

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Wednesday, February 28, 2024 | 8 pages | Volume 8 • Issue 37



www.pencitycurrent.com

LCEDG on international stage

DESIGNATION: Lee County Economic Development Group one of just 77 designees



Lee County Economic Development Group's Emily Benjamin, left, and Dennis Fraise, second from left, were presented with the IEDC accreditation in Washington D.C. earlier this month.

PCC STAFF

WASHINGTON – The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) announced the Lee County Economic Development Group has been recognized as one of 77 economic development organizations accredited by IEDC as an Accredited Economic Development Organization (AEDO).

LCEDG President & CEO, Dennis Fraise, and Vice President of Economic Development, Emily Benjamin, were pre-

sented with the accreditation plaque at the IEDC Leadership Summit on February 5.

“Lee County Economic Development is extremely proud and humbled to have received the AEDO designation. I especially want to thank our economic development team members who worked very hard to receive this exclusive recognition for our organization.” said Bob Huffman, Chair

See LCEDG, page 8

CITY NEWS

Council looks at balanced '25 budget plan

Levy to increase, but city's portion of tax bill should be reduced with state rollback

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – What used to be a two-hour presentation was pared down to about 45 minutes Tuesday as the Fort Madison City Council heard City Manager Laura Leigois' first budget presentation.

The freshly-hired city manager went quickly through a \$44 million projected budget for the next fiscal year starting July 1.

The budget includes an \$18.27/\$1,000 of assessed valuation property tax levy, an increase of \$1 from the current tax year, but City Finance Director Peggy Steffensmeier said city property owners will actually pay less this year when the state's rollback is factored in.

According to the property tax levy sheet prepared by Steffensmeier, the owner of property with an assessed value of \$100,000 will pay \$847 compared to the \$929 they paid as the city's portion of their tax bill this year.

Resident tax bills are made up of multiple agencies and the city's portion is just one part of the total bill.

The city is projected to end the current fiscal year with a general fund, or operating, balance of \$853,188. Leigois said city staff's recommendation is to move that closer to \$1 million, but her recommended budget only boosts it by about \$20,000 to \$874,268.

The city is projected to collect \$3.1 million in taxes. The other largest revenue source is \$3.5 million in transfers into the general fund from some of the other city funds.

The proposed budget from city staff

See BUDGET, page 3



LEIGOIS

COUNTY NEWS

Bridgeport historic bridge “imminent” to collapse into Skunk

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – An historic bridge in northwest Lee County is in “imminent danger” of collapsing.

Lee County Engineer Ben Hull told Supervisors Monday he wouldn't be surprised if he got a call in the middle of the meeting saying the bridge had fallen into the Skunk River. The bridge is located in Bridgeport on 280th Avenue across the river.

He said the conservation departments for both Lee and Des Moines counties had agreed to negotiate with Lee County Supervisors to maintain the bridge for historical purposes.

Lee County agreed to provide assistance in preservation of the bridge. But Hull said when the conservation boards didn't accept the bridge for maintenance and preservation, supervisors agreed to accept

See BRIDGE, page 4



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WEATHER

WED 28 Feb.....Clear, breezy, cold, 32° F/ 20° F
THU 29 Feb.....Clear and breezy, 49° F/ 34° F
FRI 01 Mar.....Mostly sunny and cool, 53° F/ 39° F

IOWA LOTTERY

DOUBLE PLAY 02/26.....13 8 30 41, Powerball: 8
LOTTO AMERICA 02/26.....21 30 36 38 49, Star Ball: 1 All Star Bonus: 2
LUCKY FOR LIFE 02/26.....1717 38 46, Lucky Ball: 12
PICK 3 MIDDAY 02/26.....4 5 7
PICK 3 EVENING 002/26.....7 9 2
PICK 4 MIDDAY 02/26.....0120
PICK 4 EVENING 02/26.....10 5 8
POWERBALL 02/26.....24 29 42 51 54, Powerball: 16 Power Play: 3

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Obituaries/For the Record

OBITUARIES

MARY A. VORHIES

Mary Alice "Holly" Vorhies, 90, of Keokuk, IA died Friday February 23, 2024 in Cedar Rapids, IA.

A lifelong resident of Keokuk, she was the wife of William Vorhies. He preceded her in death in 2020.



VORHIES

Born May 8, 1933 in Keokuk, she was the daughter of James A. and Katherine (Blom) Hollingsworth. She was married Oct 20, 1956 in Keokuk.

Holly is survived by son, Douglas (Jane) Vorhies of Oxford MS, son, James Vorhies of San Diego, CA, and daughter, Katherine Vorhies of Marion, IA.

Holly graduated in 1951 from Keokuk High School and attended the University of Iowa where she studied nursing before becoming a homemaker. She was an active member of St. John's Episcopal Church and loved singing in the choir. She was a member of Mother's Study Club, PTA, the Keokuk Country Club and Keokuk Yacht Club. Holly loved to play tennis and golf, and spend time boating on the Mississippi.

Burial will be held at a future date at the National Cemetery in Keokuk. Memorials may be directed to the Keokuk-Hamilton Dam Museum or the Keokuk Humane Society.

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.

Got a news tip?

