

City of Camanche, Iowa

November 17, 2009

The City Council of the City of Camanche, Iowa, met in regular session November 17, 2009 at 6:00 P.M. at Camanche City Hall. Present on roll call were: Mayor Robertson, presiding, and the following named council members: Fahlbeck, Kramer, Varner, Willis. Wehde was absent. Also present were City Administrator Roth, City Attorney Lonergan, City Engineer Solchenberger, and department heads Houzenga, Schutte, Rickertsen and Jindrich.

Bill Graves was wondering if the city has thought anything more about opening the discussion of leaf burning. He stated that it is a big health issue. Robertson commented that the city had changed the ordinance limiting the days and hours of opening burning. The mayor stated that nothing more has been decided.

Robertson stated that the minutes from the November 3, 2009 meeting needed to be corrected. The minutes stated that Houzenga swore in Kelli Smith which in fact it was Robertson.

Moved by Willis, second by Varner to approve the consent agenda which covered the following items: corrected minutes from the November 3, 2009 regular council meeting; approve Abstract No. 501 dated November 17, 2009 with total expenditures of \$745,055.65 and salaries of \$30,089.03; approve the City Clerk/Treasurer's Report for October with the following expenditures: General - \$525,593.73, Library - \$11,085.92, Road Use Tax - \$40,559.28, Debt Service - \$52,982.80, Trust & Agency - \$111,723.27, Water Utility - \$27,121.19, Sewer Utility - \$51,730.35, Recreation - \$6,046.00, Payroll/Clearing - \$146,706.66, Garbage/Landfill - \$30,632.77 for a total of \$1,004,181.97; accept and place on file minutes from Park & Rec meeting held November 2, 2009 and Cemetery Board meeting held November 9, 2009; accept and place on file the Abstract of Votes from the November 3, 2009 city election. On roll call – all ayes.

Roth presented the second reading by title only of an ordinance Amending the Camanche Municipal Code by Creating a New Chapter 2.50, Entitled "Ambulance Service Fees."

Moved by Willis, second by Varner by approve the second reading of said ordinance. On roll call – Ayes – Varner, Willis, Fahlbeck, and Kramer. Absent – Wehde.

Moved by Willis, second by Kramer to waive the third reading of said ordinance. On roll call – Ayes – Varner, Willis, Fahlbeck, and Kramer. Absent – Wehde.

Moved by Willis, second by Varner to Adopt Ordinance 701 – An Ordinance Amending the Camanche Municipal Code by Creating a New Chapter, 2.50, Entitled – "Ambulance Service Fees". On roll call – ayes – Willis, Fahlbeck, Kramer, and Varner. Absent – Wehde. Mayor declared Ord. 701 adopted.

Health Insurance Renewal – As reported last meeting, the health care premiums will increase 20+%. Roth commented that the city raised the limits last year along with the deductibles/out of pocket expenses. He feels that the city has three options: 1. Pass some of the cost on to employees; 2. Buy down from the insurance fund; 3. Keep things as they are. Lonergan commented that it is a dangerous time to look for other insurance companies. He feels the city should see what the future holds. Roth suggested that the city draw some out of the insurance reserves and levy the rest from taxes.

Roth also wanted to look at the date that insurance coverage is available to the employees. Presently the employee's coverage starts the first day of the month following completion of 30 days of employment. Lonergan suggested that Roth see what other cities do as far as start dates for insurance coverage. Houzenga said that maybe the City could pay for the employee's Cobra coverage – they would not have the liability.

There was considerable discussion concerning a request from Fire Chief Schutte to offer to the newly hired paramedic/firefighter two weeks of vacation immediately at the time of hire. Lonergan has talked to Wylie Pillers who in turn talked to Bill Lodge (bargaining unit). The bargaining unit meets tomorrow and they will decide if that is acceptable with them. Schutte commented that the position was advertised as an entry level position. Schutte questioned whether the council would be willing to give the new hire credit for his years of service from his present employer for vacation purposes only. Roth will call Bill Lodge to have him ask the bargaining unit about Question #2.

Willis brought up the issue of city council compensation. He feels it is time that the council should be compensated more. Kramer was opposed to the idea. Varner agrees with Willis but not now with the current economy. Roth will see what other cities our size get compensated.

Rickertsen presented a proposal to replace the existing water meters with radio read meters. The whole town would be able to be read in 1 to 1-1/2 hours. The money would come from the water budget. They would do Murphy, Stearns and Lawrence Subdivisions first.

Moved by Kramer, second by Varner to authorize Rickertsen to order 150 registers. On roll call – all ayes.

Roth presented the first reading of an Ordinance Increasing the Size of the City of Camanche Historical Board from Seven Members to Nine Members.

Moved by Willis, second by Fahlbeck to approve the first reading of said ordinance. On roll call – ayes – Kramer, Varner, Willis, and Fahlbeck. Absent – Wehde.

Moved by Willis, second by Fahlbeck to waive the second and third reading of said ordinance. On roll call – ayes – Varner, Willis, Fahlbeck, and Kramer.

Moved by Willis, second by Fahlbeck to adopt Ord. 702, An Ordinance Increasing the Size of the City of Camanche Historical Board from Seven Members to Nine Members. On roll call – ayes – Varner, Willis, Fahlbeck, and Kramer. Absent – Wehde. Mayor declared said Ord. 702 adopted.

Moved by Kramer, second by Willis to approve a pay request in the amount of \$206,229.33 from Top Grade Excavating for work completed on the force main project. On roll call – all ayes.

Lonergan reported that he has received the site lease from Wapsi Wireless with a \$700 monthly rent with a deduction of \$100.00 per month per co-locator (up to two).

Moved by Fahlbeck, second by Willis to approve the site lease and authorize the Mayor to sign it. On roll call – all ayes.

Solchenberger reported that the MRT plans are to the IDOT. In regards to the 9th Street Bridge, there is a February bid letting. We are waiting on the DNR approval of the hydraulics.

Robertson reported that there is a vacancy on Planning and Zoning and one on Park and Rec.

Fahlbeck stated that the council needs to decide on the paint color and design for the water tower.

Kramer was wondering what transpired with the ball field at 13th Avenue. It was reported that Mike McManus met with the neighbors. They would limit the ages to play on that field. They were informed that concrete was pored for the dugouts. Some of the council members thought they were going to cease work until they came to the council. The council would like to have a plan from Park & Rec as to the precautions that are going to be made. Roth will talk to Lori Bigwood and Mike McManus at the same time. The council would like them to be at the next council meeting.

Kramer asked Rickertsen if there was going to be a privacy fence put where the tennis courts use to be next to the garage complex. He stated that he had not planned on it but he may look into planting some trees.

Varner reported that the lights have been installed at Platt Park on the concession stand to prevent vandalism. He wanted to compliment the fire chief on a job well done on the recent fish fry.

Willis said that the electrical service needs to be upgraded at Platt Park for Camanche Days. He was wondering who pays for it. It was stated that Camanche Days paid for it last time. Gary Kampe said that the city should go through MidAmerican and see what rebates or help they might give the city.

At 7:45 PM, being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting to be adjourned, and the next meeting will be held December 1, 2009.

James R. Robertson, Mayor

Sheryl L. Jindrich
City Clerk/Treasurer