

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Wednesday, February 7, 2024 | 8 pages | Volume 8 • Issue 24



www.pencitycurrent.com

City resets event fees



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Fort Madison City Council met in regular session Tuesday night to discuss a number of issues, including a hike in city special event fees.

SOME UP, SOME DOWN: Parks Director lays out new fee schedule for events in city

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison City Council is trying to recoup a little bit of the costs of helping put on special events on city property.

At Tuesday's regular meeting of the council, Fort Madison Public Works Director Mark Boussetot presented a new cost listing that would charge event organizers for things such as delivery of picnic tables and electrical or water usage fees.

Other fees include a non-refundable \$25 application fee. On top of that are fees for barricades and traffic cone rental

from \$3 each with a \$50 minimum. No parking signs would also cost \$3 each with a \$50 minimum.

Water and electric meter charges are \$75/meter per connection and city green space rental will be tallied at \$50 month.

In the parks and recreation department, shelter house rentals will vary and be billed separate from the \$25 special event permit fee. Picnic tables will be \$30 per table or \$150 per trailer load of eight. Garbage can delivery has been set at \$60 for six cans and a tent or bounce house inspection is \$30.

See COUNCIL, page 8

AREA NEWS

Keokuk High adds agriculture program to CTE tract

KEOKUK, Iowa - The Keokuk High School will now offer Agriculture as a pathway for students as part of Career and Technical Education (CTE) after the School Board approved it on Feb. 5.

"Agriculture programs work so well within the community, it is

not just about the kids that live on a farm, it is a lot about leadership," Nathan Harrison, KHS principal, said. "You don't have to be a farmer to be in the agriculture business, the benefits to students are endless."

The addition was proposed based on the results of a recent interest

survey conducted with students in grades ninth through twelfth at KHS, and the results showed a high interest in agriculture. The board also discussed the scholarship opportunities through FFA and

See KEOKUK, page 5

COMMENTARY

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



Pacemaker a gift for Feb.'s Heart Month

The beeping of the vitals' machine I was attached to was annoying. It started beeping when my pulse dropped below 40 beats per minute (normal is 60-100). I watched my pulse drop...38...32...29. Plus it would skip a beat now and then. Uh, oh.

That was the reason I was in the hospital at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in Burlington. I had gone to a physical therapy session at the hospital. I was doing physical therapy for a balance issue I was having. And the therapists seemed to be making progress curing my light headedness and wobbly legs. However, on this day, when I reported in, feeling dizzy to start with (they don't like the term "dizzy" or "vertigo"), the therapist checked my pulse. It was 36. "Yikes," she said. "No wonder you're feeling woozy. I'm calling cardiology."

I've always had a low BP and pulse due to my aerobic exercise. But not that low!

Much to my embarrassment, I was wheeled to the emergency room and admitted to the hospital. My ER Doc was a person I knew from church, Brandon Beauchamp. It was comforting to see someone I knew and liked. Small world. The heart doctor, Dr. Lazar, was friendly and radiated confidence. After studying my echocardiogram, he said, "Curtis, you need a pacemaker. Would tomorrow fit your schedule?"

"It would," I said, "but call me Curt, please." And that was that.

Ginnie just missed seeing the doctor because she had to have her hair appointment before coming to see me. She likes to maintain that "Uma" look from Quentin Tarantino's, "Pulp Fiction." Fine by me.

See SWARM, page 8

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WEATHER

WED 07 Feb.....Partly sunny and cool, 58° F/ 44° F
THU 08 Feb.....Windy with scattered showers, 61° F/ 42° F
FRI 09 Feb.....Sunny and cool, 54° F/ 33° F

IOWA LOTTERY

DOUBLE PLAY 02/05.....17 35 52 54, Powerball: 20
LOTTO AMERICA 02/05.....115 17 24 29, Star Ball: 2 All Star Bonus: 2
LUCKY FOR LIFE 02/05.....7 26 39 43 46, Lucky Ball: 12
PICK 3 MIDDAY 02/05.....105
PICK 3 EVENING 02/05.....895
PICK 4 MIDDAY 02/05.....4008
PICK 4 EVENING 02/05.....3396
POWERBALL 02/05.....12 27 30 67, Powerball: 9 Power Play: 5

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For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

02/01/24 - 4:41 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1200 block of 36th Street.

02/01/24 - 4:57 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a personal injury accident in the 2600 block of Avenue L.

02/01/24 - 8:08 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Levi Leonard Thomas Lowney, 20, of Fort Madison, in the 1200 block of Avenue D, on a charge of 3rd degree harassment. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

02/01/24 - 8:17 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Lacey Marie Davis, 42, of Fort Madison, at 14th Street and Avenue F, on charges of possession of a controlled substance - 1,2,3rd and possession of drug paraphernalia.

