

## **MINUTES OF THE TRAEER CITY COUNCIL**

The City Council of Traer, Iowa met in regular session on **Monday December 6th, 2021** at 7:00 p.m. at Municipal Hall.

### **ROLL CALL**

Mayor Holden called the meeting to order at 7:04pm with Council Members Rausch, Holst and Panfil present. Kennedy arrived approx. 7:30pm and Erhardt was absent. Council Member Panfil was officially sworn in prior to the meeting.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION by Holst, seconded by Rausch, that the agenda is approved. Motion approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

### **VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT**

Gail Kucera along with some of her other neighbors spoke up during this time to inform the council about the current condition of many homes in their neighborhood. Major concerns are many homes having junk, vehicles and garbage around their property causing things to blow around and make a mess in their own yards/fields. They are frustrated for how long properties have been this way and want the city to do something about it.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

MOTION by Rausch, seconded by Holst, that the minutes of the November 1st, 2021 meeting are approved. Motion approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

MOTION by Panfil, seconded by Rausch, that the November Checks (#29555-29609) and 2 ACH payments (11292021, 11292022), totaling \$524,270.26, are approved. Motion approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

### **BEER AND LIQUOR PERMITS**

MOTION by Rausch, seconded by Panfil, to approve the liquor license for Sinclair Food Mart. Motion approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

### **CITY APPOINTMENTS**

MOTION by Holst, seconded by Panfil, to approve the following appointments made by the Mayor, effective January 1, 2022.

Library Board—Neil O'Brien (6yr Terms)

TMU Board—Sandy Whannel (6yr Term)

Memorial Bldg. Board—Chuck Buresh, Neil O'Brien, Mike Reuman and Jared Bauch (3yr Term)

Planning & Zoning Board of Adjustment—Joe Roy (5yr Term)

Motion approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

MOTION by Panfil, seconded by Rausch, to approve the following appointment made by the Mayor, effective January 1, 2022.

City Treasurer—Haley Blaine

Motion approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

After some discussion again this year on the appointment of Traer City Attorney, the council decided it was time for a change. It's been a pleasure working with Bruce Reinders, and the City thanks him for his services, throughout the years.

MOTION by Holst, seconded by Panfil, to approve the following appointment made by the Mayor, effective January 1, 2022.

City Attorney—Brent Lechtenberg.

Motion approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

The Mayor re-appointed Carri Holst as Mayor Pro-Tem.

### **2021 STREET IMPORVEMENT PROJECT**

MOTION by Rausch, seconded by Holst, to approve Pay Estimate #2 (final) in the amount of \$19,870.71 and to approve the Certificate of Completion as prepared by Veenstra & Kimm Inc. Motion approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

### **1<sup>ST</sup> STREET BRIDGE PROJECT**

MOTION by Rausch, seconded by Panfil, to approve a construction contact with Taylor Construction in the amount of \$381,800.30.

Motion approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

### **IOWA SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM**

MOTION by Rausch, seconded by Holst, to approve the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities Iowa Safety Education Program Participant agreement. Motion approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

## **CONCERNS/COMMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS**

During this time the council discussed nuisance properties or properties that have junk, garbage, overgrowth, unlicensed vehicles, etc. The city of Traer does have ordinances in place for these specific issues, and want to work harder to enforce the ordinances. These issues have been addressed many times, and many letters have been sent to violators with results not happening or not lasting long term. The council discussed the need for something to be done is necessary. It was decided that another round of letters would be sent to properties that are in violation of one or more ordinances and giving them a 30 day period to improve the condition. The Tama County Sheriff's Department will be delivering the letters to ensure they are received in a timely manner. The council requested that pictures of the properties be taken now and thru-out the 30 day period for recording purposes. Properties not cleaned up in the 30 days could face penalties and the city could begin abatement procedures. The council want the letter to be sent ASAP with the next steps being discussed at the January 3<sup>rd</sup> city council meeting.

Recently the city council has been receiving complaints about a flag that's been placed on a garage here in town. Many are finding the flag to be offensive and distasteful and wonder if there is anything that can be done. The council talked with Sheriff Kucera during this time, who has been in touch with the homeowner, and informed us that the homeowner wishes to exercise his freedom of speech right. Kucera told the council that we currently are not the only community dealing with this situation, he advised the council to possibly create an ordinance to better combat an issue like this in the future, one with more clear language. For now Kucera suggested contacting the city attorney if they wish to pursue more.

