

# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Thursday, March 7, 2024 | 8 pages | Volume 8 • Issue 43



www.pencitycurrent.com

## City opens consolidation talks

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Mayor wants transparency in talks to find efficiencies in dept.

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison City Council held a frank conversation about the possibilities around a new public works facilities, and quite possibly restructuring some of those departments.

At Tuesday's regular City Council meeting, Mayor Matt Mohrfeld put a discussion item on the agenda regarding consolidating the public works departments including streets, parks, and water operations under one department and possibly one facility.

The city has had engineers draw up plans for a new



MOHRFELD

public works facility that would put all the city's equipment in one place. The public works facility now is located between 21st and 23rd Streets south of Avenue L adjacent to Elmwood cemetery.

Councilman Rusty Andrews said the facilities there are beyond repair, but are a perfect location for a new city fire department.

Designs have been drawn for both the buildings at a combined price tag of \$26.5 million. The public works facility was estimated at \$14.6 million and the new fire

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### IOWA NEWS

## Reichman bills tackle, illegal aliens, ticket 'bots'

Both bills pass through Senate study committees

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – A bill to limit bulk purchasing of online event tickets and a bill to tighten measures around illegal immigrants who commit crimes in the state are still viable in the state legislature.

Sen. Jeff Reichman introduced the bill that would limit "bots" from automatic online bulk ticket purchases in the state.

The Lee County senator said the ability for families to purchase tickets for sporting, music, and other high demand events should be more fairly administered and private groups buying up big blocks of tickets and selling them at elevated prices has to stop.



REICHMAN

"When I was a young man growing up in southeast Iowa, all I wanted was my MTV. I love music, but we were between two and four hours to see any concert," Reichman wrote in an email to Pen City Current.

"Computers, smart phone programs, and apps have changed our lives forever. Most of these modern conveniences offer cost and time savings benefits."

But he said there should be lower cost alternatives to help families experience more entertainment and not have to pay the high prices of those who gobble up all the tickets and prey on supply and demand economics.

"AirBNB or VRBO offer us lower cost alternatives to hotels. Uber and Lyft offer savings and convenience over taxis. Travelocity, Kayak, and many others help with trip planning, flights, and hotels at a cost reduction. Why not concerts and

See BILLS, page 4



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Meller Excavation has pulled down a building that was crumbling in the 700 block of Avenue G on the north side of the street. The project ran into a bit of a snag when an adjoining building wall was compromised. The demolition will leave a gap in the downtown landscape until a use is determined.

### BREAKING

## Central Lee's Hayes steps down as boys head hoops coach

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

DONNELSON – Central Lee school officials have confirmed that boys high school basketball coach Kristopher "Kritter" Hayes has stepped down from the position.

Central Lee Athletic Director Wes McGraw confirmed the resignation Wednesday afternoon citing Hayes decision to take some time to spend with his family and explore some personal goals.

Hayes said the last few winters have

been difficult as he tries to complete his administration certificate in education.

"This was just right for me," he said. "I have a master's in educational leadership and have been trying to get my

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### WEATHER

THU 07 Mar..... Mostly cloudy with chance of rain, 56° F/ 47° F  
FRI 08 Mar..... Rainy and cool, 56° F/ 34° F  
SAT 09 Mar..... Mostly sunny and chilly, 47° F/ 26° F

### IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 03/05..... 717 22 25 43, Lucky Ball: 11  
MEGA MILLIONS 03/05..... 15 34 36 69 70, Mega Ball: 17 Megaplier: 3  
PICK 3 MIDDAY 03/05..... 3 3 7  
PICK 3 EVENING 03/05..... 0 6 1  
PICK 4 MIDDAY 03/05..... 77 21  
PICK 4 EVENING 03/05..... 8 8 5 5

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## Education News/Sports

# Keokuk kids get glimpse of possible futures Wednesday

### CAREER EXPO:

More than 100 speakers give students a look at trades, more

PCC STAFF

KEOKUK - Keokuk High School students had the opportunity to explore a multitude of career paths at the KHS Career Expo on March 6. About 100 speakers and recruiters offered a diverse range of career options and connected the students to professionals from various industries.

"It has been enlightening and given me so many options to think about," Zach Atterberg, KHS Sophomore, said. "I liked the trades one the most."

