

Earlham City Council Meeting
June 8, 2020

The Earlham City Council met in regular session, on Monday, June 8, 2020. Due to Covid-19 precautions, meeting was held electronically. Mayor Lillie called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the following answered roll: Baskin, Fredericksen, Swalla. Absent: Payne, Petersen. Also present: Clerk Hibbs, Police Chief Swalla, Public Works Supervisor Coffman.

1. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Fredericksen, second by Swalla, to approve agenda.

Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.

2. Public Forum

Fredericksen stated he spoke with a resident who shared concerns over a possible installation of a 5G cell tower on the new water tower, stating health concerns. Fredericksen was asked to mention to council and have them read information. (*Hibbs had sent information to Council for their review*).

3. Consent Agenda:

a. Council meeting minutes for May 11, & May 18, 2020

b. Treasurer's Report as of June 8, 2020

c. Claims and Receipts Report for June 8, 2020

d. Approval of Traci Terwilliger for Earlham Library Board, beginning June 1, 2020, filling vacant seat, Term ending 12-31-24.

e. Approval of Outdoor Service Privilege on Liquor License for West Side Bar & Grill for July 3rd, 2020, Street Dance, pending dram shop

Motion by Swalla, second by Baskin, to approve consent agenda.

Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.

(*Payne arrived at 7:03 p.m.*)

4. Boards, Commission, Committee Reports - None

5. Department Reports

a. Public Works - Gary Coffman, Public Works Supervisor

Regular mowing, trimming, street sweeping. Parks are opened up per Governor. Patching pot holes, need to order more patch material. Met with the railroad regarding Sycamore Ave. mowing. Railroad said they haven't discussed it too much. They still don't want to give us the property even though we maintain it. Gary proposed they knock down the weeds all through town, and we will mow. They were okay with that. Water tower pillars are supposed to be started tomorrow. Mayor said the equipment is there, as well as metal and pad. Project is ahead of schedule. Shane Oyler and Scott Lee from Shive-Hattery were in attendance to answer any questions council might have regarding the Professional Services Agreement. Mayor will sign the contract. Swalla asked about Gendler pond - Gary said he will look into getting grass carp, as well as take care of fixing dock. Mayor stated there has been some discussion in town about the removal of trees. Gary explained we only take down trees that are dead, diseased, hollow, or split, per ordinance. Trees hanging over sidewalk is resident's responsibility. He stated over the last ten years, the City has planted 114 trees around town – far more than have been removed.

b. Police Department – Chief Jason Heimdal

Chief stated the Senior Class Parade went well. There are two junk cars parked on W 1st Street. One has been towed. He was not able to locate owner of the other car in order to send a letter, so an ad must appear in the paper for two consecutive weeks. Swalla asked about the weeds he had spoken to him about. Chief stated he has contacted the owner.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Consider approval of Ordinance No. 422 Amending Code of Ordinances of Earlham, Iowa, by Amending Chapter 55 Animal Protection and Control, Chapter 56 Dog License Required, and Chapter 57 Dangerous and Vicious Animals
Motion by Swalla, second by Baskin, to approve Ordinance No. 422, Amending Code of Ordinances of Earlham, Iowa, by Amending Chapter 55 Animal Protection and Control, Chapter 56 Dog License Required, and Chapter 57 Dangerous and Vicious Animals
Roll: Ayes – Unanimous. Motion passes.

- b. Consider approval/re-approval of joint basketball & tennis court project
Mindy Harskamp stated the tennis court project has joined together with Luke Ramsey’s Eagle Scout Project (renovating the basketball court). Luke said Mindy approached him regarding the merge because of the spacing for the two projects. Mindy said they have raised \$60,000 for the project. The City committed to \$10,000 for the tennis courts. Luke asked for \$7,000 to help finish the project. Mayor Lillie said Luke approached him with this request prior to this meeting, and at first the Mayor wasn’t in favor of this additional request. However, after looking at the current budget, he saw available funds which were not going to be spent (park, rec park, pool) due to Covid-19 closings. Consensus of council that this was a worthwhile project and something many citizens, young and old, would use.
Motion by Payne, second by Swalla, to approval/re-approval joint basketball tennis court project
Roll: Ayes - unanimous. Motion passes.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Consider approval of Resolution No. 20-28, a Resolution Authorizing Transfers of Funds for FY20
Motion by Swalla, second by Fredicksen, to approve Resolution No. 20-28, a Resolution Authorizing Transfers of Funds for FY20
Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.

- b. Consider approval of Resolution No. 20-29, A Resolution Setting Wages For Full-Time And Part-Time Employees, Fire Chief And Rescue Captain, Of The City Of Earlham, Iowa, Effective July 1, 2020
Motion by Fredericksen, second by Payne, to approve Resolution No. 20-29, a Resolution Setting Wages For Full-Time And Part-Time Employees, Fire Chief And Rescue Captain, Of The City Of Earlham, Iowa, Effective July 1, 2020
Roll: Ayes - unanimous Motion passes.

- c. Consider approval of Freedom Fest Parade route and street dance.
Chief explained the parade route will be the same as the Senior Parade. Mayor said it was his understanding that the dance, parade, and fireworks would go on, but there will no activities in the park. The Freedom Fest committee is considering having more activities at a later date. Payne asked if the parade might be bogged up in the Williamsen Addition. Swalla said it worked fine for the Senior parade, as well as for social distancing.
Motion by Swalla, second by Baskin, to approve Freedom Fest Parade route and street dance, with possible route adjustment if needed.
Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.

- d. Discussion on future of water reserve fund - capital improvements
Hibbs explained the water reserve fund was started in anticipation of Water Tower Project. Now that funding is complete, she consulted with financial consultant Travis Squires from Piper Sanders as to what to do with the Fund. He said we could roll it back into water fund, or continue contributing to it and use it for possible project in the future, or use it to pay off the water tower note early. Council consensus was to do the latter.

- e. Set date and time for Public Hearing on FY20 Budget Amendment #2
Motion by Swalla, second by Baskin, to set date and time for Public Hearing on FY20 Budget Amendment #2 for June 29, 2020, 6:00 p.m.
Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.

8. Mayor's Report

Mayor stated City has been approached regarding a possible voluntary annexation of land for future housing development.

9. Clerk's Report

Hibbs said she would be on vacation next week. She will attend a Small City Workshop Thursday online. GOL and WA Rev Notes for the water tower project closed on 6-5-20 and the funds are now in the bank. Re-iterated what Fredericksen said regarding 5G cell phone tower issues.

10. Council comments/discussion

Fredericksen asked about the swimming pool. Swimming lessons will begin June 22nd with smaller classes that will be an hour instead of half hour. Mayor said we are still waiting to hear guidelines from Governor regarding opening with/without restrictions.

11. Adjourn

Before adjourning, Mayor Lillie said the June 29th will be held using Zoom. The July 13th meeting will convene back in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Motion by Fredericksen, second by Baskin to adjourn.

Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.

Being there was not further business, meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Jeff Lillie, Mayor

Attest: _____
Mary Sue Hibbs, Clerk/Treasurer