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Tuesday, July 25, 2023 | 8 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 128



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Pipeline rep corrects record

NAVIGATOR: Permitting and contractor behavior addressed Monday

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – A representative from the company wanting to build a pipeline through Lee County told supervisors Monday that some misinformation has been released about the status of pipeline operations.

Tracie Gibler, a public affairs manager with Navigator LLC, the company wanting to build the Heartland Greenway carbon sequestration pipeline from South Dakota through Iowa and into Illinois, said previous statements shared at board meetings have been inaccurate.

At a meeting two weeks ago, former Lee County Super-

visor Don Hunold and current Lee County Supervisor Ron Fedler both said the Illinois Commerce Commission had denied Navigator's permit to sequester the pipeline rock shelves deep underground in the state.

But Gibler said Monday that is not the case.

"What might have happened and is being interpreted as such, is that we rescinded our permit so we could update and add another lateral line for two separate sequestration sites," Gibler said. "We did that for efficiency sake. We only wanted one docket, one permit etc., so we took it back and refiled with all the information in one docket. I think that might be

See **NAVIGATOR**, page 2

Yasenchok named new Dep. Auditor

SUPERVISORS: Auditor says she will serve full term with new people in place

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise announced Monday that she will now not be resigning from her position at the end of the year, and will stay as the county's Auditor through the end of 2024.

Fraise told Supervisors Monday that she has decided to stay in the position until her term is over after someone came forward from the Lee County Treasurer's office to step in as Deputy Auditor.

Sherri Yasenchok, who's been with the Treasurer's office for almost one year, told officials she would be willing to be Fraise's Deputy Auditor and then would consider running for the position for the general election in 2024.

Yasenchok was introduced by Fraise at last weekend's Lee County Republican dinner held near Keokuk. Yasenchok would run on the Republican ticket for the position leading up to the election.

Yasenchok has more than two decades in accounting, office management, and human resources experience since starting her career with an air cargo company in the 90s in California.

She said she made the decision after conversations with peers.

"I decided when talking with Denise Fraise, that my past and current experience would be valuable to the position and decided to announce my decision at the Lee County Republican Banquet on July 15th," Yasenchok said.



YASENCHOK

See **AUDITOR**, page 2



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Children with the Old Fort Players Youth Summer Theater Program work on lines Monday night at the downtown playhouse in Fort Madison. The OFP staff put on a summer production for the kids every year. This year's show Book Report of Destiny takes the stage this Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

COUNTY NEWS

Supervisors officially put LCHD project on hold

PCC STAFF

LEE COUNTY – Lee County officials were informed late last week that a \$2.1 million Congressional appropriation to help offset costs of new construction for the Lee County Health Department made it into

an Agriculture funding bill.

The appropriation was carried to Washington by Congresswoman Mariannette Miller-Meeks after being submitted for the grant possibility by Lee County Grant writer Chuck Vandenberg.

According to a spokesperson for Miller-Meeks' office, the appropriation to help fund the \$6 million Lee County Health Department/EMS bay, is now fully funded as part of

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WEATHER

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From the Front

Yasenchok plans to run for office in 2024

AUDITOR - Continued from Page 1

“Through multiple conversations with (Budget Director) Cindy Renstrom and Denise, I decided this was a perfect fit for my experience and hopefully I can bring some new knowledge to the county offices. I decided that since Denise was retiring next year that I wanted to get my name out there so I can be training for the position I am also running for.”

Yasenchok said her past experience will help her navigate the learning curve of the budget and auditor’s offices.

“I have always been in controller, accounting manager positions that have allowed me to gain knowledge of all aspects of accounting, and I have been through budgets to audits over the years that I feel have provided me with the knowledge to be successful at learning Cindy’s job also.”

Fraise said she wanted to get Yasenchok in her office as soon as possible. Renstrom said it would be good to allow Yasenchok to help in the Treasurer’s office with transitions of staff and new hires.