Each student chose sev-



Courtesy photo

Several Keokuk High School students experience truck driving through a virtual reality simulator Wednesday during the KHS Career Expo.

en topic sessions out of the 25 available options to participate in a small group and interacted closely with professionals. The options included law, agriculture and conser-

vation, animal care, art, automotive, criminal justice, manufacturing, event planning, finance, design, healthcare, media, technology, utilities/infrastructure, trucking,

trades, and many more. Some of the speakers provided hands-on opportunities such as exploring an ambulance, fire truck and they were able to use virtual reality to explore

several fields, including trucking and more.

"It was a good opportunity for all of us, especially students who didn't know what they wanted to do," Kendra Boatman, sophomore, said. "Also all of us could see the different job opportunities that are especially in our area. The Food & Drink session was my favorite."

Speakers were from several regional companies, municipalities, and nonprofits, and included the Iowa Judicial Branch, Liberty Utilities, Lee County Conservation, Roquette America, Freeze Dried U.S.A., WGEM, Keokuk Veterinary Hospital, JJ Nitching Company, Joy Painting Restoration, Klingner & Associates, Iowa State Penitentiary, Keokuk Municipal Waterworks, Winegard Company, Climax Molybdenum Co., Quincy Medical Group,

Edward Jones, Connection Bank, Lee County Emergency Medical Services, Hoerner YMCA, RePete Candle & Coffee Bar, Blue Umbrella Bakery, Lee County Health Department, Heartland Pathways Counseling, Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center, Yuppy Puppy Pet Parlor, Elston Auto Repair, The Hidden Tower, 1884 On the Bluff, Henniges Automotive, Keokuk Police Department, Lee County Sheriff's Department, Keokuk Fire Department, AirEvac, and more.

"I think it was a huge success, the kids were excited to talk to the different professionals and showed an interest in several areas," Jen Roederer, KHS Vice Principal, said. "They started talking about professions that would like to go into and colleges that they would like to attend."

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## Bendlage named to IPSWA All-state

**3RD TEAM:** Senior Crusader adds another honor to final season from Iowa Print Sports Writers Assoc.

FORT MADISON - Holy Trinity senior Mary Kate Bendlage added another All-State honor on Tuesday, after she was named to the Class 1A third team by the Iowa Print Sports Writers Association.

Bendlage, a 1A third-team selection by the Iowa Girls Coaches Association on Monday, averaged 20.9 points, which ranked 15th overall in Iowa and third among players in Class 1A after last week's state tournament. Bendlage also averaged 8.5 rebounds, 2.2 assists and three steals per game.



BENDLAGE

It was the latest postseason award for Bendlage, who finished her career as Holy Trinity's all-time leading scorer. Bendlage, the SEI Superconference South Division's Player of the Year, was an earlier All-Southeast District selection by the IGCA, and was a member of the organization's all-academic team along with teammate Natalie Randolph.

The Class 1A All-State first team consisted of Macy Boge and Kamryn Kurt of North Linn, Abbie Capesius of Bishop Garrigan, Rowan Jacobi of Springville, Kierra Jungers and McKenna Sievers of Newell-Fonda and Whitney Jensen of Remsen St. Mary's.

Solon's Callie Levin, who has signed with Iowa, was named Miss Iowa Basketball by the IPSWA.

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# Obituaries/For the Record

## OBITUARIES

### RUTH M. SIEGRIST

Ruth M. Siegrist, 90, of Keokuk, IA passed away Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at River Hills Village in Keokuk.

She was born November 7, 1933 in Portland, OR the daughter of Henry and Ruth Adams Yurth. Ruth graduated from Ft. Madison High School with the class of 1951.



SIEGRIST

On November 14, 1951 Ruth was united in marriage to Albert Junior Siegrist in Ft. Madison, IA. He preceded her in death on February 10, 2014. Ruth was a member of Ft. Madison Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Ft. Madison, IA.

She enjoyed spending time outside gardening, playing the piano and traveling with Albert. Ruth was a devoted wife, mother and homemaker who greatly enjoyed caring for her family. She adored children in general, but her children and grandchildren were the sunshine of her life and she loved spending time with them.

Ruth is survived by one son, Steven Siegrist (Laura) of Warsaw, IL, three daughters, Lynn Dorothy (Bob) of Quincy, IL and Kim Schneeberger (Jay) of Clinton, IA and Stephanie Cameron (Kirk) of Hamilton, IL, thirteen grandchildren and twenty-five great-grandchildren.

Besides her husband, she was also preceded in death by her parents, three brothers, two step-sisters and two grandchildren.

