

Madrid City Council  
Regular Meeting  
May 15, 2017  
5:30 p.m.

The City Council meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. with Mayor Dirk Ringgenberg presiding.

Present at Roll Call: Steve Burich, Kurt Kruse, Val Chapman, Dave Cook and Lane Shaver.

Other City Officials Present: City Clerk Mary Jo Reese, Deputy City Clerk Deb Biegger, Public Works Director Scott Church, Library Director Angie Strong, Library Board Member Denise Hively, City Attorney John Jordan, Public Safety Director Rick Tasler, Fire Chief Jim Murry, Parks and Recreation Board Member Dualla Carlson, and Madrid Labor Day Committee Member Chuck Rigby.

Motion by Councilperson Cook, seconded by Councilperson Kruse to approve the agenda for May 15, 2017.

Ayes: All Present

Motion Carried

Motion by Councilperson Cook, seconded by Councilperson Shaver to open a public hearing regarding the FY 16-17 Budget Amendment at 5:33 p.m.

Reese advised there has been no correspondence from the public regarding the proposed budget amendment. No one was present at the hearing who wished to speak about the matter.

Motion by Councilperson Shaver, seconded by Councilperson Kruse to close the Public Hearing at 5:34 p.m.

Motion by Councilperson Burich, seconded by Councilperson Chapman to approve the City Council Meeting Minutes of May 1, 2017 and Library Meeting Minutes of April 11, 2017 by consent agenda. Councilperson Chapman asked that verbiage in the City Council Meeting Minutes be changed to clarify an issue. Reese indicated the change would be made.

Ayes: All Present

Motion Carried

Motion by Councilperson Chapman, seconded by Councilperson Burich to approve the claims for May 15, 2017 in the amount of \$523,754.50.

Ayes: All Present

Motion Carried

Councilperson Kruse advised the Council he spoke with Brent Hansen, art teacher at Madrid High School. Kruse had spoken to Hansen asking for possible input from the art department regarding painting of the water tower. Hansen will present a preliminary drawing of the project at the City Council Meeting on June 5, 2017.

Mary Swalla Holmes of the Madrid Area Chamber of Commerce advised she and three members of the Madrid City Council recently attended a Smart Conference held by Iowa League of Cities. She stated the City can apply to become a member of the Downtown Exchange through Iowa Economic Development. If chosen, Madrid would be paired with another city of the same size, and given funds to do a downtown assessment. Holmes asked the City to support the application with a letter from the mayor. Motion by Councilperson Shaver, seconded by Councilperson Cook to approve a letter of support for the MACC application.

Ayes: All Present

Motion Carried

Fire Chief Jim Murry stated the department is holding their final training session for firefighter one. Suzanne Higgins was previously approved to attend EMT class. The City will pay for her class, training materials and required immunizations. Public Safety Director Rick Tasler commented that two additional people have completed EMT, and EMR training. Mayor Ringgenberg stated the money currently being held in a separate fire building fund account will be transferred into the City's general checking account. The money from that account will then be used to pay upcoming engineering and design billings for the proposed fire safety building. The fire department will receive copies of all invoices associated with costs for the building. Funds from the Fire Department building fund will be assigned their own general ledger account number to allow for easier tracking of those funds. Tasler commented on issues with the Ford Explorer currently being driven by Officer Mackey. He stated it may be necessary to obtain a new vehicle for the police department.

Chuck Rigby of the Madrid Labor Day Committee and John Jordan discussed indemnification language in the Pullers contact. Jordan feels liability exposure is limited and recommended signing the contact as is. Rigby stated he will have the event list for the celebration completed by the next meeting, and will be working on the list for raffle prizes.

Library Director Angie Strong advised the Council on the Summer Reading Program planned for the library. She also advised the shed for the Library has been purchased, all book for future book sales have been placed in the shed behind the library, and the space in the back which previously housed those books has been turned into a quiet study area. Strong stated Boone County will be giving the Library \$18,000 next year. Security Cameras have been repaired at the library, and an additional camera has been installed in the Library Meeting Room. She stated the Library will be receiving \$800.00 from Madrid Community Endowment fund. The money will be used for new I-pads. The library also received \$600.00 from Community Chest which will be used for the Summer Reading Program. Strong advised the open position at the library has not yet been filled, however she hopes to interview applicants in the upcoming week. Strong reminded the Council the new Library hours will start on May 30, 2017.