The county will now start looking to fill the positions in that department.

Fraise announced earlier this month that she would be retiring from the Auditor’s post at the end of the year. She had offered to stay on part-time to be the board of supervisors’ secretary.

Illinois hasn’t denied pipeline permit

NAVIGATOR - Continued from Page 1

some of the confusion there.”

Gibler said Navigator had not received any prior indication that the permitting would be denied and the company’s decision was based on a change in design of the sequestration process only.

She said the company will resubmit their new plans with a simpler design in the near future and a hearing on that won’t take place until February.

She said Navigator is further behind in the process in Iowa and she doesn’t think a hearing has been set until the second quarter of next year.

“We’re still in the process of talking with landowners, talking to folks like yourselves, meeting with community leaders, and getting our safety plans tuned up and ready to go.”

Lee County resident Doug Abolt called the company out for heavy-handed tactics in negotiating with property owners, saying they were going on property without permission.

Gibler said that too was inaccurate.

“I just want to state for the record that we are not going on any property where we are not wanted,” Gibler said. “If you have those concerns, please have the sheriff let us know. That is a policy for us.”

Abolt said he’s concerned that eminent domain is being granted unlawfully in Lee County, including a recent proceeding that took land from two people in Fort Madison for the NuStar ammonia pipeline.

Lee County Supervisor Chair Garry Seyb said he wanted Navigator to provide data on how many landowners, as a percentage, are voluntarily signing contracts with the pipeline company for easement rights.

“I don’t want squishy numbers, I want solid numbers,” Seyb said. “Most of these projects get more than 90-95 percent voluntary contracts, but I think there are a lot of people who aren’t signing up for this one,” he

said.

Supervisor Ron Fedler said he doesn’t believe the pipeline is in the best interest of the county or the community.

“That pipeline is going on the west city limit side around to the north and it’s only going to 1,400 feet from the care center,” Fedler said.

“And that’s an issue because of lot of people have respiratory problems and how much gets into the air and influences that, I don’t know. It’s way to close on the north side. It’s too big of a risk to take.”

He said a block from that to the south is the West Point Fire Station and the ability to get to airpicks and rescue equipment would be jeopardized in the event of a rupture.

Seyb said it would be good to get some plume studies that show the impacts of a rupture on the line.

Gibler said the pipeline would have shut off valves at a minimum every six miles, but it could be further apart. She said those valves can be shut off immediately by the press of a button and the pipes are monitored manually 24/7, 365 days a year.

Abolt, who is in the valve production industry, said it doesn’t matter how far apart the valves are or how big the pipe is.

“I’m in the automation and control valve industry. I know what those valves can do and how fast they can react. It doesn’t matter if you have six miles of 20-inch pipeline, there’s gonna be a problem. We need real plume studies and we need to be convinced it’s safe,” he said.

“I don’t want to be here and be the guy that screams this for everyone else who won’t show up. But I’m telling you, these CO2 pipelines aren’t necessary, they’re a green energy thing pushed through that are not law. We, the people, need to tell our representatives we do not want this. We the people do not want this pipeline... anywhere in Iowa.”

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Charles Vandenberg, Editor
(319).371.1670
charles.v@pencitycurrent.com

Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager
(319).371.4125
lee.v@pencitycurrent.com


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From the Front

Congressional appropriation holds \$2.1 M for project

GRANT - Continued from Page 1

the bill that moves to both chambers of Congress.

The spokesperson said the bill could be voted on in the House of Representatives as early as next week. If passed it would go to the full Senate for a vote and then, if it gets through that Chamber, will go to President Joe Biden for a signature.

The announcement put on the back-burner an option to purchase a building in Keokuk to house the Health Department. That option would not have provided any upgraded space for the county's EMS Ambulance service.

The approval moves the county closer to securing enough funding to build the new facility that is planned to hold the health department staff and programming as well as the Fort Madison contingent of EMS ambulance staff and equipment.