Call Chuck
(319)371.1670

or submit it online at www.PenCityCurrent.com

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

02/26/24 - 8:37 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 6000 block of Avenue O.

02/26/24 - 11:42 a.m. - Fort Madison police cited Bart Allan Hocker, 53, of Fort Madison, in the 4700 block of Avenue O, on a charge of driving under suspension.

02/26/24 - 3:56 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Sean Michael Molzhon, 49, of Fort Madison, in the 1200 block of 14th Street, on a warrant for failure to appear - driving while barred and a charge of driving while barred. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

Keokuk Police Report

02/23/24 - 8:17 a.m. - Keokuk police arrested Meki Denise Evans, 49, of Keokuk, in the 1500 block of Johnson Street, on two charges of possession of less than 5GM methamphetamine, and charges of possession of drug paraphernalia, keeping a vehicle or premises for controlled substance, and controlled substance schedule IV/V. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

02/23/24 - 8:17 a.m. - Keokuk police arrested Meki Denise Evans, 49, of Keokuk, in the 1500 block of Johnson Street, on a charge of felony forgery. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

02/23/24 - 10:52 a.m. - Keokuk police officers responded to a report of a two-vehicle accident on Hwy. 218 S. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Robert Joseph Staub, 41, of Burlington, was stopped at a stop sign preparing to make a left turn onto 218/61 northbound when he pulled into the path of a vehicle driven by Michael J. Lundeen, 46, of Oquawka, that was traveling eastbound. Lundeen's vehicle broadsided Staub's vehicle causing heavy damage to both vehicles. Both drivers were treated on-scene by Lee County EMS for minor injuries.

Staub was cited for failure to yield upon entering a through highway. Both vehicles were towed from the scene.

02/23/24 - 4:28 p.m. - Keokuk police cited and released Jess Virgal Johnson, 55, of Keokuk, at Kilbourne Place and McKinley Avenue, on a charge of driving under suspension.

02/23/24 - 9:21 p.m. - Keokuk police cited and released Brian Schmidt, 19, of Argyle, in the 1200 block of Johnson Street, on a charge of driving under suspension.

02/24/24 - 8:38 p.m. - Keokuk police cited and released Daniel Douglas Reiter, 27, of Fort Madison, on a charge of driving while barred.

02/25/24 - 1:33 a.m. - Keokuk police arrested Dereck Franklin Kent Harwood, 42, of Keokuk, in the 700 block of High Street, on a warrant for failure to appear/contempt of court. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

02/25/24 - 10:26 a.m. - Keokuk police officers responded to a report of a two-vehicle accident at 7th and Main. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Travis Edward Scott, 45, of Keokuk, was eluding law enforcement and driving recklessly fast westbound in the 700 block of Main Street when attempting to merge, sideswiped a vehicle driven by Taylor Shelby Speckhart, 31, of Carthage. No injuries were reported. Scott was cited for failure to maintain control, leaving the scene of a property damage accident, and driving while license suspended. Speckhart's vehicle was towed from the scene; Scott's vehicle and keys were impounded.

02/25/24 - 10:26 a.m. - Keokuk police officers responded to a two-vehicle accident at 8th and Main. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Travis Edward Scott, 45, of Keokuk, was attempting to elude law enforcement at 8th and Main, and left the roadway onto the sidewalk. When Scott attempted to re-enter the roadway, his vehicle sideswiped a vehicle driven by Tanner James Walden, 29, of Keokuk, causing moderate damages to his vehicle and light damage to Walden's vehicle. No injuries were reported. Scott was cited for leaving the scene of a property damage accident and failure to maintain control.

02/25/24 - 10:29 a.m. - Keokuk police arrested Travis Edward Scott, 45, of Keokuk, at North 8th Street and Grand Avenue, on warrants for escape from custody - felon and violation of probation, and charges of eluding - speed 25 over limit, interference with official acts - bodily injury, possession of marijuana - 2nd offense, possession of a controlled substance - 1,2,3rd, possession of drug paraphernalia, and driving under suspension. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

02/25/24 - 10:32 a.m. - Keokuk police officers responded to a report of a three-vehicle accident at 8th and Grand. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Travis Edward Scott, 45, of Keokuk, was eluding law enforcement traveling north on 8th and Grand and attempted to turn onto Grand when a vehicle driven by Colin David Crenshaw, 34, of Keokuk, pulled in front of Scott's vehicle to prevent him from continuing, and a third vehicle, driven by Nicholas A. Jamerson, 44, of Hamilton, pulled in behind Scott's vehicle to block it in. No injuries were reported. Scott was cited for failure to maintain control of vehicle. Scott's vehicle was disabled and impounded; Jamerson's vehicle sustained minor damages, but was driven from the scene. Crenshaw's vehicle was not damaged.