A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m., Friday, at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with Pastor Mike McMillen officiating. Burial will be in the Oakland Cemetery in Ft. Madison, IA.

Visitation will be held prior to the service from 12 noon - 1 p.m., Friday, at the funeral home with family meeting with friends at that time.

Memorials may be made to the Ft. Madison Seventh-Day Adventist Church or to the Bel Air Baptist food pantry.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://www.vigenmemorialhome.com).

#### 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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**Founded in 2016**  
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## For the Record

**Fort Madison Police Report**  
03/05/24 - 5:26 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 900 block of Avenue E.

03/06/24 - 8:06 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 3300 block of Avenue L.

#### Keokuk Police Report

03/05/24 - 7:29 a.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2600 block of Belknap Road.

03/05/24 - 9:16 a.m. - Keokuk police arrested Dylan James Clark, 24, of Argyle, in the 800 block of Franklin Street, on a charge of 1st degree arson. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

03/05/24 - 12:45 p.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of a property damage accident at Coolidge and McKinley Avenues.

03/05/24 - 1:42 p.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 200 block of South 2nd Street.

03/05/24 - 5:09 p.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of a property damage accident at North 9th and High Streets.

03/05/24 - 8:24 p.m. - Keokuk police arrested Dylan James Clark, 24, of Argyle, in the 400 block of South 7th Street, on charges of assault w/ bodily injury and obstruction of emergency communications.

03/05/24 - 9:51 p.m. - Keokuk police cited and released Keith Lynn Kellum, 35, of Keokuk, at South 10th and Timea Streets, on a charge of driving under suspension.

03/06/24 - 12:56 a.m. - Keokuk police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1100 block of Franklin Street.

03/06/24 - 1:56 a.m. - Keokuk police arrested Justin Taylor Fett, 30, of Donnellson, at South 25th and Main Streets, on a charge of 1st offense OWI. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

03/06/24 - 6:18 a.m. - Keokuk police cited and released Alexis Mendez Bonilla, 31, of Keokuk, in the 3400 block of Main Street, on a charge of 1st

offense possession of a controlled substance - marijuana.

#### Lee County Sheriff Report

03/06/24 - 6:50 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Eric Patrick Mahair, 35, of Keokuk, at the South Lee County Courthouse on 3 warrants for failure to appear/contempt of court. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

#### Fort Madison

##### Fire & Rescue Report

03/02/24 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to five medical calls.

03/03/24 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to six medical calls.

03/04/24 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to four medical calls.

03/05/24 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to one medical calls, two lift assists and one trash fire.

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

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The recommended age for colorectal cancer screening has been lowered from 50 to 45.

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Colorectal cancer is one of the only cancer screening tests that can prevent cancer by finding precancerous polyps in the colon or rectum and removing them before they become cancer or find cancer early when it may be easier to treat.

There are several screening options available. So, if you are over the age of 45, or at high risk for colorectal cancer, talk to your doctor about getting screened and which screening option is best for you.

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[www.greatriverhealth.org/prevention/colorectal-cancer/](http://www.greatriverhealth.org/prevention/colorectal-cancer/)

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## From the Front

# Public works at center of talks

**CITY** - Continued from Page 1

station is estimated at \$11.9 million. Both designs were completed in 2023.

“Obviously, the current location is no good and beyond repair and is a perfect location for a fire station. We did a contract with an engineering firm to give us a conceptual drawing and cost estimates and pretty pictures. That was a lot of money to chew off with our current financial situation, so you look at alternatives, and Mark’s done that – I’m not sure what your final end game is and what you’re looking for?” Andrews asked Mohrfeld.

Mayor Matt Mohrfeld said he was looking for transparency in the conversation.

“We have to be open and honest about what our end game is. Is it to work more efficiently, is it to cost us less money? What is our purpose in consolidation? Is it just the catchword of the day. It isn’t about just going out and buying a building and putting them all under one roof. Then all we’ve done is add another layer of another expense,” he replied.

Andrews said the city does have multiple departments doing the same thing and there are inefficiencies.

“That’s status quo on how governments operate.”

City Councilwoman Angela Roller and Councilman Rick Thele said more information is needed before the council can move on consolidating departments and/or facilities.

“We need to know what’s needed. So is it a conversation about buying everything and then it’s all on Mark’s (Bousselot, city public works director) shoulders. You can’t just say let’s go do this without knowing what we need,” Roller said.

