

# PEN CITY CURRENT

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Wednesday, November 17, 2021 | 9 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 209



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## 'Pickleballers' get \$50K

City gives funds plus in-kind support to project

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A group looking to build six pickleball courts at Victory Park in Fort Madison got a \$50,000 boost from city coffers Tuesday night.

The Fort Madison Pickleball Association requested the money as part of what the group anticipates will be a \$250,000 project.

The city has already

See **COURTS**, page 4



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Phyllis Porter addresses the Fort Madison City Council Tuesday night regarding a \$50,000 funding request for pickleball courts in Victory Park. The council approved the funding contingent on other funding sources to complete the project.

### EMS FUNDING

## County EMS stands to lose \$400K in state funds

County cites former owners' delay turning over documentation

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – A failure on the part of the former Lee County EMS operators to provide timely documentation to Lee County officials could result in a heavy loss of potential reimbursements to the county.

At Monday's Lee County Board of Supervisors meeting, supervisors were disappointed that the family that owned the former Lee County EMS ambulance service hadn't responded to requests for information that could have helped the county recoup some of that funding.

The county was hoping to get information in under a deadline for the state Department of Human Service's Ground Emergency Medical Transport program that reimburses for Medicaid services that carry a low federal rate.

The Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) Program is a voluntary program that allows publicly owned or operated emergency ground ambulance transportation providers to receive supplemental payments that cover the difference between a provider's actual costs per GEMT transport and the Medicaid base payment, mileage, and other sources of reimbursement.

Lee County Supervisor Garry Seyb said the county still doesn't have the deeds for the buildings that were part of the purchase agreement, in addition to billable information needed by the state to determine



SEYB

See **DOWNTOWN**, page 8

See **FUNDS**, page 8

### SIDEWALK TALK

## Council wants movement on downtown sidewalk ideas

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld has put a bullseye on the city's deteriorating downtown sidewalks and curbs.

At Tuesday's regular city council meeting Mohrfeld put the item in front of the council for discussion without action.

"I always have a saying that if you don't put a bullseye on the wall, you're never going to hit a bullseye," Mohrfeld said. "This is to set the bullseye on the renovation of the downtown



MOHRFELD

sidewalks and streets."

He said the initial discussions shouldn't include funding, but focus more on who the stakeholders will be and what the project could look like.

Councilwoman Rebecca Bowker said the city should take a progressive approach to the problem like they are with the marina project.

"It's my strong belief that we really need to invest in our downtown. That investment looks like new side-

See **DOWNTOWN**, page 8

### HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

## Chamber rolls out schedule for upcoming holiday events

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison Area Chamber of Commerce is gearing up for a busy kick off to the holiday season! Here's a run-down of Holiday Happenings over the next few weeks.

November 19th – Come downtown Fort Madison for the 11th Annual Fort

Madison Wine & Beer Walk from 5-8 pm. Participants can sample local wines, beers and spirits from over 20 locations. For a complete list of participating vendors and merchants, please visit the Fort Madison Partners Facebook Page. Glasses can be purchased at the Fort

Madison Partners office at 614 7th Street for \$15, thanks to our sponsor Menke & Company.

November 25th – The Fort Madison Community Thanksgiving Commit-

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### WEATHER

WED 17 Nov.....Light Rain, 60° F/ 42° F  
THU 18 Nov.....Clear and Cool, 42° F/ 31° F  
FRI 19 Nov.....Overcast and Cool, 45° F/ 30° F

### IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 11/15.....5 12 14 28 34, Lucky Ball: 3  
PICK 3 11/15 MIDDAY.....4 7 0  
PICK 3 11/15 EVENING.....4 4 1  
PICK 4 11/15 MIDDAY.....2 6 3 4  
PICK 4 11/15 EVENING.....9 9 3 2  
POWERBALL 11/15.....5 31 34 51 53, Powerball: 23, Power Play: 2

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# Obituaries/Iowa News

## OBITUARIES

### VALERA A. SEPTER



SEPTER

Valera Ann Septer, 80, of Bonaparte, Iowa, passed away at 6:25 a.m. Monday, November 15, 2021, at Mississippi Valley in Keokuk, Iowa.

She was born on June 1, 1941, in Gult, Missouri, the daughter of Wayne and Valera E. (Hebing) Septer.