Carl A. Nelson, the construction manager for the project, is finalizing the design document and then will stand down on the project until Supervisors give them approval to move ahead with bidding out the project and starting site preparation.

"The design work is done and ready to go out for bid, and then we're gonna hit pause," Lee County Supervisor Chair Garry Seyb said Monday at the regular board meeting. "I want the public to know and Carl A. Nelson to know, right now we're getting our funding put together and everything we had hoped was going to happen is currently happening."

Seyb said he feels really good that all the money is going to be there without having to issue bonds to pay for any of the work.

"We always got that back up and that's why we're doing what we're doing. Nobody wants to hear that or do that, but worst case scenario, but right now it's prudent that we pause and see where the money's coming from."

The county has roughly \$1.4 million left in unobligated America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds remaining that they are earmarking for the project. The USDA came through with a \$975,000 Rural Emergency Health Care grant. A Community Development Block Grant has been applied for through the state for \$600,000 with the assistance of Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission and a Lee County Community Foundation effort is underway that could generate another \$500,000 to \$1 million. At \$500,000, that effort combined with the other funds totals \$3,475,000 of the \$6 million project. When the Congressional appropriation comes through at

\$2,159,000, that would give the county a total of \$5,634,000.

Seyb said the general fund, which is generating more than \$100,000 per month in interest would be sufficient to offset the remainder of the costs of the building.

Supervisor Tom Schulz said it's now looking more favorable that the new building will be paid for a cost benefit to the county by saving \$90,000 in annual lease payments while absorbing no debt service.

In other action, the board:

- approved the sale of county property near Wilson Lake to Brett and Jackie Kelley of rural Lee county for \$3,000.
- approved the hiring of Sherri Yasenchok as Deputy Auditor as a backfill for future retirements in the auditor's office.
- set an Aug. 21 public hearing on designating the future Lee County EMS property as an urban renewal zone.

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Pen City Current will not publish an e-Edition Thursday, August 10 through Thursday, August 24 for our annual summer break.

The e-Edition will resume Friday, August 25. The news will still be published on our website.

Thank for reading!

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Tuesday, July 25
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Wednesday, July 26
Meatballs, Loaded Potatoes, Broccoli Salad

Thursday, July 27
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Friday, July 28
Lunch on the Sidewalk

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PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
CEMETERY CLEAN UP**

The Fort Madison Cemetery Department has scheduled a Cemetery Clean Up at Sacred Heart, Elmwood, Oakland & City Cemeteries starting on Monday, August 7 through Friday, August 11, 2023. ALL items must be removed from the gravesites before Monday, August 7. Any items left will be disposed of during cemetery cleanup. No items are to be placed on the graves until Monday, August 14, 2023.

For further information, call (319) 372-7700, ext. 206 or email mblind@fort-madison-ia.com. Thank you for your cooperation!

**PUBLIC NOTICE
MEETING NOTICE**

THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE LEE COUNTY COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WILL BE ON THURSDAY JULY 27, 2023 AT THE KEOKUK AMERICAN LEGION HALL LOCATED AT 727 MAIN STREET, KEOKUK AT NOON.

The agenda includes: 0 requests for Veterans financial assistance, June 2023 monthly financial report, minutes, monthly client report, and Outreach Event Planning.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Subject to change as finalized by the City Clerk. For a final official copy, contact the City Clerk's office at (319) 753-8124.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE BURLINGTON, IOWA CITY COUNCIL Meeting No. 37 July 5, 2023

The Burlington City Council met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. in the Thomas J. Smith Council Chambers, City Hall, 400 Washington Street, with Mayor Billups, Council Members Critser, Graham-Murray and Wilson present. Council Member Maupin was absent.

BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL PROCLAMATION OF RETIREMENT: Mark Crooks, Fire Marshal
PROCLAMATION: Parks & Recreation Month - Eric Tysland
COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE: Tim Scott of 2017 South 15th Street spoke about the need for restoration of Burlington's Statue of Liberty aka/Lady Liberty. Sherry Bandy stated that she operates Donation Connection, which receives and redistributes household items, clothing and personal hygiene items for citizens in need. She stated that she is not receiving enough monetary donations to continue operations. She

made a request to the City Council for monetary assistance in keeping the store open. Dave Strabala of 5821 Christa Drive stated that there needs to be more adequate parking at the riverfront for trucks and boat trailers. Terry Schnack of 2617 Sunrise Lane stated that he is running for Burlington City Council in the upcoming election.

CONSENT AGENDA: To the Public:
All matters listed under Item I., Consent Agenda, having been discussed were considered to be routine by the City Council and were enacted by one motion. There was no separate discussion of these items. If discussion was desired, that item was removed from the Consent Agenda and was considered separately.
Introduced By: Critser
Seconded By: Wilson
MOTION: To approve all items listed under Item I., Consent Agenda.
DISCUSSION: Mayor Billups reviewed the items listed on the consent agenda to the viewing audience. He announced those individuals appointed to various City commissions and boards.
All present had opportunity to speak and nothing additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.
(VOTE: 4 - "AYES")
CARRIED
ORDINANCE:
Introduced By: Wilson
Seconded By: Billups

1. Motion to Amend the Motion for Preliminary Adoption of the Second Reading of an Ordinance Rezoning the Property Located Adjacent to Tama Road and East of Highway 99 from R-1, Single-Family Residential to M-1, Light Industrial Zoning District
DISCUSSION: Eric Tysland, Development and Parks Director, stated that the City Planning Commission held a public hearing on May 2, 2023 regarding the rezoning of the property located adjacent to Tama Road and East of Highway 99 from R-1, Single-Family Residential to M-1, Light Industrial Zoning District.
He stated that the commission voted (7-0) to recommend approval of the requested rezoning. He stated that the recommendation was based on the location near an existing industrial zoning district to the south, adjacent industrial-type uses to the west, and minimal impact on neighboring properties based on the location. He stated that the current use of the property is non-conforming and it is recommended to amend the Future Land Use Map designation of the Comprehensive Plan to Industrial. All present had opportunity to speak and nothing additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.
(VOTE: 4 - "AYES")
CARRIED

Introduced By: Wilson
Seconded By: Critser
2. Motion for Waiver of Preliminary Consideration and Adoption of the Second Reading and for Final Adoption of an Ordinance Rezoning the Property Located Adjacent to Tama Road and East of Highway 99 from R-1, Single-Family Residential to M-1, Light Industrial Zoning District
DISCUSSION: None.
(VOTE: 4 - "AYES")
CARRIED
RESOLUTION:
Introduced By: Graham-Murray
Seconded By: Critser
1. Resolution Acknowledging Emergency Nature of Combined Sewer Repair Work at Main Street Under BNSF Tracks and Approval of Payment
DISCUSSION: Chad Bird, City Manager, stated that sewer line work was done under the Main Street section of BNSF Tracks during the TIGER grant. He stated there was a change order done to remove the project from the TIGER grant project. He stated that the City hired a contractor to repair damages under emergency work. All present had opportunity to speak and nothing additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.
(VOTE: 4 - "AYES")
ADOPTED
Adjournment: 6:22 p.m.
Approved: July 17, 2023
Katie Music, CMC, City

Clerk
Jon D. Billups, Mayor
(See recording on file in the office of the City Clerk for complete discussion and documentation.)

**PUBLIC NOTICE
MINUTES OF THE BURLINGTON, IOWA CITY COUNCIL INFORMAL WORK SESSION
July 10, 2023**

The Burlington City Council met in an informal work session at 4:30 p.m. in the Thomas J. Smith Council Chambers, City Hall with Mayor Billups, Council Members Critser, Graham-Murray, and Wilson present. Council Member Maupin was absent.