The proposed building for the public works consolidation was 60,000 square feet.

Mohrfeld compared the city’s situation to wanting an Astin Martin and buying a KIA electric hybrid.

“My point is what I want and what makes sense are two dramatically different things. You sit down with an engineer and say this is what I want,” Mohrfeld said. “But now it’s time we get realistic

about what’s the need. What can the budget afford when we do the pro forma on consolidated utilities, maintenance, where will we save, will it be relocated properly, can we repurpose any current city assets – that would make sense.

“We have to build it efficiently, stay within our budget, and afford it moving forward. If we consolidate and it costs us more money, we’ve gone backwards.”

Andrews said 60,000 square feet is a nice number, but quick math showed streets, water, and parks facilities currently total 36,000 square feet under roof.

“Does our current financial situation let us build a great public works facility?” he said.

“Of course not,” Mohrfeld said.

“We don’t have any money, do we?” Councilwoman Donna Amandus added.

Andrews said he’s spoken with city staff and they are excited about the conversation around a new facility, but they understand budget restrictions.

Councilman Rick Thiele said the city needs to get deep into the numbers and see where consolidation of the departments could result in savings to the city.

“You gotta see those numbers to see if it even warrants doing the consolidation.

Bousselot said when he puts all departments under one roof, he would have three backhoes under one roof, which he probably wouldn’t need.

“There would be some jockeying,” Bousselot said.

Mohrfeld said you don’t see any equipment in the private sector or at the schools under roof. They are all held outside.

Councilman Jack Gray said the city staff and Bousselot need to get together and find out what would work and bring that back to the council.

Thele said consolidation could be the worst idea, but they won’t know until the numbers are hashed out.

The conversation wrapped with an intention to get a group, consisting of city staff and possibly councilmembers, together to investigate the consolidation options further.

# Reichman said getting event tickets should be easier for families

**BILLS** - Continued from Page 1

event venues?” he wrote.

“Something I learned in freshman economics, but it’s probably as old as time, is supply and demand curve, and what that does to prices. However, in this case, technology has not helped us, it has hindered the supply curve by hoarding, creating a high demand and artificial inflation.”

Reichman said the Iowa Hawkeye women’s games were sold out in October, but he could find hundreds of tickets from \$300 to \$2,100. So he introduced Senate File 2322 to help combat that practice of “bots” buying up tickets in bulk in Iowa.

The bill prohibits the use or creation of a bot to purchase more than eight tickets, or posted limit if less than eight, for any Internet ticket sales. It also prohibits using multiple protocol addresses or accounts, disabling electronic queues and waiting periods, and circumventing other security measures in place.

Fines under the proposed legislation max out at \$10,000 per violation and injunctions against further activity. “Some people live to work, some people work to live. Our jobs sustain us, but arts and entertainment help fulfill us,” Reichman said. “With this simple, short, but potentially very impactful legislation, my hope is that it keeps cost down, doesn’t price out event goers, and potentially opens up opportunities to a much broader group of Iowans.”

The activity would be monitored and enforced by the Iowa Attorney General’s office.

The other bill is a state Homeland Defense bill, Senate File 2340, which would subject illegal aliens that make entry or are found in Iowa to an aggravated misdemeanor charge if the person was denied admission, deported, or removed from the U.S., or if they have such an order outstanding. The bill also protects local law enforcement from enforcing the provisions of the bill.

Reichman is the bill’s floor manager in the Senate.

“As a Marine Corps officer, I took an oath for 29 years to protect and defend our constitution, our laws, and our Flag. As a senator, I took an oath. What is unconstitutional is our Federal government refusing their duties. Our President took that same oath and He, along with the US Customs and Border Control Director, has FAILED,” he said.

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## Cottontail Dash

Fun Run/Walk

Riverview Park | Fort Madison, IA  
Saturday, March 30th, 2024  
7:30am Check-In 8:00am Start  
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Spring Soccer Registration Fees:  
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Registration Deadline: March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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# Classifieds/Public Notices

# PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
MINUTES  
KEOKUK CITY  
COUNCIL MEETING  
February 1, 2024  
501 Main Street**

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Must be capable of performing duties inside the Lee County Correctional Facility Complex, working with and around inmates. Must hold a valid driver's license and be insurable on the County's insurance.