Survivors include her three children: Debra (Ronald) Fischer of Kirksville, Missouri, Mark (Tina) Nordyke of New London, Iowa and Christine (Kurk) Goetz of Springtown, Texas; seven grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

A private family service will be held.

A memorial has been established in her memory for Harness Cemetery.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com](http://www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com). Schmitz Funeral Home of Farmington is assisting the family with arrangements.

## Judge enjoins ARPA tax cut provision

DES MOINES -- A federal district court judge in Alabama ruled on Monday in favor of 13 states suing the Biden Administration over an unclear provision of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) that attempts to prohibit states from cutting taxes.

The State of Iowa joined the lawsuit in March, which challenges a provision of ARPA that prevents states from using ARPA funds to "directly or indirectly" offset tax cuts. The court found that Congress exceeded its authority by attaching vague and ambiguous conditions on receipt of the ARPA funds.

The court wrote in part:

"The language of the Tax Mandate makes it impossible for States to make an informed choice about the costs of receiving ARPA funds because it is impossible to know how

to exercise taxing authority without putting ARPA funds at risk. Money is fungible, meaning 'of such a nature that one part or quantity may be replaced by another equal part or quantity in paying a debt or settling an account' or 'capable of mutual substitution: interchangeable.' Thus, any ARPA funds the Plaintiff States receive could be viewed as indirectly offsetting any reduction in net tax revenue from a change in state law or policy."

"This is a major victory for the State of Iowa and Iowa taxpayers," said Gov. Reynolds. "The Biden Administration was trying to punish fiscally responsible states like Iowa, which has a record budget surplus, and that's why we took legal action. With this ruling, Biden's Administration can't keep us from cutting taxes and I look forward to doing just that."

## OBITUARIES

### MARGIE E. (FRAISE) YOUNG



YOUNG

Margie Elizabeth (Fraise) Young, 91, of Nauvoo, Illinois, passed away Monday, November 15, 2021 at 10:59 p.m. at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in Fort Madison.

Born on September 26, 1930 the daughter of Stacey and Marie (Merschbrock) Fraise in West Point, Iowa. On November 12, 1949 she married Albert Ray Young at Saint Mary the Assumption Catholic Church in West Point. He preceded her in death on August 22, 2015.

She is survived by three daughters: Linda (Mike) Parker of Rome, Iowa, Barb (Dan) Schmitz of Olathe, Kansas, Patty (Mike) Haigh of Nauvoo, Illinois; 10 grandchildren and 23 great grandchildren; two sisters: Karen (Eldon) Ripperger of Burlington, Iowa, Janice (John) Ripperger of Burlington, Iowa and one brother Carroll (Dorothy) Fraise of West Point, Iowa.

She is preceded in death by her husband and her son Michael on January 1, 2016.

Margie was a member of Ss. Peter & Paul Catholic Church of Nauvoo. She was employed at Flora Thums of Niota, Illinois, IRC of Burlington, Iowa, Methode of Carthage and Riverview Supper Club. She was an avid reader, loved flowers and birds. Most of all she enjoyed her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The family will meet with friends from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. on Monday, November 22, 2021 at the Schmitz-Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Nauvoo.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Monday, November 22, 2021 at Ss. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Nauvoo with Father Thomas Szydliek as celebrant.

Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery in West Point, Iowa.

A memorial has been established in her memory to Nauvoo Fire & Rescue.

Schmitz-Banks & Beals Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. On-line condolences to the family may be left at [www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com](http://www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com).

### ARNOLD L. SHOLL, JR.

Arnold Leo Sholl Jr., 60 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died November 15, 2021 at his home.

No formal services are planned. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Sholl family and an online guest book may be found at [www.barrmemorialchapel.com](http://www.barrmemorialchapel.com).