Items discussed at the informal work session are listed on the work session agenda on file in the office of the City Clerk. No action was taken.
Adjournment: 5:51 p.m.
Approved: July 17, 2023
Chad Bird, City Manager
Jon D. Billups, Mayor

**PUBLIC NOTICE
MEETING MINUTES
Mount Pleasant, Iowa,
May 24, 2023**

The Mount Pleasant City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, May 24, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 307 East Monroe Street, sec-



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ond-floor meeting room. The meeting was called to order by the Mayor and the roll being called there were present Steven K. Brimhall in the Chair and the following named Councilmembers-

Present: Engberg, Crull, McWilliams, White, Griffith, Batty

Absent:

It was moved by Councilmember Griffith and seconded by Councilmember Engberg that the Council approve the following consent agenda items with one roll call motion vote:

the minutes of the April 26, 2023, City Council meeting;

the payment of bills totaling \$188,975.27

the Report of officers;

the renewal of a Class E Retail Alcohol License for Fast Break at 201 E. Washington Street.

the renewal of a Cigarette/Tobacco/Nicotine/Vapor permit for Holistic Gypsies at a new address, 115 N. Jefferson Street.

the renewal of a Class E Retail Alcohol License for Hy-Vee Fast & Fresh Iowa at 1702 E. Washington Street.

the renewal of a Class E Retail Alcohol License for Casey's General Store #1612 at 400 W. Washington Street.

the renewal of a Class E Retail Alcohol License for Mount Pleasant Food & Liquor at 309 W. Washington Street.

Roll call vote 6-0. Motion carried.

Councilmember White moved and Councilmember Batty seconded that the Council approves the agenda as printed.

Roll call vote 6-0. Motion carried.

5:31 p.m. Public Hearing on to exchange road right of way for Industry Avenue (Mid Am) Building Project. 5:32 p.m. Councilmember Crull moved, and Councilmember McWilliams seconded that the hearing close.

Roll call vote, 6-0. No oral or written arguments were heard.

Councilmember Griffith moved and Councilmember Batty seconded that the Council adopts the following entitled Resolution No. 2023-40:

RESOLUTION APPROVING VACATION AND TRANSFER OF CITY RIGHT OF WAY AND ABANDONMENT OF UTILITY AND DRAINAGE EASEMENT

Roll call vote 6-0. Resolution adopted, signed by the Mayor and hereby made a portion of these minutes.

It was moved by Councilmember Griffith and seconded by Councilmember McWilliams that the Council read for the third time and adopt the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY CODE OF MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA, CHAPTER 6 ENTITLED "BUILDINGS AND BUILDING REGULATIONS" TO AMEND VARIOUS PROVISIONS THEREOF AND TO ADOPT THE 2018 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE, THE 2018 INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE, THE STATE OF IOWA ELECTRICAL, PLUMBING, AND MECHANICAL CODES, AND THE 2018 INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE:

It was moved by Councilmember Batty and seconded by Councilmember Griffith that the Council table the Encroachment Permit for Meraki Day Spa at 126 N. Main Street.

Councilmember Engberg moved and Councilmember McWilliams seconded that the Council approve the Public Professional and Maintenance Employees IUPAT Local 2003 Memorandum of Understanding regarding a wage increase for FYE 2024. Motion approved, 6-0.

Councilmember White moved and Councilmember Griffith seconded that the Council approve the request from Midwest Old Threshers Board of Directors for financial support to expand useable grounds for McMillan Park and Old Threshers. The request if for \$20,000 to continue to purchase grounds around McMillan Park and Old Threshers.

The Personnel and Finance Committee reviewed the proposal and recommended approval.

Roll call vote, McWilliams – abstained, Batty-aye, Crull – abstained, White-aye, Engberg-aye, Griffith-aye. Motion approved.