For the last couple of years council member Holst has suggested the City look into a different sidewalk snow removal procedure for downtown, one where all downtown snow removal would be done at once, by one person, rather than each business/building owner being responsible for their own. Holst's hopes with this would be that this would help make sure everything got done and got done in a timely manner. Kyle Mesch, who currently does snow removal for downtown city properties, was present to talk with the council and answer any questions they may have. Kyle also presented the council with some questions/observations that he had as well. After much discussion, the council decided that conducting a survey of all business/building owners should happen before any decisions are made. They'd like to see what the feedback on this idea is, and if it's something that would be wanted and/or needed. Depending on the results of the survey, the city would then go out for bids for this kind of a project. This may not be something that happens this winter, but might be something to think harder about for the next snow season.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

PETE HOLDEN, MAYOR  
HALEY BLAINE, CITY CLERK

**TRAER CHECK REGISTER DEC 2021**

A.W.E SERVICE	Tire Repair	15.00
AFD GRAPHIC SOLUTIONS	Permits	36.38
AFLAC	Insurance	38.52
AFLAC	Insurance	38.52
AFLAC	Insurance	38.52
ALISON HOWARD	Library Hours	475.00
AMAZON.COM	Library Supplies	380.92
Aspro	Street Projects	377,543.48
BAKE FROM SCRATCH	Library Subscription	18.95
BIBLIONIX LLC	Library Subscription	1,400.00
Blue Cross & Blue Shield	Insurance	8,112.48
BOUND TREE MEDICAL L.L.C.	Ambulance Supplies	170.96
CHRIS COOPER	Reimbursement	2,565.87
CHRISTIE DOOR	Shelter House	13,720.00
CNC LUMBER & SUPPLIES	Supplies	335.07
COOLEY SANITATION LLC	Garbage	13,922.55
DARCY RUND	Refund	100.00
DCL CONSULTANTS, LLC	Consult	500.00
DIANE PANFIL	Reimbursement	113.44
HOMETOWN FOODS	Misc. Library Supplies	41.10
Ingram Library Services	Library Books	959.64
IOWA OUTDOORS	Library Subscription	15.00
J.P. COOKE CO.	Dog Tags	70.90
Jolene Kahler	Reimbursement	114.05
KCL GROUP BENEFITS	Insurance	118.82
MARY ANN STEFFENY	Refund	100.00
MASTERCARD	Misc. Supplies	4,269.07
NAPA AUTO PARTS	Parts/Supplies	450.08
NEIL O'BRIEN	Bldg Permits	810.36
PHYSICIAN'S CLAIMS COMPANY	Amb. Billing	756.38
PRECISION LAWN CARE	Park Mowing	3,603.75
QUILTING ARTS MAGAZINE	Library Subscription	19.95
SHAUN KENNEDY	Reimbursement	248.45
SHAWNA STIEVER	Refund	100.00
SINCLAIR	Fuel	736.12
SINCLAIR	Fuel	901.09
SMALL BUT MIGHTY	Refund	100.00
Steffeny Mowers Sales & Service	Mower Maint.	133.40
STEFFES GROUP	Refund	100.00
STOREY KENWORTHY	Office Supply	52.98
SUPERIOR WELDING	Supplies	246.43
TAMA CO. SHERIFF'S OFFICE	Contract	10,388.00

TAMA CO. SOLID WASTE COMISSION	Clean-Up Fees	317.90
TAMA CO. SOLID WASTE COMISSION	Per Capita Fees	18,204.50
TAMA/GRUNDY PUBLISHING	Legals	127.41
THE COTTAGE JOURNAL	Library Subscription	22.00
TRAER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES	Office Services	9,000.00
TRAER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES	Utilities	9,224.96
U.S. CELLULAR	Phones	153.42
UMB BANK, N.A.**	Interest	2,379.34
UMB BANK, N.A.**	Interest	39,896.25
UNITYPOINT CLINIC-OCCUP. MEDICINE	Drug Testing	42.00
Veenstra & Kimm Inc.	Engineers	161.80
WHANNEL'S HARDWARE	Misc. Supplies	284.99
WINDSTREAM	Phones	66.77
WINDSTREAM	Phones	507.70
WOODCRAFT MAGAZINE	Library Subscription	19.99
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		524,270.26

*\*\*Denotes ACH Payment*

**NOV 2021 REVENUES**

GENERAL FUND	\$159,688
SPECIAL REVENUE FUND	\$24,960
DEBT SERVICE FUND	\$22,945
CAPITAL PROJECTS	\$0
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	\$207,593

**NOV 2021 DISBURSEMENTS**

GENERAL FUND	\$123,179
SPECIAL REVENUE FUND	\$32,190
DEBT SERVICE FUND	\$42,276
CAPITAL PROJECTS	\$379,681
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	\$577,326

**NOV 2021 FUND BALANCES**

GENERAL FUND	\$1,185,135
SPECIAL REVENUE FUND	\$614,188
DEBT SERVICE FUND	\$142,778
CAPITAL PROJECTS	\$90,135
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	\$2,032,236