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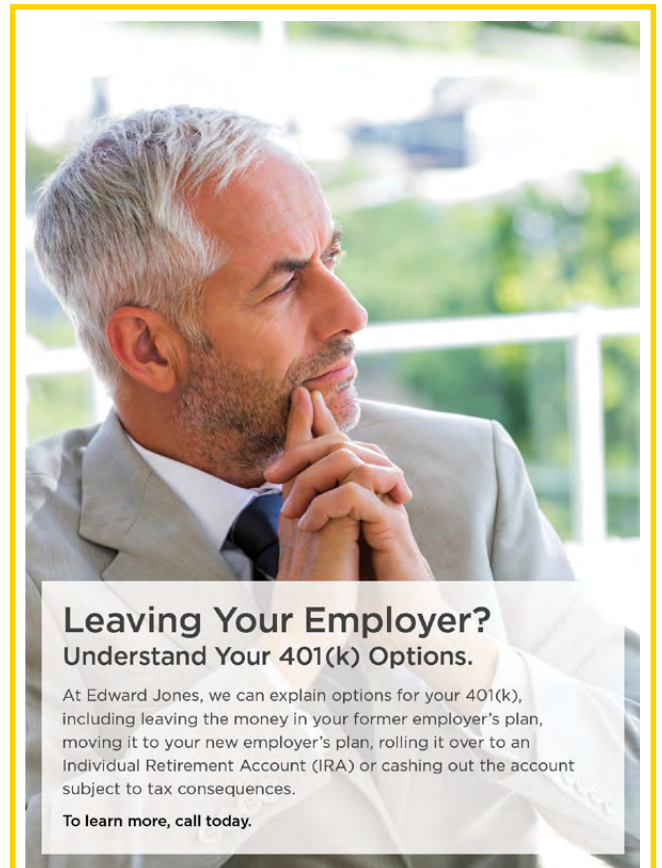


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# PEN CITY CURRENT

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Pen City Current and [www.pencitycurrent.com](http://www.pencitycurrent.com) are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Sunday through Friday mornings by 6AM.

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## From the Front

# Council clashes over pickleball funding

**COURTS** - Continued from Page 1

pulled the former tennis surfaces off the courts at the park unveiling a lot of patching and sealing and dead spots.

Councilwoman Donna Amandus, who is helping spearhead the pickleball effort, said the surface is dead and can't be saved.

Phyllis Porter, who was speaking to the council on behalf of the group, said the project will basically have to start from scratch.

"We've researched some grants that could be possible to help us as well. But most of those grants want to know what's been invested in the project," Porter said.

The group has raised about \$12,000 for the project including \$8,500 in the past week.

"We're gonna get there, it's just gonna be a matter of time," Porter said. "Keep in mind, cities are building pickleball courts. When this project is done, Victory Field will no longer be an eyesore for Fort Madison."

Councilwoman Rebecca Bowker asked if the group was starting from scratch, is Victory Park the best location. Amandus said it is because the park is centrally located and replacing the old surface will take accomplish two goals.

Councilman Tom Schulz agreed that there is a significant amount of investment going into the park to make it work where a new flat open spot might be a cheaper option for the park.

Amandus said the group discussed having it at Riverview Park and said Victory is the perfect solution to all the problems that exist there now.

"There's no reason not to use that space as far as I'm concerned. I don't understand why it would be cheaper to do it somewhere else other than the cost of demolition."

Mayor Matt Mohrfeld said there could be some in-kind donations toward the creation of the new park. He also said that any funds should come from the city's hotel/motel tax revenue stream.

Bowker said if it was coming out of that fund, she would make a motion to approve the funding.

Mohrfeld said the city should support the project

from an arm's length with in-kind help and funding assistance, but if the city were to take on the project, it would be tougher to fold in a lot of those other options.

Schulz said he would like the city's cash contribution limited to \$32,000 that was pulled out of the previous plan to rehab the tennis courts. He said then the rest could be included in in-kind donation from the city's public works for tree removal and other things that could be done without increasing costs to the city.

Schulz when a step further and said he would like to see the project not cost the city anything, if the project doesn't come to fruition, due to lack of funding.

"Why would we want to put \$50,000 into a project that doesn't actually get built," Schulz said.

Amandus said the project won't get started until all the money is raised.

"We need the \$50,000 as seed money for grants, so as hard as our volunteers are working to get the money raised, this is a \$50,000 investment or a \$250,000 asset to the city," Amandus said.

Schulz said the \$250,000 price is way escalated compared to what it will actually cost.

Amandus said Schulz doesn't have a clue what it would cost to build.

"These are numbers we're getting from other pickleball courts," Amandus said.

One of those cost estimates came from Mt. Pleasant and the city bidded the project, which Schulz said inflated the cost by 30 to 40%.

