

Ruthven City Council Meeting
March 25, 2020 - 6:30 PM

A regular council meeting of the Ruthven City Council was held March 25, 2020. In order to help stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus, this council meeting of the Ruthven City Council was held electronically. Chapter 21.8 of the Iowa Code does permit an electronic meeting where all members participate remotely when an in-person meeting is impossible or impractical, which is certainly true during this crisis. On March 19, 2020, Governor Reynolds issued a Proclamation of Disaster Emergency which included a suspension of Iowa laws that would prevent the use of electronic meetings or the limitation on the number of people present at an in-person meeting site. Therefore, only Councilman Jay Schoning and City Clerk/Treasurer Margaret Tatman were present at Ruthven city hall at 1305 Gowrie St. The agenda and the City's social media had this message posted more than 24 hours in advance to give instructions on how others could participate in the meeting: Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the City of Ruthven will be holding this city council meeting electronically via a Zoom conference call. If you would like to participate, just before the meeting start time, you must download the Zoom app. and enter this Meeting ID: 746 194 289. Only staff is allowed in city hall.

The Ruthven City Council, of the City of Ruthven, Iowa, met on the 25th Day of March, 2020, at 6:30 PM, in regular session, in Council Chambers at City Hall, pursuant to law and to the rules of said council..

Meeting was called to order by Mayor David J Kirk in the Chair, and the roll being called, the following members were present: Mitch Anderson, Dustin Johnson, Jay Schoning, Marci Simington and Terrence Williams. Absent: None

Public: Nancy Foertsch, LISSD. City employees present: Margaret Tatman. Darren Bumgarner, CDBG Administrator appeared via telephone.

Motion Williams, second Johnson to approve: minutes from February 12, 2020 council meeting, summary list of claims, clerk's financial reports and approval of Ruthven Fire Department and Bully's Bar and Grill Liquor Licenses. Vote-Ayes: Anderson, Johnson, Schoning, Simington and Williams. Nays: None. Absent: None.

Mayor Kirk declared the public hearing open at 6:31 p.m. for Adopting the FY 2020-2021 City Budget. No objectors were present or filed written objections to the City Clerk, so the public hearing was declared closed at 6:34 p.m.

Motion Schoning, second Anderson to approve Resolution No 11-2020 – A Resolution Adopting the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Annual Budget for Year Ending June 30, 2021. Roll Call Vote-Ayes; Anderson, Johnson, Schoning, Simington and Williams Nays: None. Absent: None

Mayor Kirk declared the public hearing open at 6:37 p.m. for the Submission of a Community Development Block Grant Application for a Sanitary Wastewater Treatment System Project. CDBG administrator, Darren Bumgarner of NWIPDC read the following statement during the public hearing;

This CDBG Application Public Hearing is to comply with participation requirements of Section 508 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1987. The City of Ruthven will submit a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application to the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) by no later than April 1, 2020. The CDBG application will request Federal CDBG funds in the amount of \$446,000 to assist the City in making necessary improvements to the City's wastewater treatment system. The CDBG application will be a joint application with Clay County and Palo Alto County and the City of Ruthven. The City of Ruthven will be the lead applicant submitting the CDBG application. A breakdown of the \$446,000 requested consists of the City of Ruthven \$300,000; Clay County \$58,000 and Palo Alto County \$88,000. The amounts of CDBG funds requested from each county on behalf of the City of Ruthven is based on \$1,000 per capita of persons residing in each county that are connected to the Lost Island Sanitary Sewer District (LISSD). Number of persons was obtained from results of a CDBG income survey completed for the LISSD. Rural county residents connected to the LISSD are beneficiaries of Ruthven's wastewater treatment system and any improvements made to the system since Ruthven treats the domestic wastewater collected and discharged from LISSD.

The proposed project is estimated to cost \$3,554,848. To finance the proposed project the City is making a joint application and requesting \$446,000 Federal CDBG funds from IEDA and the City will utilize \$3,108,848 in local match funds consisting of USDA-RD grant of \$1,322,000 and loan of \$1,786,848.

The portion of \$446,000 Federal funds that will benefit low- and moderate-income persons (LMI) is \$261,133 or 58.55%.

All construction activities will be at the current site of the City's WWTP, south of Highway 18, but adjacent to the corporate boundaries of the City.

