

**Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, Cherokee, Iowa
June 24, 2014 – 7:00 P.M.**

A regular meeting was called to order on this date by Mayor Murphy. Present: Council member Brown, Johnson, Miller, Pingel, Peck, City Attorney Miller, Administrator Eikmeier, Clerk-Treasurer Taylor.

The Mayor added agenda item #5.06 - authorize the emergency purchase of a 6” drainage pump.

A motion by Brown, seconded by Johnson, unanimously approved the following under “Consent Business”.

City council minutes of June 10th.

Cigarette permit renewals for: Hy-Vee Gas; Hy-Vee Food Store; Cherokee Country Store; Fareway; Sparky’s One Stop; Casey’s General Store; Liquor on the Corner; A to Z Liquor & Smoke Shoppe; Dollar General.

Bills totaling \$1,353,861.28.

CHEROKEE AUTO PARTS	OIL FILTER	12.25
CHEROKEE AVIATION AUTHORITY	JUNE TAX DRAW	178.12
CHEROKEE FIRE DEPARTMENT	VOLUNTEER ALLOWANCE	690.00
CHEROKEE POLICE DEPT.	CONFIDENTIAL FUNDS	1,500.00
CHEROKEE LUMBER, INC.	GLASSBOARD FOR DOG	67.38
CONTROL SYSTEM SPECIALISTS	SERVICE CONTRACT & SUPPLIES	1,670.50
DAVE ZELLE	TENNIS CAMP INSTRUCTOR	541.20
FARNER-BOCKEN COMPANY	CONCESSIONS	541.51
FELD FIRE	GAUGE; SEALS; ABC POWDER; PINS	106.97
GREGG COMPUTER SERVICE	PRINTER FOR CAR	500.00
HILLYARD	JANITORIAL SUPPLIES	628.67
IOWA DIVISION OF LABOR SERV.	BOILER INSPECTIONS @ POOL	190.00
IOWA FINANCE AUTHORITY	PRINCIPAL/INTEREST - SRF LOAN	323,795.25
LEO'S KITCHENS, INC.	NEW KITCHEN COUNTERS-COMMUNITY CENTER	1,861.00
LUSCOMBE APPRAISALS	ASSSIT WITH 36 FLOOD APPRAISALS	625.00
LUNDELL CONSTRUCTION CO.	TV DRAIN LINE @ POOL	280.00
MID AMERICAN ENERGY	ELECTRICITY	137.07
MODERN HEATING & COOLING	SINKS/FAUCETS & INSTALL-COMMUNITY CENTER	1,821.76
NORTHWEST IOWA APPRAISALS	36 APPRAISALS – FLOOD BUY OUT	10,800.00
OFFICE ELEMENTS	COPIER LEASE	103.82
PITNEY BOWES	JUNE POSTAGE METER RENT	35.00
SHIELD TECHNOLOGY CORP.	ANNUAL SOFTWARE SUPPORT	913.75
SIOUX SALES COMPANY	BOOTS - T. SMITH	109.95
TIM SMITH	USPCA DETECTOR TRIAL CERTIFICATION	60.00
THREE RIVERS BENEFIT	CLAIMS THRU 6/13/14	1,977.59
TOTAL BACKFLOW & METER	SERVICE CALL	195.00
TREASURER, STATE OF IOWA	MAY SALES TAX	5,476.15
USPS	POSTAGE FOR UTILITY BILLS	339.56
WALDNER'S LAWN SERVICE	LAWN CARE	250.00
WEBRESTAURANT STORE	40 NEW TABLES – C.C. LOWER LEVEL	4,263.29
WIESE OIL & SUPPLY CO., LTD	GAS & DIESEL	8,939.93

Reviewed Library Board minutes of May 7th.

Pay request #2 to Christensen Bros. for \$173,150.43 for the River Road bridge project.

Renewal of Class “C” beer permit – Casey’s General Store.

Renewal of Class “C” beer permit – Sparky’s One Stop.

Administrator Eikmeier explained that when One Call locates are received, Water Dept. employees are currently trying to locate everything – the main, hydrants, curb boxes, and private service lines. When called to locate for construction projects or multi-block/lot projects, it takes several days to complete, taking employees away from other duties such as valve exercising, leak locating, and hydrant replacement. In surveying seven area cities, 1 locates everything, 3 don’t locate private lines, and 3 don’t locate for large construction projects or multi-block/lot projects. If the city doesn’t locate the private

lines, the contractor would have to hire someone to do so. A motion by Pingel, seconded by Miller, adopted a policy eliminating the practice of locating private water services for large construction projects and multi-block/lot projects. The city would continue to locate private water services on individual projects. Motion carried.