02/02/24 - 10:16 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 600-700 blocks of Avenue H.

02/02/24 - 10:48 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1700 block of Avenue G.

02/02/24 - 12:40 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1400 block of Avenue H.

02/03/24 - 7:57 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 2200

block of Avenue C.

02/03/24 - 1:52 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 4800 block of Avenue O.

02/03/24 - 5:36 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Shellie Pauline White-James, 51, Fort Madison, in the 400 block of Avenue H, on a warrant for failure to appear - driving under suspension. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

02/03/24 - 6:01 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Shellie Pauline White-James, 51, Fort Madison, in the 400 block of Avenue H, on a warrant for failure to appear - driving under suspension and a charge of 5th degree theft less than \$300. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

02/03/24 - 8:33 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Shellie Pauline White-James, 51, Fort Madison, at the Lee County sheriff's office, on a Clark County warrant for failure to appear - forgery. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

02/04/24 - 9:17 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 2600 block of Avenue L.

02/05/24 - 12:00 a.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Jasmine Marie Sorrentino, 20, of Fort Madison, in the 400 block of Avenue D, on a charge of 1st offense trespassing.

02/05/24 - 1:20 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report

of vandalism in the 3100 block of Avenue O.

02/05/24 - 3:09 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 3100 block of Avenue O.

02/05/24 - 4:21 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2500 block of Avenue N.

02/05/24 - 10:30 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Joshua Adam Weller, 36, of Fort Madison, in the 3100 block of Avenue O, on a charge of 1st-degree burglary. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

Keokuk Police Report

02/01/24 - 9:36 a.m. - Keokuk Police arrested a 12-year-old female juvenile in the 1600 block of Des Moines Street on a charge of simple assault. She was released to a parent.

02/01/24 - 7:22 p.m. - Keokuk Police arrested a 17-year-old female in the 300 block of N. Park Drive, on a charge of trespassing. There was no disposition listed.

02/01/24 - 8:23 p.m. - Keokuk Police arrested Tomas Eugene Hall, 47, of Hamilton, in the 1800 block of Exchange St., on a charges of OWI, driving with a revoked license, tampering with an ignition locking device and having an open container. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

02/02/24 - 3:51 a.m. - Keokuk Police cited William Joseph Thurber, in the 100 block of S. 18th St., on a charge of driving under suspension.

02/02/24 - 11:48 a.m. - Keokuk police arrested Jeanie Naomii Frakes, 42, of Illinois, in the 1800 block of Blondeau Street, on a warrant for drug tax stamp violations. She was taken to the Lee County Jail.

02/02/24 - 8:08 p.m. - Keokuk police cited and released Jesse Virgil Johnson, 55, of Keokuk, in the 3000 block of Main Street, on a charge of driving under suspension.

02/02/24 - Keokuk police had no activity to report.

02/04/24 - 7:29 p.m. - Keokuk police cited and released James Leroy Defawn Haley, 24, of Burlington, in the 3200 block of Main Street, on a charge of driving under suspension.

02/04/24 - 9:36 p.m. - Keokuk police cited and released Dylan James Clark, 23, of Keokuk, in the 2000 block of Palean Street, on a charge of driving under suspension.

02/05/24 - 11:39 a.m. - Keokuk police arrested Cassie Nicole Smith, 28, of Keokuk, in the 100 block of South 9th Street, on charges of keeping a vehicle or premise for controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance - 1,2,3rd, and possession of drug paraphernalia. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

02/05/24 - 4:23 p.m. - Keokuk police arrested a 15-year-old male juvenile, hometown not reported, in the 2200 block of Middle Road, on

charges of threat of terrorism and 1st degree harassment. He was taken to juvenile detention.

Lee County Sheriff Report

02/01/24 - 10:04 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies responded to a possible single-vehicle accident in the 1900 block of 315th Avenue. According to the report, deputies received an automated crash report, went to the scene and found a vehicle on its top, submerged in water on the road and in a creek. Emergency responders searched and were able to locate the driver at his home later. The driver was identified as Maxwell Hunter Brunswig, no age given, of Fort Madison. Brunswig was suspected to have received minor injuries. No citations were reported. The vehicle sustained disabling damages and was towed from the scene.

02/02/24 - 11:43 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jonathan Cory Bowers, 36, of Mt. Pleasant, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for a failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on court-ordered release.

02/02/24 - 8:12 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jonathan David Isaac Horn, 23, of Burlington, at the sheriff's office on an active warrant. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released for time served.

02/03/24 - 3:23 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Mary Francis Blanchard, 44, of Keokuk, at the North Lee County Courthouse on a warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

02/03/24 - 1:16 p.m. - Lee Coun-

ty Sheriff's deputies arrested Kent Michael Elder, 41, of Farmington, at the sheriff's office on a charge of domestic abuse assault - 1st degree. She was taken to Lee County Jail and released on bond.

