

Madrid City Council
Regular Meeting
February 5, 2018
5:30 p.m.

The City Council meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Dirk Ringgenberg presiding.

Present at Roll Call: Kurt Kruse, Val Chapman, Dave Cook and Lane Shaver. Nate Samples was absent.

Other City Officials Present: City Clerk Mary Jo Reese, Deputy City Clerk Deb Biegger, Public Works Director Scott Church, Police Chief Rick Tasler, Library Director Angie Strong, City Treasurer Don Fatka, City Attorney John Jordan, and Fire Chief Jim Murry.

Motion by Councilperson Shaver, seconded by Councilperson Kruse to approve the agenda for February 5, 2018.

Ayes: All Present

Motion Carried

Motion by Councilperson Chapman, seconded by Councilperson Kruse to approve the City Council Meeting Minutes of January 15, 2018 and the Planning and Zoning Meeting minutes of January 18, 2018 by consent agenda.

Ayes: All Present

Motion Carried

Motion by Councilperson Chapman, seconded by Councilperson Shaver to approve the claims for February 5, 2018 in the amount of \$ 83,495.78.

Ayes: All Present

Motion Carried

Gary Bice of the Flat Tire Lounge advised the Council that Kue'd Barbeque will be selling lunches and dinners six days a week at the Flat Tire. Kue'd will be operating from a trailer on Flat Tire property. An adjacent smoker pit would infringe on the current easement area by 9-10 inches. He asked that the City amend their current easement to allow for the addition of the smoker pit. Bice does not feel there would be a safety concern with the request as there will be a fence around the area. City Attorney John Jordan stated he will review the current easement and proposed easement. Motion by Councilperson Cook, seconded by Councilperson Chapman to approve the amended easement pending Jordan's legal review of the matter.

Ayes: All Present

Motion Carried

Don Lincoln of 1672 334th Road, Madrid, representing Friends of the Trail approached the Council to request that the Coal Miner display be moved from its current location near the city shed on Highway 17 to an area near the restrooms at Dalander Park. Lincoln will work with the Public Works Director and volunteers to move the display. Lincoln also discussed plans for a coal miner display to be located along the trail near the Main Street trail entrance.

Mary Swalla Holmes of the Madrid Area Chamber of Commerce advised the Council the date for the City-wide Garage Sale will be May 5th. The Council discussed the upcoming RAGBRAI bike ride and Holmes feels that Madrid should prepare to accommodate a large amount of bike riders who may deviate from the official route to visit the High Trestle Trail and Bridge.

Councilperson Shaver reported that bands are being hired for the Labor Day Celebration. Shaver advised the Labor Day Committee has agreed to discontinue the pop can trailer which is located at the Market of Madrid. He thanked everyone who has supported the trailer with donations in the past.

Library Director Angie Strong reported on an upcoming visit from the State Librarian. She also advised that upcoming programs include early out Wednesday featuring Lego Crew, Chess Club, Pinterest, and movie night with Dr. Doolittle as the movie.

Mayor Ringgenberg commented there is discussion on naming a youth activity director who would be a public works employee. Public Works Director Scott Church will be responsible for the development of the plans. Church hopes to have a meeting between all entities that use the facilities at Edgewood Park.

Fire Chief Jim Murry advised the department will be sending four individuals to fire school at Iowa State University in February 2018. The department is currently planning a fire dance on July 28th. They hope to use Veterans Square for the event. Mayor Ringgenberg asked that Murry provide a list of all current training completed for an upcoming EMC review and to improve the department's ISO rating.

Public Safety Director Rick Tasler advised he has completed a grant application for Boone County Endowment, which would, if granted, pay a large portion of the cost to upgrade the video system in one of the police vehicles. A new video system has been purchased for the Tahoe and is waiting to be installed in the vehicle. Tasler reported on search warrant with the Federal Postal Service involving a large amount of narcotics.

Deputy City Clerk Deb Biegger advised the Council of recent discussions with the Boone County Assessors office regarding tax abatements. The residential abatement expired in 2010 and has not been renewed by the City. John Jordan will check into the matter and report back to the Council regarding the matter.

Motion by Councilperson Chapman, seconded by Councilperson Cook to approve the purchase of electronic speed signs to be located on Highway 17 near the bike trail crossing. The cost of the two signs is \$9,228. Church feels the signs will reduce the potential for an accident in that area by reminding vehicles of the speed limit.

Ayes: All Present

Motion Carried

Church advised that public works employees will be attending classes on March 27th for Work Zone Safety Training. The Council also discussed snow removal and asked that citizens adhere to the snow removal policy of removing vehicles from city streets and parking areas during snowfall of one half inch or more.

Motion by Councilperson Shaver, seconded by Councilperson Cook to approve a request for renewal of liquor licenses for Madrid VFW and Market of Madrid by consent agenda.

Ayes: All Present

Motion Carried

The Council tabled a request for tax abatement that was submitted by Mary Carpenter for her property at 406 E. 6th Street until the issue of tax abatement is resolved.

The Council discussed a request from Boone County Economic Growth Corporation for a donation to the Laborshed Project. Motion by Councilperson Shaver, seconded by Councilperson Kruse to approve a donation of \$250.00 towards the project.

Ayes: All Present

Motion Carried

Councilperson Kruse advised there are two vendors that have committed to "Food Truck Fridays" which will be held at Veterans Square. He advised he received an email from Lauren Subler from Region XII Council of Governments. She has completed the final draft of the ordinance codification. He asked that all Councilmembers as well as Public Works, Fire and Police review the proposed Code of Ordinances for any potential changes. Kruse also advised that he, along with the Mayor and other Councilmembers will be attending the Iowa League of Cities Legislative Day on February 6th. Kruse is currently obtaining samples of employee handbooks as a starting place for updating Madrid's employee handbook. Kruse also mentioned the need for pursuing

fiber optics for internet service in Madrid. He feels the City must make high speed internet a priority to increase growth in Madrid.

Councilperson Chapman stated she has solicited comments on the potential of having allowing chickens in the city limits. She asked that the public understand the chicken policy is not a priority for the City Council and is not taking away from those matters currently being addressed by the Council.

Councilperson Shaver questioned the need for laws governing swimming pools, stating there is a pool on the north side of town that is not maintained. The pool smells and is a breeding ground for mosquitos. Chief Tasler stated he will investigate the matter as it would be classified as a public nuisance.

The Council tabled the issue of a donation request from Watershed Management Authority.

Don Lincoln of the Larson Agency advised the Council of a recent dividend check given to the City by Larson Agency for participating in safety programs.

Mayor Ringgenberg commented he recently attended a meeting with the IDNR. Grant money normally available for derelict buildings has been slashed due to budget cuts.

Motion by Councilperson Shaver, seconded by Councilperson Kruse to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

Dirk D. Ringgenberg
Mayor

Mary J. Reese
City Clerk