"I'm not against putting money into this, but we don't need to go into this blindly throwing cash (at it)," he said.

Schulz said if the city's going to put \$50,000 into the project then the city shouldn't put any man hours into it, or that donation then goes to \$70,000 to \$80,000.

The council then voted, 6-0, to contribute the \$50,000 cash infusion into the project. Mohrfeld clarified after the meeting that would be a cash contribution and city in-kind contributions would be on top of the cash donation contingent on the group raising the rest of the funds.

# Thanksgiving meals just a call away

**EVENTS** - Continued from Page 1

tee will be serving up a fantastic Thanksgiving meal to the community to ensure no one goes hungry for the holiday. Meals will be carry out or delivery only and will be served from the Fort Madison Eagles Club at 4821 Avenue O Suite #4. To order a meal or volunteer to deliver, please call 319-371-8509 until November 22nd.

November 26th - Join us in downtown Fort Madison for the Parade of Lights! This beautiful parade features over 40 lighted floats that are sponsored by local businesses and organizations. The floats will make their way through downtown starting at 6:30 pm as they head for their month-long stay in Central Park. Volunteers are always welcome to help with both the work nights on Mondays at 5:30 pm as well as pulling the floats the evening of the parade.

After the parade, stop in to see Santa at the Enchanted Forest located at 927 1/2 Avenue G, directly behind Aldi. This event features trees decorated by local businesses and organizations for you to see. While you're there, vote for your favorite by dropping some change in their bucket. The Enchanted Forest will be open on Saturday, November 27th from 10 am - 2 pm, December 4th from 10am - 3 pm, December 11th from 10 am - 3 pm and December 18th from 1-3 pm.

November 27th - Shop Small with Mistletoe on Main on Small Business Saturday. This event celebrates all of our small businesses as we invite you to Shop Small for the Holidays and always. Join us across Fort Madison for amazing deals and downtown for fun activities including the Enchanted Forest, horse-drawn carriage rides and live reindeer! You won't want to miss this!

Don't forget to stop in for your Hawkeye Day tickets by Friday, November 19th to guarantee a t-shirt with your purchase! Game will be on December 29th at 7pm. Limited bus tickets are still available.

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## Classifieds/Public Notices

# PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

### PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
MEETING MINUTES  
KEOKUK CITY  
COUNCIL MEETING  
November 4, 2021  
501 Main Street  
6:30 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Keokuk met in regular session on November 4, 2021 at 501 Main Street. Mayor Thomas L. Richardson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. There were nine council members present, none absent. Mike O'Connor, Linda Altheide, Roslyn Garcia, Devon Dade, John Helenthal, Steve Andrews, Linda Marsden, Roger Bryant, and Susan Dunek were present. Staff in attendance: City Administrator Cole O'Donnell, City Clerk Jean Ludwig, Public Works Director Robert Helenthal, Community Development Director Pam Broomhall, Bridge, Park, Cemetery and Sanitation Manager Bob Weis, Sewer Manager Michael Clark, Police Chief Dave Hinton, Fire Chief Gabe Rose, Code Enforcement Officer Casey Barnes, and Celeste El Anfaoui as well as other city employees.

**MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE:** Met with Paul Roos of Amjet Turbine Systems and will have a report at the next meeting. Asked for volunteers for the City of Christmas.

**CITIZEN'S REQUEST:** Teresa Murray asked for an update on the UTV/ golf cart ordinance. Broomhall said the ordinance is at the attorney's office and will come to the council for approval when complete. Murray reiterated help is needed for the City of Christmas.

Motion made by Helenthal, second by Dade to approve the agenda, including the consent agenda.

(9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

- Minutes of the Safety Committee meeting of October 19, 2021;

- Minutes of the Council Workshop & Regular City Council meeting of October 21, 2021 (note a correction, votes should be 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, & 1 Absent, due to Marsden leaving during citizen's request);

- Minutes of the Keokuk Civil Service Commission meeting of October 25, 2021;

- Keokuk Civil Service Commission Certified list for the Keokuk Police Department;

- RESOLUTION NO. 311-21:** Approving a Liquor License for Dr. Get Wells Bar & Grill, 1100 Main Street, effective November 24, 2021 – Class C Liquor License with Sunday Sales;

- Motion to pay bills and transfers listed in Register No.'s 5238-5240 Old Business:

Motion made by Marsden, second by Helenthal to remove from table an Ordinance repealing Ordinance No. 1998, and granting to Midstates Natural Gas, its successors, and assigns, a non-exclusive twenty-year franchise to acquire, construct, erect, maintain and operate a natural gas utility in the City of Keokuk, Iowa and to furnish and sell natural gas to the city and its inhabitants, and requiring said company to pay a franchise fee to the City.

