

Ruthven City Council Meeting  
April 7, 2009

The Ruthven City Council, of the City of Ruthven, Iowa, met on the 7th Day of March, 2009, at 6:30 PM, in regular session, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, pursuant to law and to the rules of said council.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor, Charles Oppedal in the Chair, and the roll being called, the following members were present:

PRESENT: Hawk, Henningsen, Johnson, Schoning, VerHelst

ABSENT: None

Schoning motioned and Johnson seconded to approve the consent agenda items including Minutes, Claims Report and Clerk's Report as presented. Motion carried with all members present voting aye.

Jon Josephson was present to discuss the fence on the north side of Crownhill Cemetery.

Henningsen made a motion to change the fencing plans to include woven wire on the north end of Crownhill Cemetery. VerHelst seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members present voting aye.

Discussion occurred in regard to a Crownhill Cemetery deed that will need to be changed. The council instructed City Clerk Kay Suhr to issue a new deed as needed.

The council reviewed reports in regard to the water meter that had been sent in for testing. The water meter was determined it was working properly and they were able to get reports on the meter by the hour all the way back to 2007. From these reports it can pinpoint time when high usage occurred. The information will be provided to the customer.

It was discussed of the possibility of passing on the expense of testing in the future if someone requests to have their meter tested and it is determined that there was no problem. It will be determined the full cost of this testing.

Henningsen made a motion to put Ordinance 01-2009 on first filing. To permit a second water meter to be installed to exterior water distribution points. This meter will not be subject to sewer charges because the water will not enter the sanitary sewer system. The installation charges for such a meter will be at the customers expense and must meet City specifications. VerHelst seconded the motion. Whereupon, the Mayor put the question on the motion, and the roll being called, the vote thereon was as follows:

Ayes: Johnson, VerHelst, Henningsen, Schoning, Hawk

Nays: None

VerHelst made a motion to put on second filing Ordinance 01-2009. Schoning seconded the motion. Motion carried with roll call vote.

Ayes: Johnson, VerHelst, Henningsen, Schoning, Hawk

Nays: None

Schoning made a motion to finally pass Ordinance 01-2009. Henningsen seconded the motion. Motion carried with roll call vote.

Ayes: Johnson, VerHelst, Henningsen, Schoning, Hawk

Nays: None

VerHelst made a motion to finally pass and adopt Ordinance 01-2009. Johnson seconded the motion. Whereupon, the Mayor put the question on the motion, and the roll being called, the vote thereon was as follows:

Ayes: Johnson, VerHelst, Henningsen, Schoning, Hawk

Nays: None

Whereupon, the Mayor declared the motion carried and Ordinance 01-2009 was duly passed and adopted and signed his approval thereto.

Henningsen motioned to approve Resolution 6-2009 to fix the charge for an additional water meter to be \$185.00. VerHelst seconded the motion. Motion carried with roll call vote.

Ayes: Johnson, VerHelst, Henningsen, Schoning, Hawk

Nays: None

An update was given by City Clerk Kay Suhr regarding the Iowa Brownfield grant and proceeding with the asbestos removal on the Sass & Vanderhoff buildings. The final signature on the Iowa Brownfield grant should be completed on April 8<sup>th</sup>. The asbestos removal contractor has been notified and will call in for the 10 day notice to the DNR. Work should be able start around the April 17<sup>th</sup>.

Bid letters have been sent out to several contractors to bid the demolition of the buildings. Bids are due back by April 17 with the bids to be reviewed at the City Council meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

VerHelst made a motion to not allow anyone from the public to remove any items from the buildings due to safety concerns. Henningsen seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members present voting aye.

It was discussed that the Ruthven City entrance signs are complete and the final report for the Palo Alto County Gaming Grant from 2008 has been sent in.

Schoning made a motion to not pay the bill from Lowe Masonry submitted for work on the City signs. Since he had contracted with VerSteege Construction and had never been directly contracted with the City of Ruthven. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members present voting aye.

An update was given on the website and playground grants. The computer and software has been received for the website grant. The playground equipment has also been received.

Schoning made a motion to publish the budget amendment. Henningsen seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members present voting aye.

Hawk made a motion to declare April 21, 2009 6:30 PM as the time of the public hearing to adopt the Budget Amendment for the 2008-2009 FY. Schoning seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members present voting aye.

A discussion occurred in regard to the rates for water, sewer and garbage. Also discussed was the policy in regards to penalties and deposits. More information will be gathered.

A discussion occurred in regard to public interest in having a four-wheeler ordinance. Information was shared from other communities with similar ordinances. The council opinion was not in favor of such an ordinance.

Street repair was discussed. It was decided to spend the allotted money for repairs this year instead of resurfacing any one street.

Water tower painting was discussed to schedule the painting as per the contract made in 2008 for work to be completed.

An update on the Experience Works program was given. It has been determined that the City of Ruthven could have two people placed with the city. One for upgrade of cemetery records and one for city maintenance work if individuals can be found that qualify for the program.

Information was shared that Principal Insurance would no longer qualify two employees as a group for their short term disability and life insurance programs. The only way to maintain a group status is to have a minimum of three employees on the plan.

Schoning made a motion to add Kay Suhr to the short term disability and life insurance program. Henningsen seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members present voting aye.

Street closing were discussed in regards to the street dance on June 6<sup>th</sup> and for Bully Bullhead Weekend. Final details will be determined and presented at a future meeting.

Jeff Simington reported of a town that had for sale a lift station identical to Ruthven's lift station at the Ruthven Care Center. It was suggested it could be used to replace or for parts for the current lift station. The council advised him to check into the equipment.

It was determined that the City of Ruthven needs to designate someone from within the City of Ruthven to be on the Ruthven Fire Agency. An individual will try to be determined for that position.

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:10 by VerHelst and seconded by Henningsen. Motion carried with all members present voting aye.

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Charles Oppedal, Mayor

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Kay Suhr, City Clerk