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Please call Lee County Deputy Auditor Sherri Yasenchock at 319-372-3705 with any questions or for more information. Application and full position description may be found online at [www.leecounty.org](http://www.leecounty.org) Please submit cover letter, resume, and completed County application to:

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933 Avenue H, PO Box 190  
Fort Madison IA 52627  
Or email to  
[syasenchock@leecounty.org](mailto:syasenchock@leecounty.org)

Applications will be accepted through Monday, March 11, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. Complete background check and post-offer physical required.

Lee County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the County will provide reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities and encourages both prospective and current employees to discuss accommodations with the employer.



**5:30 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Keokuk met in regular session on February 1, 2024, at 501 Main Street. Mayor Kathie Mahoney called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. There were eight council members present, one absent. Carissa Crenshaw, Tyler Walker, Roslyn Garcia, Shelley Oltmans, Devon Dade, Dan Tillman, Roger Bryant, and Michael Greenwald were present. Steve Andrews was absent. Staff in attendance: Interim City Administrator Dave Hinton, City Clerk Celeste El Anfaoui, Public Works Director Brian Carroll,

Community Development Director Pam Broomhall, Water Pollution Control Manager Tom Wills, Police Chief Zeth Baum, and Bridge, Cemetery, Parks, and Sanitation Manager Bob Weis.

**MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE:** Informed of local events.

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

- Minutes of the Regular City Council meeting & Council Workshop of January 18, 2024;
- Minutes of the Council Budget Workshop of January 24, 2024;
- Minutes of the Safety

Committee meeting of January 25, 2024;

- Minutes of the Council Budget Workshop of January 27, 2024;
- RESOLUTION NO. 13-2024: Approving a Liquor License for Keokuk Spirits, 1013 Main Street, Class E Retail Alcohol License – effective March 1, 2024;
- RESOLUTION NO. 14-2024: Approving Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption for: James West, 8 Cherokee Lane, 1115 Johnson Street Road, garage; Randy & Trina Winn, 1322 Franklin, garage;
- Resignation of Ray Long from the Keokuk Municipal Waterworks Board, effective January 31, 2024;
- Motion to pay bills and transfers listed in Register No.'s 5386-5388;

Motion made by Greenwald, second by Bryant to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 15-2024: "A RESOLUTION FIXING DATE FOR A MEETING ON THE AUTHORIZATION OF A LOAN AND DISBURSEMENT AGREEMENT AND THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$3,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION CAPITAL LOAN NOTES OF THE CITY OF KEOKUK, STATE OF IOWA, AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION OF NOTICE THEREOF." (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Garcia, second by Greenwald to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 16-2024: "A RESOLUTION APPROVING A PRELIMINARY PLAT OF SURVEY FOR PROPERTY PARTNERS LLC." (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Garcia, second by Tillman to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 17-2024: "A RESOLUTION ALLOWING THE MAYOR TO ENTER IN AN AGREEMENT WITH INTERSTATE POWER AND LIGHT (AN ALLIANT ENERGY COMPANY). (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Greenwald, second by Garcia to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 15-2024: "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH COMMERCIAL CONTRACTING SERVICES (C.C.S.)

FOR THE CLEANING OF DIGESTER #1 AND DEWATERING OF REMOVED SLUDGE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$532,500.00." (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

**COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS:** Garcia updated on survey for Main Street Keokuk Inc, and meeting for Oakland Cemetery Initiative; Mayor Mahoney reported on behalf of Veterans Memorial Commission; and Oltmans on behalf of SEIRPC informed of IFA Home Repair program application online.

**STAFF REPORTS:** Wills updated on WPC permitting; Broomhall informed of status of code revision; Baum spoke regarding Officer Kindig retiring after beginning employment in 1991; and Hinton reported on conference call with EPA and DNR regarding first flush CSO plan.

Motion made by Walker, second by Dade to adjourn the meeting at 5:48 p.m.

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
MT. PLEASANT  
CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
MOUNT PLEASANT,  
IOWA,  
JANUARY 24, 2024**

The Mount Pleasant City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 307 East Monroe Street, second-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, McWilliams, Batty, White, Crull, Griffith  
Absent:

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

- the minutes of the January 10, 2024, City Council meeting;
- the payment of bills totaling \$207,997.11;
- the report of officers;
- the request from Midwest Old Threshers Board of Directors to close off McMillan Park and Old Threshers grounds to all vehicle traffic starting

Friday, August 23, 2024; the request from Midwest Old Threshers Board of Directors for the use of McMillan Park from August 7 – September 13, 2024;

the request from Midwest Old Threshers to sell alcohol in McMillan Park during Midwest Old Threshers Reunion August 29 – September 2, 2024;

the Outdoor Amplified Sound Permit for Midwest Old Threshers at McMillan Park and Old Threshers grounds from August 28 – September 2, 2024;

the request from Midwest Central Railroad and Midwest Old Threshers to close Locust Street gate on each night of Midwest Haunted Rails and Threshers House of Terror in October 2024;

the Outdoor Amplified Sound Permit for Midwest Central Railroad and Midwest Old Threshers on each night of Midwest Haunted Rails and Threshers House of Terror in October 2024.