02/26/24 - 9:50 a.m. - Keokuk police arrested Mia Anastasia Mitchell, 21, of Keokuk, in the 100 block of North 18th Street, on a charge of violation of a domestic no-contact order. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

02/26/24 - 11:31 a.m. - Keokuk police arrested Kyle Max Ray, 35, of Fort Madison, in the 1800 block of

Blondeau Street, on charges of 2nd degree harassment and violation of a domestic no-contact order. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

Lee County Sheriff Report

02/26/24 - 12:11 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Sharon Elaine Marie Tedrow, 34, of Keokuk, at the South Lee County Courthouse, on a warrant for violation of probation. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

02/26/24 - 6:36 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies responded to a single-vehicle accident in the 2200 block of Peach Orchard Road, Montrose. According to the report, a deputy observed the collision and the driver fled from the scene. The driver was later identified as Paul Douglas Bowden, 39, of Montrose. He complained of minor injuries. His vehicle and keys were impounded and he was taken into custody on several charges.

02/27/24 - 3:41 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Paul Douglas Bowden, 39, of Montrose, in the 2200 block of Peach Orchard Road, Montrose, on 2 warrants for failure to appear and warrants for driving while barred and operating a vehicle without owner's consent, and charges of driving while barred, interference with official acts, and failure to maintain control. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

Fort Madison

Fire & Rescue Report

02/24/24 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to two medical calls and one false alarm.

02/25/24 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to four medical calls and one small fire.

02/26/24 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to two medical calls and one carbon monoxide alarm.

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

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W-2319024 11/19

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PEN CITY CURRENT

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Local News/From the Front

Cuts included in city's proposed budget

BUDGET - Continued from Page 1

came in with deficit spending of about \$537,000, but Leigois is recommending adjustments that would bring the budget back into balance at a \$21,000 surplus.

Individual department budget expenses are as follows (rounded): Police - \$2.78 million; Fire - \$2.06 million; Planning and Zoning - \$302,000; Library - \$375,000; Parks - \$463,000; Swimming Pool - \$86,000; Cemetery \$155,000; Depot - \$24,000; Policy Administration \$998,590; Streets - \$1.54 million; Water - \$4.03 million; Waste Water - \$3.53 million; Solid Waste - \$1.13 million; Storm Water - \$217,000; Airport - \$620,000.

Leigois said coming into the job in January made her first budget process a little complicated.

"This is not an easy task. We set out in December, prior to me arriving, each department filled out their budget and, obviously, we do not have the resource and funding to give every need and want in the departments," she said.

"If we would have funded everything as asked that would have left the general fund at a \$500,000 negative at the end of the fiscal year at about a \$288,000 ending balance."

She said department heads came to the table and helped eliminate that deficit spending and created a balanced budget.

Councilman Rusty Andrews said people need to understand that there were heavy conversations around what could be done within the departments to keep costs at bay, whether it's cutting a vehicle in one department, or not filling a position in another, the city is working hard to keep costs in line.

"The biggest thing is how do you get the public to understand this? All the public says is that we're raising taxes and we have franchise fees through the roof. Every department had to give up something this year. Everybody had to take a cut, one less person, no shiny things. Everybody is taking a hit to make it work," he said. "How do you get that message across?"

Mayor Matt Mohrfeld said it's a large budget and took some work for the staff to get the budget balanced.

Most of the heavy lifting was done when the mayor assigned two city councilmen to a budget review committee with city staff to bring the proposed budget to the council.

"It's tough, especially when you talk about a \$44 million flow-through budget and you can't find \$10,000 for an expense. It is priorities and I appreciate it," Mohrfeld said.

One of the expenses Leigois said the city will be reducing is the city's annual contribution to the Lee County Economic Development Group. That will be reduced from \$30,000 to \$20,000 in the next budget.

Other highlights of the budget are an estimated \$197,000 in hotel/motel tax funds, down from about \$246,000 in the current budget. There also was no fund discussion on the Old Fort as city officials moved that enterprise to a volunteer group with guidance from the city, but no funding appropriated.

FMHS FFA holds fundraiser at Elks

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison's FFA held its annual Labor Auction and dinner on Saturday at the Elks Lodge downtown.

Funds raised by this event will be used to help the FM FFA chapter participate in many activities throughout the year including state and national convention.

Pork for the dinner was donated by Lee County Pork Producers and prepared by Brian Steffensmeier. The rest of the meal was prepared by Mary Weisinger and Lindsay Lampe, and served by FFA students.

After the free-will donation dinner was served to about 150 in attendance, Russell Lamp (of Merit Auction) auctioned off items donated by local businesses and then students' labor (4 hours each student), including FFA Advisor David Vance.

New this year, the FFA added bake sale items donated by chapter families, which was also based on donations.



Alexys Hartman, Adelyn Lampe, Finley Johnson, Kenzie Johnson, Hadley Johnson, Ben Blanchard, and Jake Ahlers help prepare a meal at Saturday's FFA event in Fort Madison.

SHIIP seminars set for GRH locations

WEST BURLINGTON - The Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) will present the following Welcome to Medicare seminars at Great River Health locations. The seminars will cover:

- Medicare Parts A and B benefits
- Prescription drug benefits (Part D)
- Medicare Advantage plans
- Medicare supplement insurance
- Identifying Medicare fraud, errors and abuse

The seminars will be offered at these times and locations:

Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center, Fort Madison

Wednesday, March 22, 2024 - Registration deadline: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 - 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Willard and Canella Conference Room(s) 5445 Avenue O, Fort Madison (lower level-east side of building)

To make a reservation, call 319-768-3342.