Councilmember Crull moved and Councilmember Batty seconded that the Council adopts the following entitled Resolution No. 2023-41:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE MOUNT PLEASANT MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AND CERTIFIES LOCAL MATCH IS AVAILABLE

Roll call vote 6-0. Resolution adopted, signed by the Mayor and hereby made a portion of these minutes.

Councilmember Griffith moved and Councilmember White seconded that the Council adopts the following entitled Resolution No. 2023-42:

RESOLUTION SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED VACATION AND SALE OF A PORTION OF THE 1800 BLOCK OF THE E MONROE ST RIGHT-OF-WAY, IN MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA

Roll call vote 6-0. Resolution adopted, signed by the Mayor and hereby made a portion of these minutes.

Councilmember McWilliams moved and Councilmember Batty second-

ed that the Council adopts the following entitled Resolution No. 2023-43:

RESOLUTION APPROVING EMPLOYEE PERSONNEL POLICY MANUAL

Roll call vote 6-0. Resolution adopted, signed by the Mayor and hereby made a portion of these minutes.

Councilmember McWilliams moved and Councilmember White seconded that the Council adopts the following entitled Resolution No. 2023-44:

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING WAGES AND SALARIES OF CERTAIN NON-UNION CITY EMPLOYEES AND OFFICERS EFFECTIVE JUNE 25, 2023

Roll call vote 6-0. Resolution adopted, signed by the Mayor and hereby made a portion of these minutes.

Councilmember Engberg moved and Councilmember McWilliams seconded that the Council adopts the following entitled Resolution No. 2023-45:

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION AMOUNTS OF CERTAIN CITY EMPLOYEES AND OFFICERS EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023

Roll call vote 6-0. Resolution adopted, signed by the Mayor and hereby made a portion of these minutes.

Councilmember Griffith moved and Councilmember Batty seconded that the Council adopts the following entitled Resolution No. 2023-46:

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING WAGES OF TEMPORARY AND SEASONAL PART TIME WORKERS

Roll call vote 6-0. Resolution adopted, signed by the Mayor and hereby made a portion of these minutes.

It was moved by Councilmember McWilliams and seconded by Councilmember Batty that the Council adjourn. Motion

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Ad Council

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PUBLIC NOTICES

carried. Adjourned at 5:45 p.m. to meet in a regular session on Wednesday, June 14, 2023.

Steven K Brimhall, Mayor
 ATTEST: Lori Davis, City Clerk

**PUBLIC NOTICE
 Mount Pleasant
 Public Safety
 Committee
 Meeting Minutes
 June 29, 2023
 4:00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Bob Griffith, Terry McWilliams, Matt Crull, Mayor Steve Brimhall, Brent Schleisman, Rick Mullin, Lyle Murray,

Drew Schumacher, Jeff Batey.

ABSENT: None.
 Drew informed the committee his officers have been putting specs together for a new ladder truck. The current estimate is approximately \$1,700,000.00. The current truck is a used 1990 and repairs are starting to escalate the committee directed Brent to work on a financing package.

The committee directed staff to work with the city attorney to establish fees for rescue services.

Drew reported the fire department currently has 18 active firefighters of 26 allocated, 5 reserves of

10 allowed, and 3 going thru firefighter1 class.

Drew requested several changes to the standard operating guidelines.

Lyle reported he has 3 candidates for an open position, and one has passed the mental and physical tests.

Lyle is conducting active shooter training for City staff and departments. Staff is discussing a more secure entrance into City Hall.

Prepared by: Brent Schleisman
 Date: 07/06/23

Approved by: Terry McWilliams
 Date: 07/27/23

**PUBLIC NOTICE
 CITY OF MOUNT
 PLEASANT
 ORDINANCE
 COMMITTEE MEETING
 July 12, 2023
 9:00 a.m.**

Present: Bob Griffith, Terry McWilliams, Kent White, Steve Engberg, Mayor Steve Brimhall, Brent Schleisman, Jared Walker, Lyle Murray and Jack Swarm

Absent:
 The Committee continued discussion on the idea of creating some type of allowance for prairie /forest restoration in residential zoning. The Committee recom-

mended not extending the nuisance abatement order issued by the Police Department

The Committee continued the discussion on Peddler's permit. Jack will provide an updated draft policy and provide examples from other communities.