02/03/24 - 2:21 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jessica Ann Harwood, 40, of Keokuk at the South Lee County Courthouse, on a warrants for voluntary absence from custody, failure to appear and a judgment hold. She was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

02/03/24 - 9:00 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Kaylin Lashun Dorsey, 21, of Texas, at the sheriff's office on two arrest affidavits. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

02/04/24 - 12:28 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested John Henry Wenke, 23, of Argyle, in the 170th Avenue on charges of OWI and failure to maintain control. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

02/04/24 - 3:16 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jeremy Matthew Carter, 43, of Fort Madison, in the 3500 block of Main Street in Keokuk on a warrant for contempt of court. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

02/04/24 - 6:20 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Carl Gorman Meyers, 53, of Montrose at the sheriff's office on a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

02/05/24 - Lee County sheriff deputies had no activity to report.

Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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Lunch Specials
Feb 5-9
11am - 1pm

Monday, February 5

Chicken & Noodles, Mashed Potatoes

Tuesday, February 6

Scalloped Potatoes & Ham, Corn

Wednesday, February 7

Spaghetti, Cottage Cheese, Breadstick

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

FRIED CHICKEN DINNERS

Friday, February 9

Later Tot Casserole, Green Beans

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

DEANNA M. SYLVESTER

Deanna Marie Sylvester, 80, of Montrose, Iowa, passed away at 7:21 p.m. Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at the Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in Fort Madison, Iowa.



She was born on December 1, 1943, the daughter of Charles Edward and Winifred (Harward) Conner. She married James Sylvester. He preceded her in death.

She is survived by her two brothers: Bill (Brenda) Conner and Gregory Conner; one sister: Delores Weeks and several nieces and nephews.

SYLVESTER She was preceded in death by her husband: Jim; sisters: Cindy (in infancy), Rosalie and Marilyn and brother: Ronald.

Deanna worked for the Lee County Health Department's Home Healthcare. She enjoyed reading and putting puzzles together.

Her body has been entrusted to the crematory of Schmitz Funeral Home for cremation.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Schmitz Funeral Home of Donnellson is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

KENNETH R. KNIGHT

Kenneth Robert Knight, 68 of Cedar Rapids, IA passed away Friday, January 2, 2024 at his home.



He was born July 29, 1955 in Keokuk, IA the son of Robert and Marian Tweedy Knight. He graduated from Ft. Madison High School with the class of 1974 and then attended a trade school in Des Moines for two years.

Kenneth had been employed by Rockwell Collins in Cedar Rapids, IA for forty-five years.

He was a member of the National Rifle Association.

In his younger years, Kenneth enjoyed constructing model air planes, remote control cars and trucks and riding motorcycles. He always stayed up on current events and what was happening in the world.

Kenneth also enjoyed collecting antique radios that he would rebuild and add to his collections. Most of all, Kenneth loved spending time with his family.

He is survived by two brothers, Charles Edward Knight of Donnellson, IA and Kyle David Knight (Linda) of Donnellson, IA, two sisters, Carrie James (Ronald) of Ft. Madison, IA and Chris Johnson (Gary) of West Point, IA, two nieces, Heather James (Caleb Nelson) and Crystal James of Cedar Rapids, IA and one grand-niece, Autumn Thurman who is currently stationed in San Diego with the U.S. Navy.

Kenneth was preceded in death by his parents and twin brother and sister, Keith and Kay Knight in infancy.

A service will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be made to PAW Animal Shelter.

The Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA is assisting the family with arrangements.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

OBITUARIES

JEAN M. CARTER

Janet M. Carter, 75, of Keokuk, passed away on Sunday, February 4, 2024, at the University of Iowa Hospital in Iowa City.

Janet was born on February 20, 1948, in Keokuk, Iowa, the daughter of Harold and Mildred Carlson. She graduated from Keokuk High School in 1966, and on January 18, 1969, she was united in marriage to Dwayne Carter in Fort Madison, Iowa. He preceded her in death on July 21, 2012.



CARTER

Janet was employed at Sheller-Globe and Methode until retirement. She was a hard-working, fun-loving lady, and was known for being ornery at times. She loved her family deeply, and enjoyed being outdoors with her sister, whether it be swimming or tanning in the sun. If her family was grilling out, she was there. Janet was an avid sports fan, always rooting for the Steelers and the Warriors. She also loved to play scratch-off tickets and go on gambling trips with her sister, Barb Walter and cousin, Joan Heckenberg.

