

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

The City Council of Traer, Iowa met in regular session on **Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023** 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, Panfil and Kennedy present. Holst arrived at 7:03pm.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

### **VISITOR COMMENT**

Daron Jacobs, owner of the Wind-Up Bar, was present to discuss with the council his plans to purchase the 2 lots to the east of him and make an outdoor patio area. Daron gave the council a rough sketch of what the space will look like once demo is done and the area is cleaned up. He also discussed live music happening out there possibly Thursday and Saturday nights. Daron is very excited about all the upcoming changes and hopes to work with other local businesses to make this space an attraction for many to enjoy.

Katherine with Tama County Economic Development was present, and played off what Daron was discussing with the council. She was happy to report, that not only the Wind-Up had exciting things happening but La Terresa was also looking at adding to their space by purchasing the Member's 1st Credit Union. She's working not only with La Terraza and Member's 1<sup>st</sup>, but she's working with the State of Iowa to try to help secure grants and funding to turn not only the downstairs space into something amazing but the upstairs space back into livable, useable space. Katherine informed the council that she will need their help and the help from the City of Traer when it comes to applying for some of the grants/funding. The City would need to be the applicant on the grant with La Terraza being a sub applicant to move forward. A MOTION by Erhardt was made, seconded by Holst, to work with Katherine and create a letter allowing the City of Traer to serve as the applicant for said grant, to help improve the downtown/business district of Traer. Motion was approved unanimously with a roll call vote. Katherine will work with Clerk Blaine to get the "wheels turning."

2 residents of 914 2<sup>nd</sup> Street were present and spoke during this time in regards to 2 of their dogs being "destroyed" earlier in the month by the Tama County Sheriff's Department. Brooke Hickman and Stephanie Friestad wanted to inform the council that not only were 2 dogs destroyed, one was pregnant and due to have babies, the sheriff's department ended up killing 10 dogs that day. They wanted to know why this had to happen, why they weren't given the chance to save them. After hearing from the residents, Mayor Holden allowed Sheriff Kucera to speak on behalf of Tama County. He apologized that this had to happen, but explained that after the call history, fines, etc. the deputy did what he thought was necessary.

Lisa Eikamp, owner of Simply Blooming was in to discuss downtown snow removal and the costs associated. She's frustrated because she's getting charged from us for the front part of the building and charged from another remover for the back side. She's hopeful that going forward the city will review this decision and maybe come up with a better way to get it done more cost effectively for businesses.

Cody Hamilton introduced himself to the council and spoke about his interest in purchasing some of the Heartland Coop building out at the old Traer Man. location. He has spoken with people at Heartland Coop, and understands this isn't a city issue necessarily but he does know the city is currently working to address the condition of the property and just wanted to make the council aware that he is interested in case there may be a chance to work together to get some resolve.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

MOTION by Panfil, seconded by Erhardt, that the minutes of the December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting are approved. Motion approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

MOTION by Kennedy, seconded by Holst, that the December Checks (#30332-30393) and 1 ach (12222022), totaling \$112,114.99, are approved. Motion approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

### **BEER/LIQUOR LICENSES**

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

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Panfil quick touched on the recycling center behind the library and the amount of unaccepted materials being put in the cardboard containers. One business in particular has been placing large boxes along with all the packing material inside the container. Panfil has asked that Clerk Blaine send a letter to this business to remind them of the items that can and cannot be placed in those dumpsters and that all boxes are supposed to be broken down before placing inside the container.

Holst quick wanted to give Daron "Jake" kudos for his big project coming up. She thinks it's not only going to be great from him, but the downtown. She also informed the council that Ellen Young has given her blessing to find interim help while she's still on the road to getting healthy. Ellen plays a lot of roles in the community and Holst is looking for people willing and able to help in those roles, especially when it comes to the reunion/alumni tasks. If the council has any suggestions or any one in mind they think would be willing to help she'd really appreciate the suggestions.

**STAFF REPORTS**

Clerk Blaine let the council know that the audit for FY22 was going to begin on 1/30/2023. The audit is going to be done remotely again, like previous years and is scheduled to take 2-3 weeks. Blaine also informed the council that spring garage sales this year would be scheduled for April 28 & 29 with clean-up taking place May 5 & 6.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

PETE HOLDEN, MAYOR  
HALEY BLAINE, CITY CLERK