Henry County Health Center, Mount Pleasant - Tuesday, April 2, 2024 - Registration deadline: Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Wednesday, June 5, 2024 - Registration deadline: Wednesday, May 22, 2024 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Health Education Center - 407 White Street, Mount Pleasant. To make a reservation, call 319-385-6774.

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Little Tykes Soccer

Little Tykes Youth Soccer League is open to girls and boys 3 to 6 years of age.

Lee County Soccer

Lee County Youth Soccer League is open to 1st - 6th grade boys and girls.

Spring Soccer Registration Fees: \$30/members \$50/non-members
Registration Deadline: March 13th, 2024

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www.DrMarkDDS.com

From the Front

Emergency plans underway for bridge

BRIDGE - Continued from Page 1

responsibility. He said the county is contractually obligated through the Federal Highway Administration to maintain the bridge. But he said the bridge is not on a road, so they cannot use road funds on the bridge.

"Its collapse is imminent. The south abutment is failing," Hull said.

He said his research has shown the bridge is fracture critical span meaning if any one element were to fail, it would collapse the bridge "totally and suddenly".

He said he's been tempted to send photos to engineering experts to find out how the bridge is actually still intact.

Hull said the problem is that the county is prohibited through agreements from tearing it down.

Supervisor Chuck Holmes asked what would happen if the county allowed the bridge to fall.

"Well, it would make a mess," Hull said.

Supervisor Garry Seyb said allowing it to fall on its own isn't a good option.

"We've got some other

problems with that falling. If someone is under it, that would be problematic and if that was to happen during the spring when we're having rain, it would cause a very large dam on the Skunk River," Seyb said.

He said he's spoken with Tom Broeker, the chairman of the Des Moines County Supervisors, about the issue and the county has also reached out to the Corp of Engineers.

Hull said the county has applied for joint application with Des Moines County for an "emergency action" to tear the bridge down. He said the stone support under the bridge abutments have crumbled.

Hull said the application would go to the Corp of Engineers and multiple departments in the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The DNR flood plain officials have weighed in and said they realize the danger of it collapsing. But Hull said the bridge is historical and several other organizations, including the State Historic Preservation

Office, could have issues with tearing down the structure, as well as the Federal Highway Administration.

Hull said he was preparing a letter explaining why preservation is not an option. He said the bridge is old and to replicate the south abutment would eliminate the original structure.

"In that case, you wouldn't have what you set out to save," he said.

He said permission would also need to be obtained from the DOT Sovereign land because the river is sovereign land in Iowa. The DNR has told him there is work to do around the threat to endangered species in and around the river.

"The longer we wait, the bigger the problems," he said.

He said taking down the bridge would require a commitment of the Lee County Board of six figures.

Supervisor Matt Pflug asked where the money would come from and Hull said, "that would be up to you."

Supervisor Tom Schulz said the cost would be a

budget buster to the county's budget for the next fiscal year, which is still being put together.

Hull said folks are worried about mussels and rattlesnakes and possibly a dozen other endangered species in the area, but said sooner rather than later it will fall regardless and cause damage to those environments anyway.

He said the bridge was taken out of service in the 80s and the decisions were made to not tear it down, but nothing has been done to maintain it. The first reports of deterioration were reported in the 60s.

"What has been going on for 60 some years now is not going to be able to keep going on," he said.

Seyb said action needed to be taken with the river being low, citing cost factors.

"A low river is going to be much cheaper than if something were to happen, God forbid, during flood stage or high water," he said. "Worst case scenario is river at high tide and rain is scheduled and it drops."

Holmes asked Hull how long it will take to get the permits in place to remove the bridge. Hull said he thinks with letters going in with emergency action, the permits could come relatively soon.



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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
Tater Tot Casserole, Green Beans

Opinion/Classifieds

Winter 'dull-drums' result in ad hoc double feature

"Ours is essentially a tragic age, so we refuse to take it tragically." D.H. Lawrence

Saturdays in February can be ho-hum: NFL playoffs are over, the weather can be good cop/bad cop, and my Creative Writing class is over. This year's Creative Writing class, which met for six consecutive Saturdays starting in January, was star-studded. Of the five energetic scribes, two were former mayors (one of which was a volunteer fireman and EMT), another an artist, and the other two were a husband-wife duo. It was interesting hearing or reading the same story from two different perspectives. No they didn't fight. That would have added even more flare to the already best class of creative writers I've had the privilege of shepherding. I don't "teach" creative writing. I just get out of the way and let hungry-for-expression people write. For all of them, it may have been the first time they had carte blanche to write whatever they wanted, a weekly deadline, and an audience of peers for critiquing. I'll say this: it was the first time I openly cried (the acid test of quality prose) in class.

Our first class couldn't meet in-person because of a blizzard, but through the cyber magic of Zoom we were able to "get together." And then, about three weeks into the course, I was slapped in the hospital to have a pacemaker put in. I liked to joke that the students were hard on my heart. (Actually, they were.) But did I cancel a class?

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



Nope. I wasn't about to slow down the momentum of a runaway

freight train!