Janet is survived by her son Brad Carter of Keokuk; her daughters Stacy Carter (Charles Daisy) of Keokuk and Elsie Frederiksen of Richmond, Virginia; seven grandchildren: Talijia Wells of Keokuk, Bryce Daisy of Keokuk, Kordell Carter of Phoenix, Arizona, KeTrell Carter of Minneapolis, Minnesota, Marketia Frederiksen of Chester, Virginia, and Phillip and Devon Brown, both of Poplar Bluff, Missouri; her sister Barb (Dave) Walter of Keokuk; her nephew Anton (Elizabeth Derr) Carter; and four nieces: Melani Carter of Burlington, Illia Cartmill of Burlington, Treka Desir of Texas and Kathy (Tyler) Schulte of Keokuk; and several great-grandchildren.

Janet is preceded in death by her parents, her stepmother Marge Carlson, her husband Dwayne, her infant son Brian Edward Carter and her nephew Steve Searns.

Funeral services will be held at 1 pm on Friday, February 9, 2024, at DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home in Keokuk, with burial to follow at Keokuk National Cemetery. Visitation will be held on Friday from 11 am to 1 pm at the funeral home directly before the service. Memorials may be made to DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home for expense.

Tributes and condolences may be left at www.dejongsfuneralhome.com. DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home in Keokuk is in charge of arrangements.

Pen City Current obituary policy

Pen City Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes. Reposting of obituaries due to changes can only be requested by the submitting funeral home and will be assessed a \$15 reposting fee.

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

SHIRLEY J. WOOD

Shirley J. Wood, 94, of Lenexa, KS, passed away Sunday, December 24, 2023, at St. Luke's South Hospital in Overland Park, KS.

She was born June 3, 1929, the daughter of George J. Seabold and Edith P. Rein Seabold in Keokuk, IA. She graduated from Keokuk High School in 1946.



WOOD

On January 2, 1948, she was married to Oren Dale Wood in Keokuk, IA. He preceded her in death July 25, 1989.

She is survived by two daughters, Karen J. Fox (Terry) of St. Charles, MO, and Beverly A. Nichols (Craig) of Lenexa, KS. She is also survived by two grandchildren, Kristoffer A. Nichols (Jessica) of DeSoto, KS and Ashley E. Oehrlein (Alexander) of West Des Moines, IA, three great grandsons, Lucas R. Nichols, Gabriel T. Oehrlein and Nicholas J. Oehrlein along with two step-great granddaughters, Macey and Sydney Zebley.

Besides her husband, she was also preceded in death by her parents, her sisters, Dorothy M., Helen Ruth and Martha F. Seabold, Maxine E. French, Wilma Louise Laubersheimer and brothers, George H., Carl A. and Robert D. Seabold.

In 1948, Shirley and her husband made their home in St. Louis where she worked as an office manager and treasurer at Ashby Manufacturing and later at Ellsworth Industries. She retired and returned to Keokuk to live in and care for the family home built in 1868. She wintered in Lenexa for 8 yrs. and moved there in 2022 to be close to her daughter and her family.

She loved flowers, gardening, feeding her birds, MOWING her grass and her family deeply.

Shirley was a member of St. Paul United Church of Christ, Keokuk, IA.

Visitation will be held Saturday, February 10, 2024, at Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk at 10:00 a.m. with service following at 11:00 a.m.

Memorials may be made to St. Paul United Church of Christ, Keokuk, IA, or Tunnel to Towers Foundation (t2t.org)

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

OBITUARIES

HENRY "DOC" ROCKHOLD

Henry "Doc" Rockhold, 83, of Lomax, IL passed away Saturday, February 3, 2024, at his home. He was born on May 24, 1940 to the parents of Moore Rockhold and Josephine Kline Rockhold. On May 7, 1983, Doc married Peggy Ann Maynard in Dallas City, Illinois.



ROCKHOLD

Doc was small in stature, yet he was a larger than life rugged commercial fisherman that could weave a tale with incredibly colorful language. He knew every bend and current of the river, every secret spot and every trick to catch more fish. He was a man who faced the dangers and uncertainties of the river with courage and faith. He never gave up, never backed down, never lost hope.

Later in his tenure, Doc had the honor to serve as the President of the Illinois Commercial Fisherman's Association, working alongside lawmakers to ensure sustainable livelihoods of the profession for generations to come, while balancing conservation of nature's resources. Doc was a proud Korean War veteran with the US Army.

Those closest to Doc know he truly enjoyed being around people he loved most in life. His endless stories with his brother Jeff, Tom Maynard, or your pick of one of the Gilmans was always a riot, especially if he worked in a joke or two in right after. Doc was an avid race fan that loved Dale Earnhardt (not his "bonehead kid" though"), Kyle Larson, and 2002 Daytona 500 winner Ward Burton.