The Committee took no action on the truck parking policy.

The Committee directed to propose an ordinance that restricts on-street parking in the 100 block of S Marion Street.

The Committee continued discussions on the enforcement of ongoing nuisance properties.

302 S Jefferson: will be demolished.

203 N Porter: District Court order was delayed until July 31st.

301 N Jefferson: The nuisance abatement order will start over with new owners.

201 W Orange: Jack is going to investigate violations on the property.

The Committee directed Jack to have the City Attorney draw up an ordinance to allow Murals in B-2.
 Adjourned.

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Local News/Iowa News

Task force arrests Fort Madison man

FORT MADISON - The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of Fort Madison man on felony and misdemeanor drug charges.

Collin Ross Greenwald age 18, of Fort Madison, is charged with: Possession of marijuana with the intent to deliver, a class D Felony, Possession of psilocybin mushrooms with the intent to deliver, a class C Felony, (2) counts of Iowa drug tax stamp violation, both are class D Felonies, Possession of methamphetamine, a Serious Misdemeanor, and Possession of drug paraphernalia, a Simple Misdemeanor.

The charges came after a traffic stop that was conducted by the Fort Madison Police Department where narcotics were found in a vehicle that Greenwald had been operating.

The Lee County Narcotics Task Force was assisted by the Fort Madison Police Department and the Lee County Attorney's Office.

The defendant in this case is presumed innocent until proven guilty. The Lee County Narcotics Task Force is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Justice and the funds administered by the Iowa Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy.

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Grassley joins license suspension effort

DEBT-BASED SUSPENSIONS: Iowa's senior senator wants to stop license suspensions due to state debt

WASHINGTON -- Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) joined Sens. Chris Coons (D-Del.) and Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) in reintroducing the Driving for Opportunity Act. The bipartisan legislation would encourage states to stop debt-based driver's license suspensions.

"If the government wants people to pay fines, then the government shouldn't prevent them from getting to work. Our bill resets the incentives to stop the circular problem of states suspending licenses for anyone who owes fines or fees. This is especially important in rural states like Iowa, where travel by car is even more necessary," Grassley said.

"A driver's license doesn't just help you move from one place to another - it means access to their jobs, their livelihoods, and their communities for millions of Americans," Coons said. "Debt-based driver's license suspensions not only severely restrict Americans' mobility, they also make it nearly impossible for citizens to hold down a job and therefore pay back their debts. My bipartisan Driving for Opportunity

Act would stop the disproportionate targeting of underserved populations, end the counterproductive policy that burdens our law enforcement, and break this vicious cycle of debt."

"Suspending driver's licenses for unpaid fines and fees is counterproductive," Wicker said. "Americans need access to vehicles to work and to care for their families. My home state of Mississippi rightly banned this practice in 2018. This legislation would encourage other states to follow our lead."

Millions of Americans have their driver's licenses suspended simply because they cannot pay fines or fees. However, without the ability to drive to work, it's difficult for these individuals to pay off their debts - especially if they live in areas with little or no access to public transportation. Debt-based suspensions also burden police with added enforcement responsibilities and divert resources from public safety initiatives.

The Driving for Opportunity Act would authorize grants for states that reinstate driver's licenses suspended due to unpaid civil or criminal fines or fees. Acceptable award uses include:

Covering the costs of driver's license reinstatement programs;


Creating programs to maximize the number of individuals who regain driving privileges; and

Assisting people living in areas where public transportation is limited.

Grassley, Coons and Wicker are joined by Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) and Sens. Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.), John Boozman (R-Ark.), Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.), James Lankford (R-Okla.), Thom Tillis (R-N.C.), Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-W. Va.).

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