ROLL CALL VOTE: (7) AYES – Garcia, Dade, Helenthal, Andrews, Marsden, Bryant, and Dunek. (2) NAYS – O'Connor, and Altheide. Motion carried.

Motion made by Helenthal, second by Dunek to approve the amended

ordinance section 3, paragraph 3.

ROLL CALL VOTE: (6) AYES – Garcia, Dade, Helenthal, Andrews, Bryant, and Dunek. (3) NAYS – O'Connor, Altheide and Marsden. Motion carried.

Motion by Helenthal, second by Garcia to approve the second reading of the amended ordinance.

ROLL CALL VOTE: (8) AYES – Altheide, Garcia, Dade, Helenthal, Andrews, Marsden, Bryant, and Dunek. (1) NAY – O'Connor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Helenthal, second by Dade to waive the 3rd reading of the amended ordinance.

ROLL CALL VOTE: (5) AYES – Altheide, Dade, Helenthal, Andrews, and Bryant. (4) NAYS – O'Connor, Garcia, Marsden, and Dunek. Motion carried.

Motion made by Helenthal, second by Dunek to adopt and give final approval to amended ordinance.

ROLL CALL VOTE: (8) AYES – Altheide, Garcia, Dade, Helenthal, Andrews, Marsden, Bryant, and Dunek. (1) NAY – O'Connor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Garcia, second by Dunek to remove from the table an Ordinance repealing

Ordinance No. 1830, and granting to Interstate Power and Light Company, its successors, and assigns, a non-exclusive twenty-five-year franchise to acquire, construct, erect, maintain and operate an electric system in the City of Keokuk, Iowa and to furnish and sell electric energy to the City and its inhabitants, and requiring said company to pay a franchise fee to the City.

ROLL CALL VOTE: (7) AYES – Garcia, Dade, Helenthal, Andrews, Marsden, Bryant, and Dunek. (2) NAYS – O'Connor, and Altheide. Motion carried.

Motion made by Dunek, second by Dade to amend the Electric Franchise fee Ordinance, Section 9 to 1.5%.

ROLL CALL VOTE: (8)

AYES – Altheide, Garcia, Dade, Helenthal, Andrews, Marsden, Bryant, and Dunek. (1) NAY – O'Connor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Bryant, second by Dunek to approve the 2nd reading of the amended ordinance.

ROLL CALL VOTE: (8) AYES – Altheide, Garcia, Dade, Helenthal, Andrews, Marsden, Bryant, and Dunek. (1) NAY – O'Connor. Motion carried.

Mayor Richardson asked for a motion to waive the 3rd reading of the amended ordinance for the Electric Franchise fee. Died due to lack of motion.

Motion made by Garcia, second by Helenthal to remove from table accepting the reductions as proposed or provide staff with further direction on possible reductions. (9)

AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Garcia, second by Helenthal to approve reductions proposed for the general fund. (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

New Business:

Motion made by Dunek, second by Dade to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 312-21:

"A RESOLUTION APPROVING A CONTRACT WITH PIERCE FENCE COMPANY OF OTTUMWA, IOWA IN THE AMOUNT OF \$26,900.00 FOR THE RIVERVIEW DOG PARK FENCE PROJECT." (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Dunek, second by Dade to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 313-21: "A RESO-

## Scotts MiracleGro in Ft. Madison has 2 new opportunities on our Maintenance Team!

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- Perform multi-discipline maintenance and/or electrical work. Maintain equipment documentation for all equipment and revise per modifications.

**What you'll need to be successful:**

- High School Diploma or Equivalent
- PLC technician /Electrical educational courses
- 5 to 7 years in electrical maintenance field preferably in a manufacturing setting
- In depth mechanical/electrical aptitude, schematic reading/interpretation

### Maintenance Mechanic

**Some things you'll do in this role:**

- Troubleshoots production machinery and equipment for electrical and mechanical malfunctions. Assists in the teardown and rebuild of machines.
- Performs scheduled preventive maintenance tasks and periodic inspections on production machinery and equipment. Lubricates and cleans parts. Adjusts devices positions and controls.
- Troubleshoots mechanical failures. Repairs or places defective parts. Dismantles devices to gain access to and remove defective parts. Installs parts into devices. Starts devices to determine their performance.