Above all, Doc's greatest source of pride was his family. He and Peggy often took trips to places like Louisiana and Galveston, Texas and had the time of their lives. They danced, ate the types of food the notoriously picky eater Doc was would never try back home, and Peggy would even get him to fish with a pole and line — blasphemy! Doc always loved when his boys Sam and Shawn would come home to visit or when they'd call to check in. He constantly gave everyone updates on them, as you would expect of a proud father.

Doc is survived by two sons: Shawn Rockhold and Samuel Rockhold, both of Huntsville, AL; three step-sons, Kevin (Evie) Worley of Gladstone, IL, Kelly (Grace) Worley of Lomax, IL, Kendall Worley of Burlington, IA; 10 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren, and 4 great great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife Peggy Rockhold, both parents, one sister, 4 brothers including his best friend and fellow fisherman Jeff Rockhold. Can't forget Mugs.

Friends may call after 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Dallas City, where the family will receive friends from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. Thursday, February 8, 2024 at Banks & Beals in Dallas City, with Re. Larry Menschel officiating. Burial with Military Rites will follow in Myers Cemetery, rural Niota. The family request attendees wear a flannel shirt in honor of Doc.

A memorial fund has been established for Lee County Hospice. To leave an online condolence for the family, please visit Doc's obituary at banksandbeals.com.

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Sports/From the Front



Youth state qualifiers

Here are Fort Madison's qualifiers for the AAU State Wrestling Tournament Feb 24-25 at Wells Fargo. Front row Left to right: Ethan Peiper, Evan Richers, Hunter Billings
Back Row Easton Richers, Ren Watson, Jaxon Zumdom, Luka Grogan

Courtesy photo

New program will open offerings

KEOKUK - Continued from Page 1

the hands-on training that students would get, which would make KCSD competitive with schools that do offer those programs.

The Agriculture program will also open up the offerings in science at KHS. Also, the board approved the addition of a Future Farmers of America (FFA) Chapter.

"Some kids that are interested in FFA are not just interested in agriculture, they just want to belong to something," Clint Wray, KCSD board president, said. "It is a great opportunity."

The space for the agriculture program has already been identified at KHS.

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PEN CITY CURRENT
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- PAINFUL HANDS/FEET?
- NUMBNESS & TINGLING
- COLD OR BURNING FEET?
- LOSS OF SENSATION?
- BALANCE PROBLEMS?

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
AGENDA
FORT MADISON
PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING
NOTICE**
Thursday, February 8,
2024
5:30 P.M.
Sheaffer Meeting Room
and Online

Optional Electronic Meeting

The option of attending the meeting electronically is being offered. 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 (871 1273 6875) when prompted. If you have trouble connecting to the meeting, please call (319) 372-5721.

- I. Approval of Agenda
 - II. New Business
 - a. Discussion and action on reductions to 2024/2025 proposed library budget
- Next Meeting February 15, 2024

**PUBLIC NOTICE
West Burlington
Regular City Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday,
January 17, 2024**

The West Burlington City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at West Burlington City Hall, 122 Broadway Street, West Burlington, Iowa, with Mayor Ron Teater presiding.

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Ron Teater, Ringo Covert, Andy Crowner, Therese Lees, and Melanie Young

MEMBERS ABSENT:
John Johnson
ALSO PRESENT:
Police Chief Jesse Logan, Public Works Director Mike Brisse, City Clerk Kelly Fry, Finance Manager Angela Moore, and City Administrator

Gregg Mandsager
CALL TO ORDER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
ROLL CALL
PERFECTING & APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Moved by Lees, seconded by Crowner, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by the following votes:
Ayes: Covert, Crowner, Lees, and Young
CONSENT AGENDA
• Minutes from the Regular City Council meeting on January 3, 2024

• Clerk's Monthly Financial Report for December 2023
• Payment of Claims as listed on the Expense Approval Report - \$160,678.78

Moved by Lees, seconded by Covert, to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Covert, Crowner, Lees, and Young
COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS
• ADMINISTRATOR: Council reviewed the schedule for Budget Calendar for 2024 and set the following dates to hold Budget Work Sessions if needed: January 31, Feb. 7, Feb. 15, Feb. 21, Feb 28

- PUBLIC WORKS:
- POLICE DEPARTMENT:
- FIRE/BUILDING DEPARTMENT:
- CLERK/FINANCE/IT:
- OTHER STAFF REPORTS:
- COUNCIL REPORTS:
- COMMUNITY REPORTS: Sara Sandburg, Airport Director, presented the annual update from Southeast Iowa Regional Airport Authority. The airport is focused on applying for grants to continue improvements to the facility and the terminal. Southern Airways is making efforts to rebuild trust in reliability following some issues with canceled flights

due to pilot shortages. The airport is requesting a 3-5% increase in the City's annual contribution in FY 24-25 to help cover increased operating expenses.