So, Ginnie's and my first Saturday after class was over found us asking, "What should we do?" The letdown was palpable. I checked the movie schedule and there were two movies we wanted to see: "Marley: One Love" and "The Bee Keeper" with Jason Statham. Ginnie wanted to see "Marley" and I needed the action of Jason Statham. We couldn't decide. So quick like a schemer thinks, I said, "Shoot, Ginnie. We're both old coots, let's see both movies in one afternoon."

"Say what?" she said. "You'll never stay awake." "I'll take 5-Hour Energy drink between movies."

We checked the movie schedule for times. It looked like we could finish one movie, then go to the next. What the heck? We're seniors and we can do anything we want, no matter how bourgeois it is. I would even pay for both movies. No sneaking in for us! I remembered back to the days of my youth when a buddy and I sneaked into the drive-in theater in Knoxville in the trunk of his girlfriend's GTO. Those were the days.

The person at the ticket counter was a little

incredulous. "You wanna what?" But he checked the movie times, and it would work, and we did pay for both movies. He turned to the popcorn people and hollered, "A first! They're paying for both movies!" The popcorn people applauded. We would have about a 20-minute wait following "Marley" before "The Beekeeper" started. The only thing we did a little shady was refill our drinks in-between movies (and added the energy drink)—which necessitated urgent runs to the restrooms.

Even though the thick Jamaican patois is hard to understand, "Marley: One Love" starring Kingsley Ben-Adir and Lashana Lynch is an excellent Reggae movie, Mon. "The Beekeeper" with Jason Statham is, well, typical of most Jason Statham performances. It's totally unrealistic. He manages to single-handedly beat up or kill maybe a thousand bad guys and save the Free World. But it was the blood-pumping action I needed to take the place of my Creative-Writing-class high, and beat the winter doldrums. (Ginnie says one Jason Statham movie is enough for her!) The only thing I would change, if I had the power, is "Winter Doldrums" should be spelled "Dulldrums" which is the way I tried to spell it. Thank you, God, for Spellcheck.

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.

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE West Burlington Regular City Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday, February 7, 2024

The West Burlington City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, February 7, 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, John Johnson, Therese Lees, and Melanie Young

MEMBERS ABSENT:

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 Johnson, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Covert, Crowner, Johnson, Lees, and Young

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes from the

Regular City Council meeting on January 17, 2024

- Minutes from the Special City Council meeting on January 23, 2024

• Payment to Four Seasons Excavation, Inc. - \$6,025

• Payment to Snyder & Associates for engineering services related to the Gear Ave. Trail Extension Project - \$4,763.25

• Payment of Claims as listed on the Expense Approval Report - \$279,810.35

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

Ayes: Covert, Crowner, Johnson, Lees, and Young

COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS

CITIZEN INQUIRIES

No inquiries.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing on Proposed Development Agreement with JNB West Burlington, LP Mayor Teater opened the Public Hearing at 6:10 p.m. to consider a proposed Development Agreement between the City and JNB West Burlington, LP ("the Developer"). The Developer plans to undertake the development of a senior (55+) hous-

ing apartment complex consisting of forty-seven rental units, and to price the units at levels that will be affordable to seniors of low and moderate-income as defined in Iowa Code Section 403.17(14). The Developer will also undertake certain sidewalk improvements necessary for the Housing Project to comply with the City Code. The Developer has received financial assistance for the Housing Project through the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program (the "LIHTC Program") and the HOME Program, each administered by the Iowa Finance Authority. The Developer has requested that the City provide financial assistance in the form of incremental property tax payments to be used by the Developer in paying costs associated with constructing the Housing Project. If approved, the City would provide annual appropriation tax increment payments to the Developer in a total amount not exceeding \$600,000. There were no verbal or written comments concerning the proposed agreement. Mayor Teater closed the Public Hearing at 6:12 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Consider the second reading and waiving the final 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 second reading and waiving the final 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 Financing 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 Lees, seconded by Crowner, to approve the second reading and waive the final 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 Approving Development Agreement with JNB West Burlington, LP, Authorizing Annual Appropriation Tax Increment Payments and Pledging Certain Tax Increment Revenues to the Payment of the Agreement

City Administrator Mandsager recommended approval of the proposed agreement and informed the Council that if approved, the agreement would be held until the developer officially closed on the property.

Moved by Lees, seconded by Johnson, to approve a resolution entering into a development agreement between the City of West Burlington and JNB West Burlington, LP, authorizing annual

appropriate tax increment payments and pledging certain tax increment revenues to the payment of the agreement.

Crowner abstained from the vote due to his position as the realtor for the property. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Covert, Johnson, Lees, and Young
Abstained: Crowner

Consider approval of Tentative Agreement with the Public Works Department Bargaining Unit

Moved by Lees, seconded by Crowner, to approve the proposed

union contract between the City of West Burlington and the Communications Workers of America representing the Public Works Department for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2029. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Covert, Crowner, Johnson, Lees, and Young

Consider entering into a Contract for Legal Services with Lynch Dallas, P.C.

Lynch Dallas, P.C. presented a new contract for legal services, which included an increase in rates. City Administrator Mandsager felt the increase was in order and recommended approval of the contract as presented.

Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

Moved by Crouner, seconded by Lees, to approve a contract with Lynch Dallas, P.C. to provide legal services. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Covert, Crouner, Johnson, Lees, and Young

Consider recommendation from Fire Department to promote Firefighter Poggemiller to Lieutenant. Moved by Lees, seconded by Young, to approve a recommendation from the Fire Department to promote Firefighter Poggemiller to Lieutenant.

Motion carried by the following votes: Ayes: Covert, Crouner, Johnson, Lees, and Young

CITIZEN INQUIRIES CLOSED SESSION
Council went into Closed Session at 6:25 p.m. in accordance with Iowa Code Section 21.5.1(j) to discuss the purchase of particular real estate only where premature disclosure could be reasonably expected to increase the price the governmental body would have to pay for that property. Moved by Crouner, seconded by Lees, to come out of Closed Session at 6:34 p.m. No action was taken during the Closed Session. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Covert, Crouner, Johnson, Lees, and Young

Young
No action was taken following the Closed Session.

ADJOURN
Moved by Crouner, seconded by Lees, to adjourn at 6:34 p.m. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Covert, Crouner, Johnson, Lees, and Young

WORK SESSION
Council resumed the Budget Work Session following the Regular Meeting.

Approved
Ron Teater, Mayor
Kelly D. Fry, City Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE PROCEEDINGS FORT MADISON CITY COUNCIL 2/20/2024

At 5:30 P.M., Council met in adjourned session on Tuesday, February 20, 2024. Mayor Mohrfeld presided with Council Members Amandus, Thele, Roller, Gray, Andrews and Yager present. Council Member Rink was absent.

On motion, Council approved the Consent Agenda: Minutes of 2/6/2024; Liquor License Renewals for Columbus Club Inc.; Historic Preservation Commission Annual Report; Setting public hearing for 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, concerning updates to the Floodplain Management Zoning Code; Claims dated 2/14/2024, January Financial Report, Library Claims; and Payroll of 2/9/2024.

On motion, Council approved the first reading to amend Ordinance D-55, Title 9, Chapter 15: Operation of Golf Carts, ATVs and UTVs. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2024-17, approving the Mayor's signature on an agreement with Lee County for the City to acquire 13 County Held Tax Sale Certificates. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2024-18, appointing City Manager Laura Liegois as the primary contact and Finance Director Peggy Steffensmeier as the alternate contact to represent the City of Fort Madison with the Iowa Communities Assurance Pool.

On motion, Council approved Special Event Permit: Pen City Cruisers Car Show, May 4, 2024 and to waive the permit fees. On motion,

Council approved Special Event Permit: Riverside Pride Festival, June 7, 2024. On motion, Council approved to waive the fees for the Riverside Pride Festival. On motion, Council approved Special Event Permit: Southeastern Iowa Spoonfest, June 8-9, 2024. On motion, Council approved to waive the fees for Southeastern Iowa Spoonfest. On motion, Council approved Special Event Permit: Ballgown Baseball, June 15-16, 2024. On motion, Council approved to waive the fees

EXPENDITURES	
General	\$30,478.53
Special Rev.	12,893.99
Road Use	16,339.15
Debt	0.00
Capital	25,493.60
Water	12,865.21
Sewer	14,941.70
Sld Waste, IWC	21,105.96
SW Utility	0.00
	<hr/>
	\$134,118.14

REVENUES	
General	\$674,948.25
Special Rev.	167,376.08
Road Use	750.00
Debt	8,538.36
Capital	0.00
Water	27,630.78
Sewer	11,093.19
Sld Wst & IWC	98.14
Sewer	5.53
	<hr/>
	\$890,440.33

CLAIMS - 2/20/2024

ACCESS SYSTEMS, COMPUTER.....	1,824.22
ACUREN INSPECTION INC., CRANE INSPECTION.....	395.00
ALEXIS FIRE EQUIPMENT CO, FIRE TRUCK REPAIR.....	1,078.50
ALTORFER INC., OIL CHANGE/FILTERS.....	1,070.28
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, POWER CORD.....	35.05
ANSER IOWA, WATER ANSWERING SERVICE.....	220.00
ARAMARK UNIFORM SERVICES, UNIFORM/SHOP SUPPLIES.....	178.38
ASKEW SCIENTIFIC CONSULTING, PRE-TREATMENT SURVEY.....	1,150.00
B&B PROPANE, HEAT.....	346.50
BARCO MUNICIPAL PRODUCTS, BARRICADES.....	1,588.90
BROZENES HYDRAULIC SERVICE, CABLE/WOOLWAX.....	298.35
CITY OF FORT MADISON, LEACHATE DISCHARGE.....	2,022.11
COMPANY NURSE LLC, TRIAGE SERVICES.....	86.00
COMPASS MINERALS, TREATED SALT.....	4,543.79
CORE & MAIN LP, CURB STOP.....	1,900.00
CULLEN CONSTR. &	

for the Ballgown Baseball. On motion, Council approved Special Event Permit: Art on the Avenue, September 15, 2024. On motion, Council approved to waive the fees for the Art on the Avenue. On motion, Council approved to migrate the historical Old Fort to a self-tour attraction and to participate in the future Fort visioning group.

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 P.M.