**What you'll need to be successful:**

- High School Diploma or Equivalent
- 3-5 years maintenance experience in a manufacturing environment.
- Must have basic computer skills, hydraulics and pneumatics aptitude.
- Must read and interpret Hydraulic, Pneumatic and Electrical schematics.
- Mechanical troubleshooting skills, electrical troubleshooting skills.

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### HELP WANTED

#### ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

Lee County Bank is currently seeking a full-time Accounting Assistant to provide highly specialized accounting functions for maintenance and recording of financial transactions. Prepares status reports, responsible for accounts payable, journal entries, depreciation, and performs other duties as assigned. Typically requires progressive experience in an accounting department or a related field. Intermediate working knowledge of Microsoft suite including excel, word and office. Must have good communication, computer and interpersonal skills and be able to work independently and as a part of a team. Lee County Bank is an equal opportunity employer, Member FDIC – Equal Housing Lender.

Please send resume to:  
Tamara Dietsch  
[tledietsch@leecountybank.com](mailto:tledietsch@leecountybank.com)

DEADLINE  
November 26, 2021



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### PUBLIC NOTICES

LUTION APPROVING A CONTRACT FOR SERVICE WITH SOUTHEAST IOWA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION FOR THE RIVER FRONT TRAILS GRANT.” (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Helenthal, second by Andrews to approve the following

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proposed RESOLUTION NO. 314-21: “A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE STREET FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2021.” (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Marsden, second by O'Connor to approve the hiring of two Police Officers at the Keokuk Police Department. (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS: Motion made by Marsden, second by Bryant to appoint Joe Morgan to the Rand Park Pavilion Commission, term to expire 10/22/23 fulfilling Michael Albright's term. (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion by O'Connor, second by Helenthal to approve the resignation of Ron Schmitt from the Keokuk Municipal Water Works Board of Directors, term to expire 11/01/27. (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion by Dunek, second by Dade to approve the appointment of Tom Crenshaw to the Keokuk Municipal Water Works Board of Directors, term to expire 11/01/27. (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS: O'Donnell reported on the following: Open House for new City Hall will be November 17, Covid Policy, and appointment to the Iowa League of Cities

Policy Committee.

There being no further business, Mayor Richardson adjourned the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

**PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING NOTICE AGENDA FORT MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Date: Thursday, November 18, 2021**  
**Time: 5:30 P.M.**  
**Place: Sheaffer Meeting Room and Online**

Electronic Meeting (Pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.8)

An electronic meeting is being held because a meeting in person is impossible or impractical for the health and safety of Library Board members, library employees and the public presented by COVID-19. You can participate in the meeting via telephone and can comment on an agenda item by joining the Zoom meeting. Using your telephone, dial (312) 626 6799 and enter the meeting ID (823 1897 0867) when prompted. If you have trouble connecting to the meeting, please call (319) 372-5721.

- I. Excused absences
- II. Approval of Agenda
- III. Public Comments
- IV. Approval of minutes
- V. Approval of the Bills
  - a. Approval of November 2021 Bills

- VI. Correspondence VII. Director's Report
  - a. Financial
  - b. Personnel
  - c. Programming
  - d. Collection Development
  - e. Operations
  - f. Facilities - landscaping
  - g. Professional
  - h. Reports to City Council

- i. Aarin Guzman Update
- VIII. Unfinished Business

- a. Review Meeting Room Policy – addressing Sunday usage and snow removal during winter months IX. New Business a. Policy prohibiting smoking and e-cigarettes on library property.

- b. Budget discussion i. Landscaping
  - 1. Edge of sidewalk and other cleanup
  - 2. Reseed front lawn
  - 3. Extra weed control
- ii. Linoleum in craft room
- iii. Clean air vents
- iv. Clean/replace light diffusers

- X. Trustee Education a. Trustee Handbook Chapter 9 “Board Relationships with Director, Staff and City”

- XI. Upcoming Events and Information a. Continued budget request discussion at the December board meeting.