CITIZEN INQUIRIES
No inquiries.
PUBLIC HEARING
Proposed Amendment to the West Burlington Urban Renewal Area Mayor Teater opened the Public Hearing on the proposed January 2024 Amendment to the West Burlington Urban Renewal Area. The January 2024 Urban Renewal Plan Amendment for the West Burlington Urban Renewal Area, does the following:

1. Updates the description of the City's Urban Renewal Administration and Professional Support Program previously approved by the City Council in the July 2022 Amendment to the Plan

2. Identifies certain real property situated in the Urban Renewal Area as blighted property
3. Authorizes the undertaking of new urban renewal projects in the Urban Renewal Area consisting of

a. providing tax increment financing support to JNB West Burlington, LP in connection with the construction of housing affordable to seniors of low and moderate income;

b. using tax increment financing to pay the costs of the construction of a recreational trail or sidewalk improvements;

c. using tax increment financing to pay the costs of updating the City's Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code;

d. using tax increment financing to pay the costs of the preparation of an Economic Development and Retail Recruitment Plan;

e. using tax increment financing to pay the costs of the construction of sanitary sewer system improvements;

f. using tax increment financing to pay the costs of the construction of street improvements on Mall Ring Road;

g. using tax increment financing to pay the costs of undertaking the development of a city-wide stormwater master plan; and

h. using tax increment financing to pay the costs of the City's Economic Development Local Business and Support Program

There were no written or verbal comments received. Mayor Teater closed the public hearing at 6:36 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS
NEW BUSINESS

Consider a Resolution approving an Urban Renewal Plan Amendment for the West Burlington Urban Renewal Area

Moved by Lees, seconded by Young, to approve a Resolution adopting the January 2024 Urban Renewal Plan Amendment for the West Burlington Urban Renewal Area. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Covert, Crowner, Lees, and Young

Consider the first reading of an Ordinance Providing for the Division of Taxes Levied on Taxable Property in the West Burlington Urban Renewal Area, Pursuant to Section 403.19 of the Code of Iowa

Council considered the first reading of an Ordinance establishing a new "tax increment district" by designating certain real property referred to below as the February 2024 Tax Increment Financing District. The purpose of this ordinance is to provide for the division of taxes levied on certain taxable property in the West Burlington Urban Renewal Area each year to create a special fund to finance projects in the Urban Renewal Area. The February 2024 Tax Increment Fi-

ancing District" includes parcels located along S. Gear Ave. including the Westland Mall and out lots around the mall, more particularly described as follows:

- Des Moines County Property Tax Parcel Identification Numbers 10-35-252-008, 10-35-251-001, 10-35-252-010, 10-35-252-009, 10-35-252-007, 10-35-276-009, 10-35-401-004, 10-35-402-005, 10-35-252-012 and 10-35-252-011.

Moved by Crowner, seconded by Lees, to approve the first reading of an Ordinance establishing the February 2024 Tax Increment Financing District and provide for the division of taxes levied on taxable property in the West Burlington Urban Renewal Area to finance projects in the Urban Renewal Area. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Covert, Crowner, Lees, and Young

Consider a Resolution Setting a Date of Meeting to approve a Development Agreement with JNB West Burlington, LP, Including Annual Appropriation Tax Increment Payments

Council agreed to set a meeting date of February 7, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. to consider a Development Agreement between the City and JNB West Burlington, LP in connection with the construction of housing affordable to seniors of low and moderate income in the West Burlington Urban Renewal Area.

The Development Agreement provides for certain financial incentives in the form of incremental property tax payments to the Developer in a total amount not exceeding \$600,000 as authorized by Section 403.9 of the Code of Iowa.

Moved by Crowner, seconded by Lees, to approve a Resolution setting a date of February

7, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. to consider a Development Agreement with JNB West Burlington, LP, Including Annual Appropriation Tax Increment Payments not to exceed \$600,000.

Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Covert, Crowner, Lees, and Young

Consider CivicPlus Upgraded Website Platform and New Contract Terms
City Administrator

Mandsager asked Council to consider upgrading from the current version of the Civic Plus website platform to the full version called Engage Central. The Engage Central platform provides more robust functionality, flexibility, and a notification center that includes text messaging & email. The total initial investment would be \$14,984.00.

This includes the set-up costs of \$11,204.00 and one year of support for \$3780.00. City Administrator Mandsager felt this was a substantially better platform and he was able to negotiate a significant discount to upgrade.