/s/ Matt J. Mohrfeld, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Justina M. Cullen, City Clerk

PAYROLL		2/09/2024
General	\$	222,406.95
Road Use		26,179.74
Water		38,052.37
Sewer		31,782.69
Solid Waste		16,394.98
Airport		312.77
Storm Water		3,147.66
		<hr/>
		\$338,277.16

EXCAVATING, HAULING SNOW.....	807.50
CULLEN PEST CONTROL, MONTHLY PEST CONTROL.....	129.00
DAILY DEMOCRAT, PUBLICATIONS.....	339.26
DARRYL KANE, INSTALL SCOPE.....	50.00
DIAMOND CONSTRUCTION CO, COLD PATCH.....	2,530.25
DODD PRINTING & STATIONERY, STAMP..	24.30
DUNKIN GARAGE & TOWING, OIL CHANGE.....	50.00
EUROFINS ENVIRONMENT TESTING, WEEKLY SLUDGE SAMPLE.....	710.48
FARM & HOME SUPPLY, BATTERIES.....	33.98
FLOYD'S EZ WAY, 3 QTRS RUBBISH REMOVAL.....	11,331.50
FORT MADISON WATER DEPT, WATER @ AIRPORT.....	18.61
FRENCH-RENEKER-ASSOC., PROF FEE.....	946.92
GARRETT HANNUM, TRAINING.....	195.56
GLOBAL INDUSTRIAL, SPACE HEATER....	77.39
GREAT RIVER REGIONAL WASTE, TRASH COLLECTION..	19,875.54
GREENWOOD CLEANING SYSTEM, PAPER PRODUCTS.....	190.08
HUFFMAN WELDING & MACHINE, LIGHT POLES - PORT.....	8,041.21
ICONNECTYOU, IN-	

TENET - FINGER PRINT MACH.....	5.00
IDEAL READY MIX COMPANY, FILL SAND.....	2,101.98
IOWA ONE CALL, LOCATES.....	67.90
JIM BAIER INC., REPLACED BATTERIES/CLEAR CODES....	597.85
LISCO, PHONE/INTERNET.....	1,955.36
MADISON TURF & TIMBER, FILTERS/OIL.....	2,533.45
MASTERCARD, TRAINING/TRAVEL/ETC.....	6,104.47
MENARD - WEST BURLINGTON, WILLOW PATCH - DOCK REPAIRS.....	100.52
MENKE & COMPANY, FILING FEE.....	1,970.00
MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY SERVICE, UNIFORM.....	1,141.25
MICROBAC LABORATORIES LLC, SLUDGE SAMPLE.....	227.75
MIGUEL LANDEROS, NUISANCE.....	4,400.00
MOHRFELD ELECTRIC, ELECTRICAL WORK.....	107.36
MOTOR PARTS & EQUIPMENT CO, OIL.....	109.90
MOWEN CLEANING SERVICE LLC, JANITORIAL SERVICE...1,311.50	
MUNICIPAL SUPPLY INC., METERS ..	2,480.00
O'REILLY AUTOMOTIVE, INC., TREATMENT/WIPER MOTOR/PARTS.....	1,246.79
POEPPING STONE & BACH, PROF FEE.....	311.51
R & J QUALITY DECALING INC, REMOVING DECAL.....	1,728.75
RED LION RENEWABLES, ELECTRIC.....	1,829.28
SAFELITE AUTO GLASS, REPLACE WINDOW.....	515.85
SE IA AQUATIC RESTORATION, FINAL FUEL DOCK.....	10,493.60
SOUTHEAST IA REGIONAL MED, RANDOM DRUG SCREEN.....	65.00
SOUTHEAST IOWA CITY CLERK ASSN, MEMBERSHIP.....	20.00
SOUTHEAST IOWA GARAGE DOORS, GARAGE DOOR.....	459.00
SE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, TRAINING.....	790.00
STATE HYGIENIC LABORATORY, FLUORIDE SAMPLE.....	21.00
TRUCK REPAIR INC., REPAIR WORK/PARTS.....	250.16
TURBO WASH INC., WASH TOKENS ...	300.00
UNITY POINT CLINIC - OCCUP, DRUG SCREEN.....	42.00

HELP WANTED



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Application Process

- Applications open January 1, 2024
- Applications close March 29, 2024
- Written exam April 4-5, 2024 (online)
- Interviews April 11-12, 2024
- High School Diploma or GED
- Driver's License

Scan the QR code, click here, or go to <https://www.burlingtoniowa.org/2634/Recruitment> to apply online.



LEE COUNTY SECONDARY ROADS ROAD MAINTENANCE WORKER II

Lee County is taking applications for a South Road Maintenance Worker II. Duties will include the operation of light and heavy equipment and trucks used to perform road maintenance and construction projects, occasionally plowing snow, and the performance of manual labor as required. Requires a high school graduate or G.E.D. equivalent and must possess a valid Class A commercial driver's license with air brake and tanker endorsements. The starting wage range is \$23.47 to \$28.65.

Lee County provides equal opportunity in employment to all persons regardless of age, race, creed, color, sex, national origin, religion, or disability.

