

The Clarion City Council met in regular session Tuesday September 5th, 2023, at 5:00pm in the Council Chambers with Mayor Rod Heiden presiding. Present were Council members Andy Young, Dan Hennigar, Shayne Hennigar, Nick McOllough and Dave Flurer. Also in attendance City Administrator Clint Middleton, City Attorney Chizek, PWD DeVries

Mayor Heiden called the meeting to order and polled the council for any conflicts of interest with the agenda. There were none. Mayor Heiden asked if there were any citizens to address the council, there were none.

Motioned by Flurer seconded by S. Hennigar to approve consent agenda consisting of Minutes-2023.08.15; Financial report- approve checks; Licenses/Permits- (Building, Liquor, Tobacco, Sign, Peddler, Street Closure) Liquor - Top of Iowa Lucky Wife LLC, The Red Shed Event Center LLC, Casa Del Taco Inc; Building - Odland: deck, Mosaic fence; CD renewal to First Citizens for a 2 yr @ 4.85%. Sign permit will be acted on separately. (Motion passed 5-0).

Discussion on the sign consisted of: D. Hennigar has heard a bunch of opposition in the community on this. Flurer questioned if the Sign Company might rescind their application, knowing that there is opposition. Chad Hager (Summit Locations) was on the phone during the meeting and asked if the permit met all current codes of the city. He was informed that it does. He commented that at this time they would not rescind as there is demand in town for this type of advertising.

The sign permit was initially dead to the lack of a motion. This sign for Sweet Water Spirits was for a large “billboard” type sign to be located on their property. [discussion and action were taken after the closed session, closed session was not about this topic] Later in the meeting after the closed session the mayor commented that he did not want us in a lawsuit over this sign. Attorney Chizek informed the council that the permit meets all current criteria, and the company can and probably will pursue this. If they do so, they will win. His recommendation is to approve this one and start the process of not allowing future signs of this size at the next meeting. Since there was no action earlier, a Motion was made by S. Hennigar and seconded by McOllough to approve the sign permit to Sweet Water Spirits. (Motion passed 3-2, D. Hennigar & Young opposed).

Motioned by D. Hennigar seconded by Young to open Public Hearing on Public Hearing on the vacation of 1st St SW (Motion passed 5-0). No public comments. Motioned by Flurer seconded by D. Hennigar to close Public Hearing on Public Hearing (Motion passed 5-0).

Motioned by Young seconded by Flurer to approve Resolution (23-58) Vacating portions of 1st St SW (Motion passed 5-0).

Motioned by Young seconded by S. Hennigar to approve Resolution (23-59) setting time and place for Public Hearing for Sale of Property (Motion passed 5-0).

Brian Jensen from Wright County EMS spoke on the upcoming vote for the County Wide Emergency Medical Services Tax Levy Special Election. The election will be on Tuesday the 12th. The current levy was

voted in in 2018 with a sunset after 5 years. This new levy will be for the same annual amount and will sunset after 15 years if approved. The City of Clarion has received \$100,000+ annually towards specialty equipment, training, and the county holds a separate fund for Clarion ambulance replacement. This levy also has the Quick Response Vehicle (QRV) that is shared throughout the county that has a paramedic that can be dispatched to a scene if assistance is needed. This QRV is maned by ISH and is centrally located in Clarion. Jensen mentioned before this levy cities in the county operated their Ambulance Services hundreds of thousands of dollars in the negative. [Clarion residents can vote as normal in the basement of the courthouse.]

Comments from the Council or Dept heads: Fire dept commented that Engine 262 will be put back into service and that Gene Rosenbaum will be the Interim Asst. Chief for the remainder of the term held by Greg Littlejohn. CDA commented they are up membership compared to this time last year. Make sure you come out to the Cultural Event happening Sept 16th at the Gazebo Park.

Motioned by S. Hennigar seconded by Flurer to go into Closed Session : Iowa Code 21.5(1)(j)- To discuss the purchase or sale of particular real estate only where premature disclosure could be reasonably expected to increase the price the governmental body would have to pay for that property or reduce the price the governmental body would receive for that property. (Motion passed 5-0). Motioned by Flurer seconded by McOllough to go out of Closed Session. (Motion passed 5-0). No action was taken pertaining to the Closed Session.

Motioned by S. Hennigar seconded by Flurer to adjourn. All Ayes. (Motion passed 5-0).

Respectfully Submitted,
Clint Middleton City Administrator

Clint Middleton, City Administrator

Rod Heiden, Mayor