Strong and Mayor Ringgenberg discussed the Library's budget for FY 16-17. The Library will be over budget for this period due figures that did not make it into the budget amendment. Mayor Ringgenberg stated the Library is well managed and the over sight is not a reflection on how the Library is managed.

Parks and Recreation Board Member Dualla Carlson reported Jacob Lowe has completed his Eagle Scout Project at Edgewood Park. Councilperson Shaver stated the Horseshoe Pit project will be completed on June 17 and 18.

Mayor Ringgenberg stated there will be a meeting of the Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustments on Thursday May 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss a request by Frank Lawson to build an addition to his property at 308 West 21<sup>st</sup> Street. The Board of Adjustments will bring their recommendations to the City Council Meeting scheduled for June 5, 2017.

The Council approved a request for approval from Bio-Resource Application Management to remove Lime Sludge from the Water Treatment Plan. The cost of the removal will be between \$15,000 and \$25,000. Motion by Councilperson Chapman, seconded by Councilperson Cook to approve the expenditure.

Ayes: All Present

Motion Carried

Motion by Councilperson Cook, seconded by Councilperson Kruse to approve a bid by C.L. Carroll Co. to repair arms on the clarifier at the Sewer Treatment Plant. The Cost of the repairs is estimated to be \$18,940.00.

Ayes: All Present

Motion Carried

Motion by Councilperson Chapman, seconded by Councilperson Kruse to approve an estimate to repair the Bin Vent on the lime silo at the Water Treatment Plant. The bid from Industrial Accessories Company is \$16,748.00.

Ayes: All Present

Motion Carried

Motion by Councilperson Shaver, seconded by Councilperson Burich to approve the hiring of Parker Niemier as part time Public Works employee for the summer months.

Ayes: All Present

Motion Carried

The Council discussed the need to raise water and sewer rates. The water and sewer rates currently do not cover the cost the cost of operating and maintaining the water and sewer treatment facilities or provide the funds to do needed improvements. Mayor Ringgenberg also stated the City is considering a proposal to enact storm sewer and water tower maintenance fees. The City will continue to research the needed dollar amount increases before a new ordinance is written.

Scott Church reported public works has been removing dead and dying trees from Edgewood Park and replacing with new trees. They are also replacing the speed bump on the road through the park. Church also commented he plans to hire two-part time summer employees rather than the four he originally planned.

Mayor Ringgenberg commented on Resolution #09-02-03, "Resolution Naming Depositories". The Resolution from FY 02-03 stated the City could keep up to \$2.25 million dollars in City State Bank, and \$500,000 in Commercial Federal Bank. The City has exceeded that dollar amount in both facilities. Ringgenberg feels these are the maximum amounts the City should currently have on hand at any one time and the City is currently above those dollar amounts which causes a negative remark on the annual audit. He also stated many scheduled projects have not been completed, while the money to do the projects is in the bank account. He suggested that Councilmembers talk to their constituents about how best to use the available funds over the upcoming years. He also commented that the City must update to fiber optics to attract business and residents in future years.

The Council considered a request for approval from Midwest Technologies to upgrade the phone system at City Hall. The cost of the updates will be \$2,845.74. Motion by Councilperson Shaver, seconded by Councilperson Kruse to approve the bid.

Ayes: All Present

Motion Carried.

John Jordan advised he will send a letter to Xenia Rural Water advising of upcoming water rate increases. Motion by Councilperson Cook, seconded by Councilperson Kruse to approve the letter drafted by Jordan to be send to Xenia Rural Water.

Ayes: All Present

Motion Carried

Jordan also advised he met recently with Jim Tometich, Denny Bernholtz, and the attorney for the owners of the former Pizza Palace on North Kennedy Avenue. Jordan hopes the case against those property owners can be resolved without litigation. He also continues to work on the Graham lawsuit filed against the City. Jordan also expects to close soon on the real estate transaction with Dan Boone. The City will be purchasing property currently owned by Boone.

