

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

The City Council of Traer, Iowa met in regular session on **Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022** at 7:00 p.m. at Municipal Hall.

### **ROLL CALL**

Mayor Holden called the meeting to order at 7:00pm with Council Members Rausch, Erhardt, Kennedy and Panfil present. Holst was absent.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

### **VISITOR COMMENT**

Jenny Hulme with the Tama County Extension Office was present to discuss with the council the idea of a "Little Free Food Pantry". The food pantry would be a moveable device that would provide perishable and non-perishable items to people/kids in need of an afternoon snack or a home cook who forgot an onion. The pantry would be filled by local organizations such as 4H clubs and churches and would not be the responsibility of the City, the only thing tied to the City would be the location, they are hoping to put it behind the Traer Library, an area that is well lit, secure but private enough for anyone using the pantry. The council loved the idea, and gave their blessing to use the Library location, and wished them well with this project.

Ellen Young also spoke during this time, she presented to the council the idea of dedicating the Mill Street Bridge to the Haldy family. She reminded the council how important the Haldy's were to making that bridge project happen, and she thinks it would be a great gesture to the family to have the bridge dedicated with maybe a plaque placed on the bridge somewhere.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

MOTION by Erhardt, seconded by Panfil, that the minutes of the April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting are approved. Motion approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

MOTION by Panfil, seconded by Kennedy, that the April Checks (#29814-29880), totaling \$218,331.91, are approved. Motion approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

### **BEER/LIQUOR PERMITS**

MOTION by Panfil, seconded by Rausch, to approve a beer/liquor license for Traer Short Stop. Motion approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

### **FY22 BUDGET AMENDMENT**

Mayor Holden opened the meeting up for a public hearing on the FY22 Budget Amendment. Clerk Blaine had no comments prior to meeting time, and none were made during this time. Clerk Blaine informed the council that changes made to the budget were largely in part of derecho damage/reconstruction, FEMA and ARP money. The public hearing was closed. MOTION by Rausch, seconded by Kennedy, to approve RESOLUTION 05-02-22-01 amending the FY22 Budget. Motion approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

### **SALE OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY**

Mayor Holden declared another public hearing at this point in the meeting to discuss the sale of Lot 29 and 30 in the Prairie West addition. Clerk Blaine had not received any written or verbal comments from anyone prior to the meeting, and no comments were made during the public hearing. Mayor Holden closed the public hearing portion of the meeting. MOTION by Panfil, seconded by Erhardt, approving RESOLUTION 05-02-22-02 authorizing the Sale of City Real Property to Steve and Julie Arndt. Motion approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

### **PURCHASE OF PROPERTY**

Recently the city of Traer was approached by the owner at 205 Berlin about purchasing their property from them. Knowing the issues we've had on Berlin Ave. recently and having more revenue from Prairie West lots than anticipated the council reviewed and discussed a residential purchase agreement, which was prepared by our attorney. The agreement was written up for the purchase price of \$5,000 with a closing date of June 10<sup>th</sup> 2022. MOTION by Panfil, seconded by Kennedy, to approve RESOLUTION 05-02-22-03 authorizing the purchase of real estate property known as 205 Berlin Ave., Traer, Iowa. Motion approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

### **2022 STREET PROJECTS**

Mayor Holden declared a public hearing again at this time to discuss the plans, specifications, form of contract and the estimate cost for the 2022 Street improvement project. During this time the plans were available for review and questions/concerns if anyone had anything to discuss. No comments or concerns were received at this time, the public hearing was closed.

The council reviewed the only bid received for the project. The bid came from Hudson Hardware Plumbing & Heating in the total amount of \$978,512.00, for all parts of the project. MOTION by Erhardt, seconded by Rausch, to approve the bid from Hudson Hardware Plumbing & Heating and to move forward with the 2022 improvement project. Motion approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

MOTION by Erhardt, seconded by Panfil, approving RESOLUTION 05-02-22-04 Approving Distribution of Preliminary Official Statement. Motion approved unanimously with a roll call vote. With the approval of the official statement, and with interest rates changing every day our financial advisor thought it would be beneficial to hold a special meeting prior to June's regular council meeting, to take the next steps in the financing process. The council set a special meeting for May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm to authorize the bond purchase agreement.

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

As a follow-up to the last council meeting, the Tama Co. Sheriff's contract was once again reviewed and discussed. Sheriff Kucera submitted a re-worded contract for the council to review. Council Member Panfil just wanted to state that he was worried about the contract hours and unbudgeted expense this would be adding to FY23. Kucera wanted to remind the council that for years they have been "donating" time to the city of Traer, Panfil was aware, they may have been underpaid, but worried about "making it right" all at once, and how that would be a large chunk of money. Erhardt agreed that the department shouldn't be "donating" so much time and they should be paid appropriately, but just worried about the reporting of hours and it being taken advantage of. Aware of the council concerns, a MOTION was made by Kennedy, seconded by Erhardt, to approve the contact with the Tama Co Sheriff's Department for FY23 in the amount of \$54.24/hour. Motion approved with a roll call vote.

ARP funds were discussed and as previously talked about, the council once again looked at putting some of those funds towards a sewer relining project that will soon be starting. The city has received \$118,921.00 of their allocated ARP funds, and would like to see that portion be put towards the project. MOTION by Panfil, seconded by Rausch, to approve allocating the first disbursement of ARP funds to the sewer refining project. Motion approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

Clerk Blaine quick informed the council that she was still working with Cooley Sanitation to nail down a "clean-up" day on the 3 Berlin properties that have yet to clean-up to council/ordinance book standards. Clerk Blaine would be in touch once a day and time was agreed upon.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Erhardt was recently in the Traer Library looking at the foundation/building issues that have been becoming more of an issue. He's not sure what it'll take but would really like to get someone involved to get the ball rolling on trying to solve some of the problems. Chris Cooper has a name of an engineer he's hopeful will come take a look and point us in the right direction.

Erhardt informed the council that both he and Pete have had conversations with folks at Heartland Coop about certain buildings on their property. Erhardt is hopeful to get a meeting set up with the Heartland Coop CEO to discuss more going forward, he'd like a conversation and if an agreement of any kind is reached he'd like to see it in writing.

Kennedy informed the council that pool managers had been hired and that things were coming along. She was excited about the amount of lifeguard applications she's gotten and is hopeful we are starting this season off on a great foot. She also touched on her Sesquicentennial meeting that she attended. "Polish Up Taylor Park" is a fundraiser idea the committee has come up with focusing on Taylor Park, they hope that with the help of Trish Kennedy and along with the city council they can come up with plans and ideas of ways to improve the park.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

PETE HOLDEN, MAYOR  
HALEY BLAINE, CITY CLERK