Moved by Lees, seconded by Young, to enter into a new contract with CivicPlus to upgrade to the Engage Central website platform. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Covert, Crowner, Lees, and Young

Consider a Resolution applying for and committing a local match for BRIC Grant (FEMA Stormwater Funding through IDNR)

City Administrator Mandsager asked Council to support an application for funding through the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program for funding from the Hazard Mitigation

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Assistance Program, in the amount of \$200,000. The BRIC Program is designed to provide funding to address future risks of natural disasters, including wildfires, drought, hurricanes, earthquakes, extreme heat, and flooding. The City would be responsible for up to \$37,000 of local monies to be used to meet the minimum local match requirement for this mitigation grant application.

Moved by Crowner, seconded by Lees, to approve a Resolution authorizing the filing of an application through the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management to the FEMA for funding from the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program for \$200,000, with the City being responsible for the local match requirement of up to \$37,000.

Motion carried by the following votes:
Ayes: Covert, Crowner, Lees, and Young
CITIZEN INQUIRIES

**CLOSED SESSION
ADJOURN**
Moved by Lees, seconded by Crouner, to adjourn at 6:50 p.m.
Motion carried by the following votes:
Ayes: Covert, Crouner, Lees, and Young
Approved Ron Teater, Mayor
Kelly D. Fry, City Clerk

**PUBLIC NOTICE
West Burlington
Special City Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday,
January 23, 2024**

The West Burlington City Council met in Special Session on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at West Burlington City Hall, 122 Broadway Street, West Burlington, Iowa, with Mayor Ron Teater presiding.

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Andy Crouner, John Johnson, Melanie Young, and Therese Lees

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Ringo Covert

ALSO PRESENT:
Mayor Ron Teater, Police Chief Jesse Logan, Public Works Director Mike Brissey, City Clerk Kelly Fry, and City Administrator Gregg Mandsager
**CALL TO ORDER
ROLL CALL
PERFECTING & APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
Moved by Lees, seconded by Johnson, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by the following votes:
Ayes: Crouner, Johnson, Young, and Lees
NEW BUSINESS

Consider a Resolution authorizing the filing of an application for Iowa's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) for the Agency Road Trail Project

City Administrator Mandsager explained that Federal Fiscal Year 2028 funds are available under the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). Mandsager asked Council to authorize an application for \$ funding to support the construc-

tion of a 10' wide multi-use trail along Agency Rd. between West Burlington Ave. and Gear Ave. If funding was awarded, the City would be responsible for the minimum local funding match of 20% and for adequately maintaining the completed improvements in a manner acceptable to the Iowa DOT and FHWA for a minimum of 20 years following project completion. Council agreed there was a need for a pedestrian trail along Agency Rd. and supported the Resolution authorizing an application to be filed with the State for TAP funding.

Moved by Lees, seconded by Young, to approve a Resolution authorizing the filing of an application for Iowa's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) for the Agency Road Trail Project.

Motion carried by the following votes:
Ayes: Crouner, Johnson, Young, and Lees
Consider a Resolution

authorizing the filing of an application for Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Funding for Mt Pleasant Street Improvements Phase 3 & 4
City Administrator Mandsager explained that Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding is available in the Federal Fiscal Year 2028, from the Iowa Department of Transportation. Mandsager recommended applying for \$1,848,000 in Region 16 Federal STBG Funds to complete Phase 3 and 4 of the Mt. Pleasant Street resurfacing project which would extend from the Highway 34 Exit Ramp, west to the Intersection of Mt. Pleasant Street and Beavertdale Rd. The City would be responsible for a 20% local match and future maintenance.

Moved by Crouner, seconded by Lees, to approve a Resolution authorizing the filing of an application for Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Funding

for Mt Pleasant Street Improvements Phase 3 & 4.
Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Crouner, Johnson, Young, and Lees
Consider appointing Kyle Dobson to the Board of Zoning Adjustment
Moved by Crouner, seconded by Lees, to approve Kyle Dobson's appointment to the Board of Zoning Adjustment from January 2024 through December 2028.

Motion carried by the following votes:
Ayes: Crouner, Johnson, Young, and Lees
**CITIZEN INQUIRIES
ADJOURN**
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.
Approved
Ron Teater, Mayor
Kelly D. Fry, City Clerk

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Lee County News/From the Front

City OKs police, fire deals

COUNCIL - Continued from Page 1

The picnic table and garbage can delivery will only be available for events held on city-owned property or right-of-way.

There will also be a \$15 per day food vendor license or \$40 for 3 days and carnival fee of \$25 per day or \$100 per week. A liquor license will be allowable and varies. Police security will be billed at \$70 hour/office and fire permits will cost \$20.

With the addition of some fees, the city has also eliminated fees that are associated with the number of participants. Currently, the scale is progressive and increases by \$25 up to 10,000 participants. Those fees are now no longer applicable.

The delivery of picnic tables and garbage cans has tripled under the new schedule. The food vendor and carnival fees, security and fire permit fees are all remaining the same. Prior to the new fee structure, the city didn't charge a special event fee.

