, to close the public hearing. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Mayor Kovarik asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the March

31st and April 6th meetings. Todd asked that the minutes of the April meeting reflect that HPD Office Caliguiri had attended the meeting via Zoom. A motion by Macki, seconded by Baxter, to approve the minutes as amended. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Comments from the audience were asked for with the council discussing their proposals to provide garbage service with representatives of Ankeny Sanitation and Garbage Guys. They discussed charges for extra garbage and spring clean-up, and a speeding complaint.

Following is a summary of receipts for April: General Fund, $54,010.06; TIF Fund, $144,078.18; Road Use Tax, $9,631.35; Debt Service, $10,026.53; C.U.T. Fire Fund, $6,251.67; Library Fund, $51.43; Garbage Utility, $7,097.43; Water Utility, $10,304.92; Sewer Utility, $8,463.18. Total Receipts: $249,914.75.

Following is a summary of disbursements for April: General Fund, $41,555.96; Road Use Tax, $12,074.79; C.U.T. Fire Fund, $2,102.87; Library Fund, $561.63; Garbage Utility, $6,622.87; Water Utility, $4,828.27; Sewer Utility, $5,475.73. Total Disbursements: $73,222.12.

The following list of claims was presented to the council for May:

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AG SOURCE Analysis 459.50

ALLIANT ENERGY Monthly Service 4,667.68

AMES OUTDOOR SUPPLY Blades 300.96

ANKENY SANITATION Service-April 6,699.20

BAKER & TAYLOR Books, DVD’S 301.66

BROWN SUPPLY CO. Valve Box Risers, Lids 271.94

C.U.T. FIRE FUND Matching Funds 6,250.00

CAMPBELL, SHAUN Utility Deposit Refund 80.00

COWMAN, DONA Reimb. For Supplies 104.57

DANKO EMERGENCY Truck Repair 1,953.00

EQUIPMENT

EFTPS Fed. & FICA W/H 2,834.47

FEH DESIGN Fees-Opera House 16,495.75

FOX ENGINEERING Fees 5,477.00

GAUMNITZ, NICHOLE Utility Deposit Refund 80.00

HACH Testing Supplies 395.36

HUXLEY COMMUNICATIONS Monthly Service 423.97

IOWA D O T Barricades, Light Bars 800.00

I P E R S Retirement 1,803.11

KEMPKER’S TRUE VALUE Supplies 104.37

LEWIS LAW FIRM Legal Fees-Easement 675.00

MARCO Copier Rental, Supplies 135.40

MENARDS Supplies 476.45

LL PELLING CO. Premix 1,951.70

STAPLES Ink, Paper 258.96

STATE TREASURER 1st Qtr. State W/H 1,247.00

STATE TREASURER 1st Qtr. Water Excise Tax 1,788.00

STATE TREASURER 1st Qtr. Sales Tax 132.00

U.S. CELLULAR Monthly Service 72.86

U.S. POSTMASTER Billing Postage 105.00

VISA Supplies 20.00

WAGES Net Wages 8,815.32

WEATHERMAN, BROCK Utility Deposit Refund 100.00

WELLMARK BC/BS Health Premium 3,955.86

TOTAL CLAIMS $69,236.09

After discussion, a motion by Thom, seconded by Todd, to accept the receipts and approve all claims for payment. Roll Call: All Ayes.

The treasurer’s report, budget balances report, bank reconciliation and list of outstanding checks, and police report were presented. The clerk stated that there was an error on the treasurer’s report or the bank reconciliation and that the council would be getting an amended report next month. The council accepted the remaining reports.

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Reports from standing committees were asked for with Todd reporting that due to health reasons, H&W was no longer conducting scrap metal/appliance events. She indicated that Speck in Des Moines could provide a roll-off for a weekend to accept these materials.

The roll-off would not be staffed and a representative of the city would need to oversee the collection. The council asked her to look into available dates. Public Works Director Dale Hennick reported that the street crew had been in town to measure streets for this summer’s maintenance. Macki relayed a thank you for filling trenches along Park Street. Macki reported that he made contact with two students to potentially do the trimming at the cemetery this summer. He is leaving it to the students to make contact with the clerk or public works director to apply for the job. Thom reported that he had attended the SCEDG meeting last month. They discussed a grant that has been made available, the Rural Innovation Grant. The deadline to apply is June 5th. Thom also reported that the city was awarded a $15,000 Derelict Building Grant from the IDNR. These funds will be used on the Opera House project. McBreen discussed applying for a UP grant for an electronic sign. The council discussed that a sign of this type would be another method of communicating with citizens during a crises, like the one we are experiencing with Covid-19.

The first item under old business concerned the contract for garbage service for the city. After discussion, a motion by Thom, seconded by McBreen, to hire Ankeny Sanitation to perform garbage services for the city for a term of 3 years with a yearly review. Roll Call: Ayes: Thom, McBreen, Baxter, Todd. Nays: Macki. Motion carried.

The next item concerned the purchase contract for the property at 119 Water Street. Mayor Kovarik stated that he had been contacted by the representative for J. VonGutenbosen concerning diverting city funds that had been allocated for the paraphet flashing and west downspout to what they feel are more immediate repairs. After discussion, a motion by Thom, seconded by Macki, to make the final payment and complete this contract. Roll Call: All Ayes. Mayor Kovarik will make contact and resolve the contract.

The next item under old business concerned the Wastewater Treatment System Project. The clerk reported that the easements documents for the new outfall had been submitted to the Story County Board of Supervisors for their review and action.

The next item concerned the Cambridge Opera House. Thom reviewed the construction phases and cost estimate with the council. After discussion, a motion by McBreen, seconded by Baxter, to approve the cost estimate and move forward with bid letting. Roll Call: All Ayes.

The next item concerned the budget for the city for fiscal years 2020/21. The clerk indicated that the public hearing for amending the FY2020 budget will be held at the June regular meeting.

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The next item under old business concerned the review of the city code related to fireworks and building codes. Todd indicated that she would like to add a definition for a

parking pad to Chapter 140. The council agreed. She will send the proposed code changes to the city attorney to prepare a draft of the ordinance amendment.

The last item under old business concerning the hiring of an assistant public works director. The council approved the notice and job description. The notice will be published and posted with a deadline for receiving completed applications in June.

The first item under new business was a request from Story County Planning & Development to review a subdivision application that would fall within the 2-mile radius of the city. The council reviewed the application and will waive their right of review.

Resolution No. 20-10, “Resolution to Approve Urban Renewal Plan Amendment for the Cambridge Urban Renewal Area”, was presented to the council. A motion by Thom, seconded by Macki, was made to approve the addition of the Cambridge Opera House project to the city’s Urban Renewal Plan. Roll Call: Ayes: Baxter, Macki, McBreen, Thom, Todd. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Resolution No. 20-11, “Resolution Waiving Subdivision Review”, was presented to the council. A motion by Baxter, seconded by Todd, was made to approve the resolution. Roll Call: Ayes: Baxter, Macki, McBreen, Thom, Todd. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Mayor/Council comments were asked for with Mayor Kovarik relaying information he received at the county emergency management meeting last week concerning opening of public buildings in the county and statistics on business losses and employee lay-offs. The recommendation is to consider reopening public buildings when the county has seen a declining number of Covid-19 cases for 14 days. The council agreed with this recommendation. He also reported that the Tattered Toad is open for carry-out food and drink orders. The patio is also set up outside dining.

A motion Macki, seconded by Todd, to adjourn the meeting. Roll Call: All Ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

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Debra L. Thompson, City Clerk Steven P. Kovarik, Mayor