Next Meeting December 2, 2021 at 5:30 for special Strategic Planning Session.

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## From the Front

# EMS director says state extension not likely

**FUNDS** - Continued from Page 1

supplemental funding assistance.

“We’re a new ambulance service and we’re at the mercy of the old ambulance service, which could help with the state granting us an extension,” he said.

“But the other question I have is, have we ever received the final information that the auditor’s office needed to close the purchase of the service from the Young family.

“I don’t believe that we’ve received that either,” Cosby said.

Seyb said maybe the county attorney should be involved at this point.

Board chairman Matt Pflug said he went with a county staffer to give the Youngs a check, but Bill Young didn’t have the deeds at that time.

“We went out there with a check in hand for the buildings, and he didn’t have the deeds – but he wanted us to leave the check,” Pflug said.

“We need our deeds.”

Seyb said it would be one thing if the Youngs didn’t have the information to provide to the company that’s been hired to help obtain the GEMT funding, but supervisors believe that’s not the case.

Cosby said it’s a whole year of financial

billable information.

“Again, I assume he would have closed down those programs because he’s no longer running an ambulance service, but he answered that he still had access to it. It’s going to take some man hours, it won’t be something that can be done in half an hour,” Cosby said.

Cosby told the board that getting an extension from the state at this point would be difficult, but said he did hear from both Bill and Richard Young Monday afternoon, and everyone was cooperating as of Tuesday.

“We have missed the deadline and an extension is very unlikely at this point. Bill and Richard Young have both reached out to me and we are navigating our way through the process. Everyone has been cooperative,” Cosby said.

The county has hired Public Consulting Group to help navigate the GEMT funding stream, but Cosby said the deadline has already passed for filing for the supplemental payments for 2021. Those figures are estimated to be around \$400,000.

“We’re talking about \$400,000 here, folks,” Supervisor Rich Harlow said.

# Council wants business owners’ input before setting course

**DOWNTOWN** - Continued from Page 1

walks, and Avenue G, and what we can do,” she said.

She said pulling the new look of Avenue H into the downtown is important for tourism and curb appeal, but she also said from a pure safety standpoint with cruise line tours, downtown events, and ADA considerations, upgrades are needed.

“We’ve had incidents where people have tripped and fallen off uneven sidewalks and broken curbs and those types of things. It’s a safety issue for the community,” she said.

“We’re not being ADA friendly and we’re not being handicap accessible.”

She said downtown merchants are open to the discussion, but they want to know what that looks like and what that will cost them.

“I know funding isn’t necessarily a topic tonight, but I think we have some avenues moving forward that we can look at to make it not so cost prohibitive.”

She said the city must get input from downtown property owners before making some decisions because access will be a big issue with business owners.

Mohrfeld said there may be some timing issues and some opportunities as the city moves forward with sewer separation plans that will result in Avenue G being reconstructed after the separation occurs downtown.

Savannah Collier, Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce coordinator, said when the city was going to use storm water funding to replace the sidewalks several years ago, business owners were on board with the work for the most part.

But the project came in more than double engineer estimates and was pulled.

Collier said there are coal chutes, stairways, doors, and “random crap” the sidewalks were just built on top of.

“A lot of contractors were told not to bid, so I think there was a little bit of a fear factor in there,” Collier said.

Councilman Rusty Andrews reminded the council that there is already a lot of money in that project with previous designs from several years ago.

“I don’t know that this is a project you’re going to take on like a private sector build of a marina or a pickleball court. It starts with people in this room, the elected officials and staff, to get an idea. But you’re going to get to the point where you have to get an engineer involved,” Andrews said.

“But look over all the stuff we’ve already paid \$100,000 for and know it like the back of your hand before you walk into the next one because you might hire the same engineering firm, but they will charge you another \$80,000 to answer the same questions they’ve already answered. You better know that before you go into it.”

Mohrfeld said sooner rather than later there should be another stakeholders’ meeting and start talking about issues from what it should look like to how businesses feel about everything from the little things to big things like access and having skin in the game.

He also said that the public works staff should try to come up with some initial cost estimates for the work.

Bowker said as long as there is mutual direction and forward momentum with the city to come up with solutions on estimates and funding sources, she was happy to be part of working on the project.

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