On a motion by Brown, seconded by Peck, the council re-appointed Mark Hecox to a 3-year term on the Cherokee Area Economic Development Board. Motion carried.

Administrator Eikmeier reported that the City's worker's compensation premium has increased 38% over the past year. This is partly due to higher insurance ratings and increased wages. However, approximately \$7,200 of the increase is due to the worsening of our safety rating over the past 4 years. Although not a bad accident/injury record, it was enough where the City has lost its discount and is now receiving a surcharge. The Administrator indicated that the City's safety program has fallen to the wayside. He is proposing to offer a \$.50/hr. supplemental compensation incentive for an employee to take on the duties of safety coordinator. The safety coordinator would be responsible for having quarterly safety meetings with training on various topics. On a motion by Brown, seconded by Peck, the council unanimously approved supplemental compensation in the amount of \$.50/hr. to an employee acting as safety coordinator, who will be appointed by the Administrator.

The Administrator reported that Diane Cargin, Deputy Clerk, has been responsible for the drafting and development of many grant applications over the past several years, including Fire Dept. equipment grants, Legacy grants, trail grants, VISION Iowa grants, and most recently the FEMA buyout program grant. Either through grant dollars received or through consultant fees the City has been able to avoid, she has saved the City thousands of dollars. Grant funding and grant administration will be ongoing activities in the future. On the recommendation of the Administrator and City Clerk, a motion by Peck, seconded by Miller, unanimously approved supplemental compensation of \$1.00/hr. for Diane Cargin for grant writing duties. The supplemental pay goes with the individual and not necessarily the position.

As discussed during the public hearing on the 2014-15 budget, the council received quotes reviewed to install automatic handicap doors at the main entrance to the Community Center. The quote for the power door opener from Wheelchair Dynamics is \$6,100 and the wiring quote from Champion Electric is \$665, for a total cost of \$6,765. Unspent appropriations from the current budget will be carried over to cover this cost. A motion by Brown, seconded by Pingel, authorized the purchase and installation of the automatic handicap door opener and wiring, as proposed, for a total of \$6,765, and adopted Resolution No. 14-12, encumbering \$6,765 from unspent 2013-14 appropriations to cover the cost. Roll call was: AYES: All. NAYS: None.

The Street Dept. again rented a 6" pump to alleviate sanitary sewer problems during last weeks' flooding. The firm has indicated that the pump may have to be returned soon as other communities are also in need of pumps. The City can purchase this used pump for significantly less than a new pump. A motion by Miller, seconded by Brown, authorized the Administrator and Street Supt. to negotiate a price for the purchase of the 6" pump and necessary hoses. Motion carried.

Duane Mummert, Park Supt., presented his quarterly report to the Council. In March, getting the pool ready for opening, leaks were found in some of the seals; one of the pool water heaters may have to be replaced this fall; the bathhouse floors will be painted in the fall; the storage building and restroom building at Westcott have been reroofed – there was no flood damage to these structures; the new shelter at Spring Lake Park has been completed including electrical work; the former Kohn house was burned; an individual with a firm doing roofing at M.H.I. and camping at Spring Lake Park, used stolen equipment and caused major damage last week at the park; the fountain had wiring issues that have been resolved and will be installed when flood waters subside; the trail was seeded but has since been flooded; the new trails have been heavily used; in response to a resident's question about a boat with a gas motor on the lake at night, Duane said it was a boat with an electric trolling motor, which is legal.

In his report, the Administrator said the Governor has issued a disaster declaration resulting from the severe storms of June 13 and includes State assistance for public property only. The goose population has

diminished because of the flooding so the round up for Thursday will be cancelled. Several residents have inquired about yard waste pickup during the summer months. The City didn't do the pickup last summer and doesn't plan to do so this year because it takes staff away from other projects. The council asked the Administrator to check with Sanitary Services on what they would charge to add a couple of yard waste pickups this summer. The Jake brakes issue has come up again and will be placed on a future agenda for discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

News media – Nikki Thunder, KCHE.

Mark Murphy – Mayor

ATTEST:

Debra Taylor
City Clerk-Treasurer