

MINUTES OF THE TRAER CITY COUNCIL

The City Council of Traer, Iowa met in regular session on **Monday July 12th, 2021** at 7:00 p.m. at Municipal Hall.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Holden called the meeting to order with Council Members, Rausch, Holst, Kennedy, Erhardt and Schafer present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Dave Barnes we present voicing his concerns over the Heartland Coop (old Traer Man.) property and how long it's been since anything was done to it. The City does have money available for them to make improvements once improvements start and he's wondering if we need to get legal counsel involved to get them to make progress.

Kennan Seda was also present discussing the State of Iowa 175th Anniversary and how next year the City of Traer will have a big anniversary that we all should start preparing for.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Schafer, seconded by Erhardt, that the minutes of the June 7th, 2021 meeting are approved. Motion approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

MOTION by Schafer, seconded by Kennedy, that the June Checks (#29261-29334), totaling \$200,049.54, are approved. Motion approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

BEER AND LIQUOR PERMITS

MOTION by Holst, seconded by Rausch, to approve the license for the Winding Stairs Festival. Motion approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

FY22 OPTION TAX

The council reviewed and discussed the requests submitted for FY22 Option Tax Funding. Approx. \$60,000 in option tax money is available to award this year. This year 12 organizations submitted a request for funding, 3 of which did not request any funds last year. The submitted requests totaled \$40,800. MOTION by Rausch, seconded by Kennedy, to approve awarding \$6,000 to the Salt and Pepper Gallery, \$7,800 to Winding Stairs Festival, \$5,000 to North Tama Youth Softball & Baseball, \$5,000 to NT Dollars for Scholars, \$2,000 to NT BASIC, \$1,000 to After Prom Committee, \$2,000 to CHAT, \$5,000 to Traer Chamber of Commerce, \$1,000 to North Tama PTO, \$2,500 to Traer Golf & Country Club, and \$3,500 to the Masonic Lodge. Motion approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

2021 STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Mayor Hold declared a Public Hearing at this time to discuss the plans, specifications, form of contract and the estimate cost for the 2021 Street improvement project. Leland Belding with V&K was present via conference call to answer any questions. The council had a couple questions, one regarding Winding Stairs Festival and the interference with the project, Leland assured he would make notes and let crews know to avoid that area of town during that time. No further comments were made so the public hearing was closed.

The council reviewed the only bid received for the project. The bid came from Aspro, Inc. in the amount of \$398,618.43, which is well under the estimated cost of \$628,000. MOTION by Rausch, seconded by Erhardt, to approve the bid from Aspro, Inc. and to move forward with the 2021 improvement project. Motion approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

CONCERNS/COMMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS

MOTION by Holst, seconded by Rausch, to award the budgeted 3% wage increase to Public Works employees, Cooper and O'Brien, and Ambulance employees Kahler, Kennedy and Vannatta, effective July 1, 2021. Motion approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

On the topic of employees, Holst suggested to the council the idea of hiring an additional part time EMT/Driver to join the ambulance crew. The ambulance is struggling to find volunteers to fill open times/shifts which is leading to our hired paramedic's picking up lots of OT and DOT to fill the void. Just since the beginning of this year we have paid almost \$11,000 in OT and DOT wages to our full time paramedics. Holst believes hiring a part time person would not only be more cost effective but would allow our staff to have some much needed schedule relief. MOTION by Schafer, seconded by Kennedy, to approve advertising for a part time EMT/driver to join the ambulance crew. Motion approved unanimously with a roll call vote.

Clerk Blaine presented the council with a bid from True Builders in regards to finishing the interior of the building. The original quote did not include finishing the interior. The bid presented totaled \$4403.00 for 7" pine car siding installed

horizontal. The council agreed finishing the interior was a great idea, but they wanted to double check the durability of the material before approving the bid. Blaine would talk with True Builders to get more information before moving forward.

Street Superintendent Cooper discussed the need for a new motor grader. Our current one does not have power steering or brakes and is well past its prime. He's found one for sale by a private seller here in town in fairly decent condition for \$10,000. Cooper was advised to do a little more searching before making a purchase.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

PETE HOLDEN, MAYOR
HALEY BLAINE, CITY CLERK