

KEOSAUQUA CITY COUNCIL MEETING

November 12th, 2019 - 4:00 P.M.

Council met in Regular Session with the following Council members present: Carol Harlan, Chuck Lazenby, Twyla Peacock, Gary Kingsbury, Josh Cocherell

Others present: Kevin Hranicka, Randy Carruthers, Blake Deetz, Gary Lee, Virgil Morris, Rusty Ebert, Matt Dietzman, Jon Thornsberry

Mayor Larry Shipley called the meeting to order at 4:04 P.M. and thanked the Council for working with him as the City Mayor. He offered congratulations to Kevin Hranicka, who will succeed him as mayor, and for those Council who were re-elected.

Motion Kingsbury, seconded Harlan to approve the agenda. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion Peacock, seconded Cocherell to approve the minutes from the October 8th regular meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Forum opened.

- Benjamin VanHorn was scheduled to request the adoption of the International Residential Code into City Ordinance. Mr. VanHorn was absent from the meeting. The Council discussed the subject and requested more information from the City attorney at the December meeting.

Clerk's Report:

Motion Kingsbury, seconded Harlan to approve Treasurer's Report. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion Harlan, seconded Cocherell to approve Bills for Payment. Motion carried 5-0.

A Fall Festival report was given. Net proceeds from the event totaled just over \$2,300. The Council discussed approaching other local organizations for assistance with the festival going forward.

The City's FY19 Annual Financial Report was given to the Council.

City Superintendent's Report (given by City Maintenance Worker, Matt Dietzman): The new 1st Street bridge box culvert is in. It is still settling and the railing installment is in progress. Superintendent Chambers has requested a replacement of his front two ATV tires, for approximately \$98 apiece. His personal ATV has been used for City work. Motion Peacock, seconded Kingsbury to approve replacing the front two tires at the City's expense. Motion carried 5-0. Dietzman requested the Council consider purchasing an ATV or side-by-side for City use. Council tabled to get pricing.

Motion Lazenby, seconded Cocherell to approve Newman building permit for driveway. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion Kingsbury, seconded Harlan to approve Yochum building permit for storage shed. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion Harlan, seconded Peacock to approve Carruthers building permit for carport. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion Cocherell, seconded Kingsbury to approve Lowery building permit for addition. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion Kingsbury to deny building permit for Deetz. Motion withdrawn. Motion Lazenby, seconded Cocherell to table decision on Deetz building permit for garage doors. Motion carried 5-0.

Park & Rec Report: Jon Thornsberry presented the Council with playground equipment to be purchased with grant money for the sports complex. Motion Kingsbury, seconded Cocherell to move ahead with the purchase of the equipment. The pool has been winterized. City maintenance staff are looking into the bending of certain parts of the pool walls.

Personnel/Finance Committee Report: City Clerk, Katie Nichols, reported that Superintendent Chambers has requested retirement in April with City-paid insurance for two years afterwards at a cost of \$55,560.24 (with increases paid for at Chambers' expense). Motion Peacock, seconded Kingsbury for the Personnel Committee to meet with Chambers and explore a severance package of \$50,000 and a retirement date of December 31st, 2019. Motion carried 5-0.

Resolutions/Ordinances for Approval Consideration: None

Old/Unfinished Business:

The demolition at 607/611 1st Street and Riverbend building was discussed. Continuance.

Animal nuisance at 601 Dodge Street was discussed. Mayor was unable to reach the Van Buren County Attorney. Continuance. Clerk Nichols to discuss with attorney.

1st Street City-owned Vacant Lots – setting parameters for selling of lots. City received appraisals on the lots. Motion Cocherell, seconded Harlan to table discussion. Motion carried 5-0.

Overturing 1st Street vacancy vote. Motion Kingsbury, seconded Lazenby to remove from agenda as no request has been made by new homeowner of adjacent property. Motion carried 4-1 (Peacock Nay).

Plans for City property off J40 was discussed. Motion Cocherell, seconded Peacock to table decision. Motion carried 5-0.

New Business:

Motion Kingsbury, seconded Harlan to approve Annual Urban Renewal Report. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion Peacock, seconded Harlan to approve the terms of the Van Buren County Community High School baseball/softball agreement to play on the Ferguson Sports Complex. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion Lazenby, seconded Peacock to approve the Villages of Van Buren liquor license, pending application. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion Kingsbury, seconded Peacock to approve moving forward with painting crosswalks off of Highway 1 on Front and Park streets. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion Kingsbury, seconded Lazenby to approve Clerk to proceed with pursuing the DNR Water Trail Enhancement Grant. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion Kingsbury, seconded Cocherell to adjourn at 5:40 PM. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Nichols
City Clerk

Larry Shipley
Mayor