For a job description and to apply, download an application from our county website, www.leecounty.org/employment.aspx, or you can pick an application up at the Engineer's office and return your completed application along with a resume to Lee County Engineer, P.O. Box 158, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627, or email it to engineer@leecounty.org. Applications will be accepted until 4 p.m. on Friday, March 8, 2024.

If you have any questions, please contact Lee County Engineer Office at (319) 372-2541 or email them at engineer@leecounty.org.



Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

USA BLUE BOOK, EAR PLUGS/GLOVES/FIRST AID..... 422.94	UTILITY EQUIPMENT COMPANY, PIPING 650.00	WALLJASPER VETERINARY CLINIC, DEC MONTHLY FEE 2,436.87	WARNER ENGINEERING ASSOC, PROF FEE 15,000.00	WINDSTREAM, PHONE/INTERNET..... 367.69	TOTAL 124,253.39	GENERAL 24,667.14	SPECIAL REVENUES 77.25	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, SHELF MATERIAL 2,027.23	BAKER & TAYLOR, SHELF MATERIAL 1,894.10	BLACKSTONE PUBLISHING, SHELF MATERIAL 128.76	CENGAGE LEARNING INC./GALE, SHELF MATERIAL 50.68	DAVE VRADENBURG, INSTALLED HANDLE ON DOOR..... 192.09	DODD PRINTING & STATIONERY, PAPER 117.98	EXCEL IT SERVICES, CLOUD BACKUP ... 38.56	FARM & HOME PUBLISHERS, SHELF MATERIAL..... 90.50	GREENWOOD CLEANING SYSTEM, JANITORIAL SUPPLIES..... 551.61	IOWA LIBRARY ASSOC., MEMBERSHIP FEE 70.00	JIM'S LOCK & SAFE, INC., REPAIR DOOR LOCK..... 165.00	KANOOPY, INC., SHELF MATERIAL..... 44.00	KEMPKERS TRUE VALUE, BATTERIES/CLEANER..... 24.47	LIBRARYPASS, ONLINE MATERIAL..... 1,237.50	LINDA BETSINGER MCCANN, SPEAKER 170.00	MEDIACOM, BUSINESS PHONE/INTERNET 330.35	MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY, HEAT 590.44	MOWEN CLEANING SERVICE LLC, JANITORIAL SERVICE 905.10	OTC BRANDS, INC, CRAFTING SUPPLIES 44.86	PETTY CASH, CRAFTING SUPPLIES..... 79.27	TRANSPARENT LANGUAGE INC., ONLINE MEMBERSHIP 810.00	WORLD BOOK INC, SHELF MATERIAL 225.00	TOTAL 9,864.75	GENERAL 5,811.39	SPECIAL REVENUE 4,053.36
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Education News/From the Front

AEDO designation points to LCEDG's level of excellence

LCEDG - Continued from Page 1

Lee County EDG board of directors.

The AEDO program is a comprehensive peer review process that measures economic development organizations against commonly held standards in the profession. The program consists of two phases: a documentation review and an onsite visit. Each phase is designed to evaluate information about the structure, organization, funding, programs, and staff of the candidate economic development organization.

"Lee County Economic Development Group displays the professionalism, commitment, and technical expertise that is deserving of this honor," said IEDC President and CEO Nathan Ohle.

Earning the AEDO accreditation tells the community and prospects that Lee County Economic Development Group has attained a measure of excellence assuring that their trust is well-placed and their business is in good hands.

"Receiving the AEDO certification from the International Economic Development Council is a testament to the quality of work being done by the Lee County Economic Development Group. This award is shared with our investors, board members, and partners throughout Lee County and southeast Iowa." Fraise said.

Maintenance of the AEDO status is required every three years and is accomplished through documentation submission and/or onsite visits by a team of the AEDO subcommittee.

IEDC is the largest membership association serving economic and community development professionals in the world. With over 5,000 members nationwide and abroad, IEDC offers the economic development profession one source for information and professional development, one voice for the profession and one force for advocacy.

For more information on IEDC or the AEDO program, call Dana Crater at (910) 821.0245; fax (202) 223.4745; write to IEDC at 1275 K Street NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20005; email dcrater@iedconline.org; or visit IEDC's website at www.iedconline.org.



Central Lee science kids win awards

DONNELSON - The Central Lee High School Science Club had a successful day at the Culver Stockton Science Fair in Caton, MO this past Saturday (2/24). The students participating in the senior high category from Central Lee were; Seniors: Sidney Gruntmeir, Mercedes Kircher; Juniors: Alivia Cook, William Kempker, Lillian Rozario; Freshman: Jack Benner, Nadia Boyer, Makenah Cox, Allison Gruntmeir, Addison Peterson, Ashton Putnam, Haylee Smith, Baylee Stewart, and Aida Ward.

Below are the award winning projects from Central Lee High School:
 Sidney Gruntmeir - 1st Place in Senior High Microbiology
 Allison Gruntmeir - 1st Place in Senior High Zoology
 Addison Peterson - 2nd Place in Senior High Zoology
 Haylee Smith - 2nd Place in Senior Medicine and Health
 William Kempker - 2nd Place in Senior High Math & Engineering
 Aida Ward - 2nd Place in Senior High Behavioral Science

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