Roll call vote 6-0. Motion carried.

The City Council received a letter from Randy Van Brussel regarding solid waste collection.

Councilmember Griffith moved and Councilmember McWilliams seconded that the Council approve the agenda as printed.

Roll call vote 6-0. Motion carried.

Susan Kerr requested that the January 10, 2024, City Council minutes be corrected. The minutes read that Kerr stated the cost-of-living increase for the average social security recipient would be negated due to the collection fees. Kerr's statement should have read that the garbage collection fee would take one-third of their cost-of-living increase.

Councilmember Engberg moved and Councilmember White seconded that the Council read for the third time and adopt the following ordinance:

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 21 "SOLID WASTE" AND CHAPTER 25 "SOLID WASTE CHARGES" OF THE CITY CODE OF MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA, CODE OF ORDINANCE**

Roll call vote 6-0. Motion approved.

It was moved by Councilmember Engberg

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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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:engineer@leecounty.org).





# Classifieds/Public Notices

## PUBLIC NOTICES

and seconded by Councilmember Batty that the Council adopt the following entitled Resolution No. 2024-5:

RESOLUTION APPROVING AMENDED CURBSIDE RESIDENTIAL SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MT. PLEASANT ("CITY") AND WEMIGA WASTE, INC. AND LANCE REFUSE, INC.

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

Councilmember Crull moved and Councilmember Griffith seconded that the Council authorize the Mayor to sign an Engineering Services Agreement with Warner Engineering for Eugene Way-Drainage & Paving – 2024 RISE-funded paving west from S. Roosevelt Street. Motion approved, 6-0.

It was moved by Councilmember Griffith and seconded by Councilmember White that the Council adopt the following entitled Resolution No. 2024-6:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR THE STATE OF IOWA REVITALIZE IOWA'S SOUND ECONOMY (RISE) FUNDS FOR A NEW ROADWAY PROVIDING ACCESS TO FUTURE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

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 Batty that the Council adopt the following entitled Resolution No. 2024-7:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR TAP (TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM) FUNDING FOR CONSTRUCTION OF PCC TRAIL ON NORTH GRAND AVENUE FROM BAKER STREET NORTH TO WINFIELD AVENUE; AND WEST ON WINFIELD AVENUE FROM NORTH GRAND AVENUE TO NORTH BROADWAY AVENUE

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 Griffith that the Council adopt the following entitled Resolution No. 2024-8:

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT'S NUISANCE/ABANDONED PROPERTY REMEDIATION FUND TO DEMOLISH THE FORMER IOWA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY GYMNASIUM

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 authorize the Mayor to sign the Mount Pleasant Area Development Commission (ADA) Subrecipient Agreement to demolish former Iowa Wesleyan University Gymnasium.

Motion approved, 6-0. It was moved by Councilmember Batty and seconded by Councilmember Engberg that the Council read for the first time the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 69 (PARKING REGULATIONS) OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES

Roll call vote 6-0. Motion approved. It was moved by Councilmember Griffith and seconded by Councilmember Engberg that the Council approve the following Mayoral appointments to the Historic Preservation Committee – Deb Savage, Paul Tinder, Jeff Thomas and Lea Bradley reappointed for three-year terms. Motion approved, 6-0.

It was moved by Councilmember Griffith and seconded by Councilmember White that the Council adopt the following entitled Resolution No. 2024-9:

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2023 TAX ABATEMENT APPLICATIONS AND AUTHORIZING THE FILING WITH THE HENRY COUNTY ASSESSOR

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 accept the resignation of Fire Chief Drew Schumacher. Motion approved, 6-0.

It was moved by Councilmember Engberg and seconded by Councilmember Crull that the Council adjourn.

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m. to meet in regular session on Wednesday, February 14, 2024.

