

Ruthven City Council Meeting
June 16, 2009

The Ruthven City Council, of the City of Ruthven, Iowa, met on the 16th Day of June, 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

Hawk motioned and Schoning 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.

John Gochenouer was present to request a donation to the fireworks display at Lost Island Lake on July 4, 2009.

Schoning made a motion to donate \$250 for the Lost Island Lake fireworks display.

Henningsen seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members present voting aye.

Joe Neary from the Palo Alto Zoning and Sanitary was present to discuss with the Council how to create a recycling campaign to reduce the amount of garbage hauled to the landfill. This will be necessary as the landfill fees will continue to rise over the next few years. It was discussed better ways to recycle and Joe is able to provide some funding for promotional encouragement to recycle.

A bill was presented for work completed by Ken Grandstaff on sidewalks last summer. It was determined that only a proposal had been submitted and a final bill had not been submitted before this time, so payment had not been made.

Discussion occurred in regards to a drain on the north end of Gowrie Street. Jeff Simington will check into the cost for a cover.

The Council reviewed a complaint in regards to damage to a trailer owned by Darrell Kruckman caused by work on the water tower. If it is found any damage has been caused, it is to be referred to the company that completed the water tower work.

It was verified that lifeguard certifications will be paid by the city.

A discussion occurred in regards to properties that had been sent nuisance letters. It was noted which properties had proceeded with some clean up. The properties will be reviewed again before the next Council meeting on July 7, 2009.

A question in regards to a building permit in which a deck was installed was discussed. At this time it was determined that it is a civil matter between property owners.

A question in regards to the City's willingness to sell the alley behind the resident at 1905 Mitchell Street was addressed. It was determined at this time the Council is not interested in selling the alley.

The Council was informed of a customer request to offer automatic bank collect service for all banks. The Council reviewed a proposal for adding additional software to our current utility billing software. The Council agreed that the cost could not be justified at this time.

The Council was updated on community improvements. The building demolition has been completed and the lot filled back in. Plans are to seed the lot with grass when weather permits. Water Tower work has been completed. The new City website has been launched and additional information is continually being added.

Discussion occurred in regards to locations to install the new benches obtained by Lost Island-Ruthven Betterment Association grant from the Palo Alto County Gaming Development. The benches will be installed at the Post Office, South of Picket Fence, near the Antique Shop, South side of Library, Strategic Agri Marketing corner, and the Old Sass's corner. The United Methodist men's group will help with the installation.

VerHelst made a motion to pay \$1200 towards the cost of insurance for Bully Bullhead Weekend.

City Clerk Kay Suhr informed the Council of credit located with IPERS that has been in existence since prior to June of 2008 or longer. IPERS will be issuing the City a check for the credit.

Henningsen made a motion to allow City Clerk Kay Suhr to borrow up to \$50,000 pending repayment from grant funding. VerHelst seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members present voting aye.

It was suggested to develop a plan to reorganize the current City CD's. Mayor Oppedal and Clerk Suhr will meet with Mike Reynolds at Iowa State Bank to develop such a plan and bring back to the Council.

Henningsen made a motion to pay Fuller & Sons Blacktop Paving the additional \$300 to the original bid for street repair for the additional services provided. Schoning seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members present voting aye.

It was reported that the installation of the playground equipment has been delayed due to weather.

It was discussed that a children's sign will be moved to West Street.

The painting process will start on the Strategic Agri Marketing building this week by the Council and city employees.

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:12 by Henningsen and seconded by VerHelst. Motion carried with all members present voting aye.

Charles Oppedal, Mayor

Kay Suhr, City Clerk