The City received an inspection from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Field Office Number 3 (FO #3) dated August 24, 2016, stating that the liner in the primary lagoon cell is to be evaluated due to a tear in the primary cell's synthetic liner that occurred in March of 2014. The report also indicated the secondary cells berms are starting to slough and fail. If the City does not resolve the treatment problems, an IDNR compliance schedule may be prepared and enforced. To address these deficiencies, the City of Ruthven hired engineers from ISG to evaluate the existing WWTP and produce a Facility Plan outlining the steps needed to improve the existing lagoon. Engineers found the secondary cells were constructed on approximately 15 to 20 feet of peat based on the geotechnical reports that were prepared when the original WWTP was constructed in 1986. The peat produces and releases methane gas that creates stress on the liner, which is causing it to fail sooner than anticipated. To eliminate this problem, the City decided to investigate alternatives to construct a new WWTP.

The nature of the proposed improvements are to allow the City's wastewater treatment system to be in compliance with IDNR standards and regulations is the construction of a new wastewater treatment system consisting of an OPTATER Aerated Lagoon and submerged attached growth reactor (SAGR). This alternative consists of retrofitting the existing primary cell with a conventional aerated lagoon system. The OPTAER system consists of a conventional aerated lagoon system followed by a SAGR. The SAGR contains a clean gravel bed that provides surface area for nitrifying bacteria to grow and populate. The OPTAERTM and SAGR system being proposed for the City of Ruthven is a two-cell lagoon that operates in series. Cell 1 is a partially mixed cell consisting of 12 fine bubble diffusers suspended near the bottom of the lagoon. Cell 2 is split into two zones, Cell 2a is a partial mix cell and Cell 2b is a settling cell. Cell 2a consists of two fine bubble diffusers.

Due to the nature of this project no persons or businesses shall be displaced as a result of the recommended project. In the event that any persons or businesses are displaced as a result of the recommended project, the entities involved in the project will adhere to the requirements of the Uniform Relocation and Assistance and Acquisition Act of 1974, as amended.

No objectors were present or filed written objections to the City Clerk, so the public hearing was declared closed at 6:43 p.m.

Bumgarner then read the following;

Ruthven Community Development and Housing Needs Assessment

Community Development and Housing Needs of LMI Persons

1. Make necessary improvements to the City of Ruthven's sanitary wastewater treatment system to benefit City residents and Lost Island Sanitary Sewer District residents.
2. Construct an additional well. Current wells are becoming unreliable to meet the needs of the community.
3. Replacing deteriorated and deficient water lines on the south end of the City and to loop water lines for fire safety and to keep the water from getting stagnant.
4. Improve City's water filtration system to improve water quality and to reduce smell. The system is aging and deteriorating.

5. The City will purchase land to develop lots for housing.

6. To improve the conditions of owner-occupied housing.

Other Community Development and Housing Needs

1. Construct approximately two (2) miles of new curb & gutter system. Curb, gutter and street replacement of areas in need.

Planned or Potential Activities to Address Housing and Community Needs

1. To apply as a joint applicant with the City of Ruthven for CDBG funds to assist in making necessary sewer treatment system improvements and lessen the costs burden on the users of the treatment system.

2. Utilize USDA-RD committed loan and grant funds to assist in wastewater treatment improvements and to help lessen the economic burden on the community.

3. To apply for SRF funds for water system improvements including a new well, water plant improvements and water lines.

4. To apply for CDBG funds to assist with construction of water system improvements.

5. To utilize Tax Increment Financing (TIF) to assist the City in constructing infrastructure for new housing development.

6. To set up a schedule for curb, gutter and street construction.

7. To utilize road use tax and bonding for curb, gutter and street construction projects.

8. To apply for CDBG funds to assist LMI homeowners make repairs and improvements to owner-occupied housing units.

Motion Williams second Schoning to approve Resolution No 12-2020 – A Resolution Approving the Submission of a CDBG Application for a Sanitary Wastewater Treatment System Improvements Project; and to approve a Community Development and Housing Needs Assessment, and to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to Execute and Sign Said Application and all Related Materials. Roll Call Vote-Ayes; Anderson, Johnson, Schoning, Simington and Williams Nays: None. Absent: None.

Motion Johnson second Anderson to adjourn meeting at 6:48 p.m. Vote-Ayes: Anderson, Johnson, Schoning, Simington and Williams Nays: None. Absent: None

Signed:

Attest:

David J. Kirk, Mayor

Margaret Tatman, City Clerk

*****These unofficial meeting minutes will be officially signed at the next city council meeting of April 8, 2020 after approval of city council.**