Mayor Ringgenberg advised he will be contacting Ron Leitzman regarding his vacant property at 322 North Main Street. The property has been vacant for several years.

Ringgenberg advised the Council of a recent incident where a contractor for Windstream hit a sewer line. The City paid to have emergency repairs completed at the site. The contractor has agreed to pay one half of the cost of the repairs. The City will pay for the remaining costs.

Councilperson Burich stated he has received positive commentary regarding the work on Annex Road. Councilperson Kruse commented on the positive reviews of the street sign replacement

program. He advised the City has received a grant in the amount of \$1,475.00 to light the Madrid signs on Highway 17. Total cost of the project is estimated at \$3,300. He hopes to fund the remaining amount with grants or donations. Councilperson Chapman asked if there was a plan to have the tires removed from the roof of the Brown's Pizza property at 218 South State Street. The property is zoned commercial, but was recently sold to a property owner who is using it as a residence. Mayor Ringgenberg advised Chief Tasler will be working to remove the trash behind the buildings which is City owned property. Councilperson Cook relayed complaints of a dog which continues to run loose in his neighborhood. Chief Tasler has spoken with the dog owner regarding the issue. Junk vehicles are also being removed from the City. Councilperson Shaver commented on the improvements made to Fairview Drive.

Mayor Ringgenberg administered the Oath of Office, swearing in Councilperson Lane Shaver as a member of the board of Central Iowa Regional Housing Authority representing the City of Madrid.

Motion by Councilperson Kruse, seconded by Councilperson Chapman to approve Resolution #21-16-17, "City Budget Amendment and Certification."

Ayes: All Present

Ayes: All Present

Motion by Councilperson Kruse, seconded by Councilperson Cook to purchase sand for Samuel Poage's Eagle Scout project at Edgewood Park. The sand will be used to complete the volleyball court constructed by Poage and will cost approximately \$3,600.

Ayes: All Present

Motion Carried

Motion by Councilperson Kruse, seconded by Councilperson Chapman to approve a bid from Empowerment Solutions LLC to develop a new website for the City of Madrid. The cost of the project will be approximately \$6,095.00. Updates to the website will allow for publication of all City ordinances, and any forms required for any city activity.

Ayes: All Present

Motion Carried

Motion by Councilperson Chapman, seconded by Councilperson Shaver to approve an expenditure of around \$1,000 to add a module to City Hall's accounting system which will allow for direct deposit of payroll checks. Once implemented all employees will be required to receive their paychecks through direct deposit.

Ayes: All Present

Motion Carried

Motion by Councilperson Kruse, seconded by Councilperson Burich to approve a request from Flat Tire Lounge for a Special Events Liquor License for May 20, 2017.

Ayes: All Present

Motion Carried

Mayor Ringgenberg commented he received a phone call from a resident concerned that Annex Road was being "over-engineered". Ringgenberg asked that he meet with him to discuss the issue.

Reese advised the Council of the upcoming law change regarding the purchase and use of fireworks in Iowa. The Council discussed various options for allowing or disallowing fireworks within the City limits. The Council decided to allow the State of Iowa to regulate the issue now, and will poll their constituents to allow them to express their thoughts on the subject.

Reese also advised the Council that once they approve the purchase of an item it will go on the claims report when paid. It will not be put on the agenda as a separate item for payment approval. The prior method of approving the purchase, and then approving the payment was confusing to the Councilmembers.

Mayor Ringgenberg explained the process for disconnecting water service for nonpayment. Five days after the due date, each delinquent household is sent a pink disconnect notice. The pink notice includes a disconnect date. On the disconnect date stated on the pink notice, the Utility Billing Clerk handwrites orange door tags. Public Works employees then hang those door tags on the homes of

anyone who failed to pay during the disconnect notice timeframe. The customer is charged a service fee of \$10.00 for each door tag hung. The Council feels the process needs to be streamlined and many city fees adjusted to be more in line with other communities. Councilperson Cook feels the City could benefit from enforcing fines for Ordinance violations.

Motion by Councilperson Shaver, seconded by Councilperson Kruse to adjourn the City Council Meeting at 7:12 p.m.

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Dirk D. Ringgenberg  
Mayor

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Mary J. Reese  
City Clerk