

**Regular City Council Meeting
City Hall, Cherokee, Iowa
March 24, 2015 – 7:00 P.M.**

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

Mayor Murphy added the following items to the agenda: #5.05 – Review aquatic center fees and hours; #5.06 – Consider bids for new police vehicle.

As the notice of public hearing didn't get published regarding amendments to the Revolving Loan Fund, this item was tabled until the April 14th meeting.

At 7:02, Mayor Murphy opened a public hearing on proposed amendments to the Zoning Code regarding projecting signs in Commercial Districts. The amendment would allow signs projecting from a second story to be a maximum of 4' x 7' and project up to 4' from the building face. As there were no oral or written comments, the Mayor closed the hearing at 7:03 p.m. A motion by Brown, seconded by Peck, approved the first presentation and waived the second and third presentations of Ordinance No. 611, an ordinance amending provisions pertaining to projecting signs in the Commercial Districts, and ordered its publication. Roll call was: AYES: All. NAYS: None.

A motion by Brown, seconded by Pingel, approved the first presentation of three ordinances amending provisions pertaining to private swimming pools and fencing requirements: an ordinance amending the definition of a swimming pool to be any body of water with a depth of 24" or more; an ordinance amending principal permitted uses to allow private swimming pools provided they are required to have a fence at least 5' high with self-closing and self-latching gates/doors; and an ordinance amending fencing requirements that a pool be enclosed by a fence at least 5' high. Roll call was: AYES: All. NAYS: None.

On a motion by Peck, seconded by Miller, the council unanimously approved the following under "Consent Business".

City council minutes of March 10th.

Payment to Iowa Communities Assurance Pool for \$125,496.69 for the annual property, liability, and auto insurance.

Final payment to L & J Dream Builders for \$9,696 for CDBG housing rehab project at 430 E. Willow.

Tax abatement application for 201 W. Main.

Reviewed Board of Adjustment minutes of March 12th granting variance requests for 111 E. Elm and 714 N. 2nd.

The council reviewed bids for the replacement of the water line on Industrial Road: Schoon Construction & Excavation - \$39,750; Lundell Construction - \$44,370. A motion by Miller, seconded by Peck, awarded the contract to Schoon Construction & Excavation for \$39,750. Motion carried.

The council reviewed bids for the replacement of a 4" sewer force main immediately west of the Sumner and Park intersection: Schoon Construction & Excavation - \$9,946.25; Lundell Construction - \$18,060.40. On a motion by Brown, seconded by Peck, the council awarded the contract to Schoon Construction & Excavation for \$9,946.25. Motion carried.

A motion by Brown, seconded by Pingel, authorized the purchase of a Grasshopper mower with a 72" deck from Builders Sharpening & Service for \$14,404 for the Park Dept. This was budgeted and will be paid from the 2015-16 budget. Motion carried.

The City received a Legacy Grant of \$10,000 for the refurbishment of the playground equipment at Spring Lake Park, located just west of the yacht club. The estimated cost of the project is \$14,770, with the balance of the cost coming from the Park & Rec. Capital Improvement fund. On a motion by Miller, seconded by Brown, the council unanimously approved the refurbishment project.

The council reviewed recommendations from the Park & Rec. Advisory Board regarding an increase in aquatic center admission fees and a change in the open hours. The Board recommends increasing the daily admission fee to \$6 (has been \$5 since the aquatic center opened) and the family season pass to \$140 (currently \$135), with an early bird price of \$120 through 4/30/15. The recommended hours would be 12:30 – 7:30. The pool is dead after 6:00 p.m., so the earlier closing hours would possibly allow for more private pool parties and water aerobics and/or evening swim lessons. A motion by Brown, seconded by Peck, approved the new rates and hours as recommended, to take effect immediately. Motion carried.

The council reviewed the following bids for a new police vehicle: Rasmussen Ford – 2015 Ford Expedition XL 4 x 4 - \$40,020, less trade of \$23,809, net cost \$16,211, delivery 7/1/15; Holzhauer Motors – 2014 Chev. Tahoe 4 x 4 police package - \$35,760, less trade of \$21,500, net cost \$14,261, delivery 7/1/15. The existing vehicle equipment is compatible with the Chev. Tahoe. On a motion by Brown, seconded by Miller, the council unanimously accepted the low bid from Holzhauer Motors for \$14,261. This vehicle was budgeted and will be paid from the 2015-16 budget.

The council reviewed the following reports.

1. Administrator's report – 11 applications were received for the Public Works Superintendent position. He will be making one-on-one phone calls to visit with each applicant and plans to schedule preliminary interviews the first or second week in April. He will conduct the interviews along with the Mayor and two council members.
2. Gary Chase, Fire Chief, presented his quarterly report to the council. He reported they have had 31 calls since January 1st; received a Legacy Grant to replace 9 SCBA bottles; received a grant and donations to purchase a laser fire extinguisher training system; plan a practice burn on the house at 243 E. Willow on April 8th; are working on the ISO rating; and announced that Luke Gravenish has been hired full-time in the department (replacing Chris Horton) and will start on Monday, March 30.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

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

Mark Murphy – Mayor

ATTEST:

Debra Taylor
City Clerk-Treasurer