

**Regular City Council Meeting  
City Hall, Cherokee, Iowa  
August 25, 2015 – 7:00 P.M.**

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

Deb Hankens and Duane Mummert gave an update on the trails. They have been receiving donations, some significant, that can be used as matching funds for future projects. Their current project is to illuminate the trestle bridge with 3 LED lights as well as install outlets for possible Christmas decorations. The cost is approximately \$2,000. Administrator Eikmeier commended the trail committee as they have been operating basically on their own for the past 2½ years. When asked who else serves on the committee, Deb said that it varies, but mentioned Jim and Sue Nelson, Jeff and Michelle Wilson, Mark Campbell, Jane Campbell, Mary Tuttle, Ron Oman, and Carmen Henke.

At 7:04 p.m., Mayor Murphy opened a public hearing on the exchange of property for a flood-impacted house. At the last meeting, the council declared the lot at 345 E. Cedar St. as surplus property. The homeowner of the house at 239 E. Willow St. is in the flood buyout program and has opted to move his house to 345 E. Cedar St. As there were no oral or written comments, the Mayor closed the hearing at 7:05 p.m.

On a motion by Pingel, seconded by Brown, the council adopted Resolution No. 15-16, authorizing a property exchange for a flood-impacted house by exchanging the city-owned lot at 345 E. Cedar St. for the flood-impacted lot at 239 E. Willow St. Roll call was: AYES: All. NAYS: None.

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

City council minutes of August 11th.

Renewal of class “B” wine permit for Hy-Vee Pharmacy & Gifts.

Reviewed Board of Adjustment minutes of August 19th.

Reviewed Park & Rec. Advisory Board minutes of August 17th.

Administrator Eikmeier reported on the progress of the rental housing inspection program. 204 properties representing 600 units have registered with 132 properties representing 225 units not having paid the first year’s fees. 418 units have been inspected with 7% in excellent condition, 45% in good condition, 45% in fair condition, and 3% in poor condition. The City has been flexible up to this point, giving landlords additional time to make necessary corrections. However, as we are into the second year of the program, the City will have to get serious about deadlines. Fire Dept. personnel, Doug Gochenour and Luke Gravenish, were present. Doug reported that for the most part landlords understand why the inspections are being conducted. Some of the major offenses have been wiring, use of extension cords, plumbing issues, and basement walls falling in. Some are procrastinating about getting things done. Luke said one landlord questioned where the inspections fees go. A resident in attendance said that is also her question. She felt \$48/year for a 10-minute inspection was excessive. She also doesn’t feel that some landlords have made the necessary corrections. Administrator Eikmeier explained that the fees are used toward wages of the employees doing the inspections as well as City Hall staff who are doing the paperwork. Salaries of fire dept. personnel have been paid by property taxes in the past, so inspection fees offset some of those taxes. The fees will be reviewed in the next year and it is possible they could be adjusted.

1. Administrator’s report – Don said the deadline for Administrator applications is August 31st and he will notify the Council shortly after that of the candidates.
2. Duane Mummert, Park Supt., presented his quarterly report to the council. He mentioned an upcoming \$20,000 donation toward the trail project, with the donor being announced at a later time. The roof on the mechanical building at the pool is leaking. This is also an observation area with benches, chairs, and

bicycle racks. The concrete has cracked and is leaking into the mechanical room. He is soliciting quotes and wants to get this repaired before winter. He will be asking for funds in next years' budget to upgrade the electrical service for campers. There is plenty of underground power, but the pedestals need to be upgraded. The Park Dept. continues with regular mowing, maintenance and repairs. They plan to start cutting trees in all the parks and green space before winter and will start winterizing next month. If possible, he would like to see more concrete and trees removed during the flood buyout demolitions in order to convert more of the green space to cropland. However, Council member Brown doesn't feel we should plow up any more of the green space, except to square off certain areas. This will be reviewed further in the future. Duane also mentioned the need to start doing controlled burns in certain areas – along the railroad trails and areas in the green space.

3. Armond Rider, Public Works Supt., updated the council on last week's 10" rainfall. They started pumping from the manholes last Monday and just stopped today. 4-5 houses had sewer backup, but they generally stayed ahead of this by getting the pumps started early. There is a lot of infiltration from the Ament Addition and they are still televising the lines. He reported that cleaning and maintenance of the north water tower would take about 2 weeks. During this time, several fire hydrants around town will appear to be leaking, but this is a pressure releasing measure during the tower maintenance.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

News media – Ken Ross, *Chronicle Times*; Nikki Thunder, KCHE.

Mark Murphy – Mayor

ATTEST:

Debra Taylor  
City Clerk-Treasurer