The city passed an ordinance for special events in 2023 and that ordinance allows for organizers to approach the city council and ask for fees for special events to be waived for the benefit of the community.

Bousselot said when the council passed the ordinance for the special event application, the new code required the city to see fees for the events by resolution and that was what he was

presenting.

"Matt (Mohrfeld) is probably going to say that we shouldn't be charging special event fees because they bring money into our community," Bousselot said.

"But we still have to have a fee associated because each time I'm charged for a special event, that money's coming out of something and we've talked about it coming from hotel/motel tax funds."

Mohrfeld said councilman Rusty Andrews, who wasn't in attendance, was charged by the mayor with evaluating the fees said Andrews' opinion would very likely be the city shouldn't be charging anybody for anything.

Councilwoman Angela Roller said she had concerns about the city possibly charging one group a fee or fees, but then waiving fees for another event.

"My issue is if we do it for one, we have to do it for all. Then it comes back to why do we have the fee? I don't want to sit up here and say one event has to pay and another doesn't," Roller said.

Bousselot reiterated that the current code allows people to come to ask for the fees to be waived.

"You're getting into it based on that ordinance we passed," Bousselot said. "You're going to have people coming and asking, guaranteed. You had it before the ordinance was in place and

you're going to have it now."

Roller said she understood but she reiterated that she had trouble waiving it for certain people or groups and not others.

Bousselot said they have to have a fee so they know what to take out of hotel/motel taxes to pay for the services, or the group would have to pay.

"Think about it. We're taking it, loading it up, we're hauling to whatever site, and going back to pick it up again. There's labor associated with that and vehicle wear and tear," Bousselot said.

In other action:

- the council approved signing off on a Federal Recreational Trails grant to help with Phase V of the PORT Trail on 48th Street. The grant will help reimburse engineering and design fees.

- the council entered into a continuing agreement with Alliant Energy for Interruptible Service at the water plant in exchange for a discount on rates charged to the city.

- the council approved contracts with the city fire and police department unions for two years. The agreements allow for a 5% annual increase with no health insurance premium increases.

- the council approved appointing Melinda Blind to the Fort Madison Housing Authority, Adriene Jenkins to the City Library Board, and Savanna Collier to the city's Planning and Zoning Commission.

Divine intervention lands author in hospital

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

The surgery was simple. Only a local anesthetic and light sedation were used. The pacemaker is about the size of the crystal on my watch. It was inserted in a "pouch" just under the skin by my left collarbone. Wonders upon wonders, my pulse straightened right out, tacking along at a cool 72 bpm, with no skips. They're telling me I will feel a lot better and have more energy. Yippee!

I'm somewhat amazed that I have heart issues, considering all the aerobic exercise I've participated in over the years: running, biking, swimming, which included marathons and triathlons. Most recently, when I kept stumbling and falling while running, I switched my morning workouts to the elliptical machine. I was convinced I was living a heart-healthy life style. Shows-to-go me.

But my low pulse problem, wobbly legs and light headedness were not from any inner ear problem, arterial blockage or heart weakness. It was an intermittent blockage of the electrical signal from the atrium to the ventricle. My 75 year old heart was losing its conductivity and needed a little boost, or jump start.

So, if you're creeping up there in age, and having light headedness, and wobbly legs (50% of elderly do), see your doctor. The first thing my doctor did was order a CT Scan of my brain. Then he had me do a neuro-cognitive evaluation along with physical therapy. It was at physical therapy where the low pulse rate (bradycardia) reared its sluggish head, but put me on the path to recovery.

Looking back, it's a good thing this happened while I was at physical therapy, just a wheelchair ride from ER. I was lucky. Or was it Divine Intervention?

At home, I'm supposed to take it ez with the exercising for the first month. I've never been a nice-and-easy kind of guy. It's usually all-or-nothing. But, it is my heart, the only one I have, and I have mellowed with age. Besides, I need to keep Uma happy. I'd rather have a pacemaker than a widower. February is Heart Month.

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him at curtswarm@yahoo.com, or visit his website at www.empty-nest-words-photos-and-frames.com.

Task Force gets another arrest in Keokuk on drug charges

LEE COUNTY - The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Keokuk woman on misdemeanor drug charges.

Cassie Nicole Smith, age 28, of Keokuk is charged with: Possession of methamphetamine, a serious misdemeanor, Possession of drug paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor, and Maintaining a drug house, an aggravated misdemeanor.


The charges came after a search warrant that was executed at Smith's residence in Keokuk.

The Lee County Narcotics Task Force were assisted by the Keokuk Police Department, the Lee County SRT (Special Response Team), the

Fort Madison Police Department, the State of Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, 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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