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

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## Lee County News/From the Front

# Next Hawks' coach has good pipeline

**HAYES** - Continued from Page 1

certificate in administration and supervision and it's been very hard to give both the attention they deserve."

The Hawks posted a 11-12 mark in the recently completed season and went 6-8 in the SEI Superconference - both Hayes' best marks in his three years.. He has a 16-51 overall mark at the helm and a 7-37 mark in the conference.

"This was his decision. He decided he wanted to take some time. Basketball season is a grind. You're booked all summer," McGraw said.

"He's wanting to spend time with his family and take care of himself. He let me know right after the season was over."

McGraw said the position has been opened up and he hopes to have someone in place before this summer. He said the position is an attractive one.

"Right now we've opened it up and we're seeing what options we have either within the program or outside of it," he said. "We have talent coming up. The junior high team has gone undefeated the last few years.

"We've had some interest in the position."

Hayes said the talent coming up through the program is a reflection of the hard work of people involved in the program and it is "absolutely" an attractive position for the right person.

"That's what's made this decision so difficult. Knowing all the hard work that's gone into it and all the potential that's coming up in this program," he said.

"There have been many sleepless nights as I worked through this decision.

# GTSB says green beer, driving don't mix

DES MOINES, Iowa - The Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau (GTSB) is partnering with law enforcement across Iowa March 13-21 to remind drivers: Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving.

St. Patrick's Day celebrations in the United States extend as far back as the American colonial period. Today, it's one of our nation's most popular holidays, celebrated with festivals, parades, and parties. These celebrations frequently feature themed cocktails and green pints, and the amount of alcohol consumed is higher than average. People are more likely to make poor decisions as a result, including driving while intoxicated.

Because St. Patrick's Day falls on a Sunday, we anticipate alcohol consumption will increase throughout the weekend. We ask everyone to celebrate responsibly. Last March, there were 26 traffic fatalities on Iowa roads. Almost 40% of those occurred the week of St. Patrick's Day (March 11-19, 2023).

GTSB also reminds drivers to watch for pedestrians. An increase in alcohol consumption and pedestrian

traffic can be a dangerous combination. If you're on foot, cross streets in well-lit areas and use the crosswalks.

GTSB Bureau Chief Brett Tjepkes says, "Don't turn a day of fun into a tragic and devastating time by driving while intoxicated. It's vital people plan ahead. If you wait until you've been drinking to make a smart decision, you might not. Designate a sober driver, call a taxi, or use a rideshare service. Our law enforcement partners will be looking for impaired drivers."

If you find yourself drunk and stranded with your vehicle, give the keys to a sober driver who can safely drive you home. Remind your friends to never get in the vehicle with a drunk driver. If you have a friend who is about to drive drunk, take away their keys and help them get home safely.

The Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau works with city, county, state, and local organizations to develop and implement strategies to reduce deaths and injuries on Iowa's roadways using federally funded grants.

# Keokuk woman to speak on climate issues

KEOKUK - In celebration of Women in History Month AAUW Keokuk Branch has invited Miriam Kashia of Iowa City to speak in the Round Room of the Keokuk Public Library at 5 pm on March 21.

Miriam is a longtime member of several environmental groups including 100Grannies for a Livable future, Citizen's Climate Lobby, and statewide organizations fighting concentrated animal feeding operations and carbon sequestering pipelines. In 2014, at the age of 71, she walked every step across America for 8 months, 3100 miles, with the Great March for Climate Action. Miriam has been arrested four times for non-violent direct action (civil disobedience) to stop the KXL and DAPL pipelines. At the age of 62 she served in the Peace Corps in Namibia, Africa helping orphans and vulnerable children in a small rural

community on the edge of the Kalahari Desert in the midst of the AIDS pandemic. She wrote a chapter in the award-winning book We Rise to Resist; A New Era in Women's Political Action which tells her story and what she has learned about activism along the way. She is one of the people featured in the documentary The Race to Save the World about climate activism.

Ms. Kashia was recently named a Climate Hero by The Guardian and currently is actively supporting the Iowa Easement Team, a coalition of landowners who are working hard to prevent three dangerous pipelines across much of Iowa.

AAUW is very excited to welcome Miriam to our community to hear her story. The public is welcome to hear Miriam who believes "you don't lose until you quit" and "everything we do matters."

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Central Lee's Kayla Wenke(kneeling) and Macie Doty(standing) presented information on Care and Management of Bottle Calves during a course work presentation.



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