

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Wednesday, June 12, 2024 | 8 pages | Volume 8 • Issue 103



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Board mulls filling LCHD spot

VACANCY: Supervisors table rehire until Ross comes back with more data on position

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – Replacing a family social worker at the Lee County Health Department rekindled a little animosity that exists between the group and Lee County Supervisors.

LCHD Administrator Michele Ross asked the board to replace a vacant full-time family support specialist for which a salary is already included in the current budget.

While supervisors Matt Pflug and Ron Fedler were supportive of the move, supervisors Tom Schulz, Garry Seyb, and Chuck Holmes were apprehensive about filling the vacant position.

Ross said the Board of Health has recommended the position be filled, but she was questioned by Holmes, Seyb, and Schulz

about the need. Ross said she has seven support specialists on staff and they all have full case loads.

“This would be seven,” Ross said.

Holmes said he has heard that all of the cases the former specialist was working had been reassigned to another staffer.

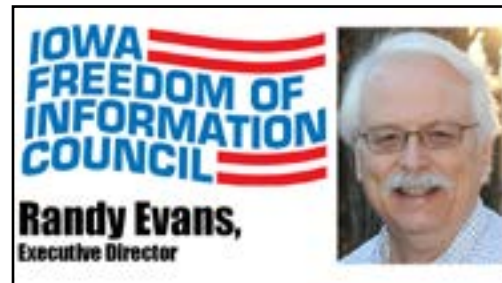
Schulz asked Ross if it was not possible for the others to continue to handle the cases without replacing the seventh specialist.

“We would serve less families,” Ross said. “The other family support workers that took on those cases would not be able to continue to do that so we would be serving less families.”

Schulz asked then if the department had excess capabilities in the past because the other staff were able to absorb the former

See LCHD, page 8

COMMENTARY



Perry folks entitled to answers out of shooting

It has been six months since a 17-year-old Perry High School student walked out of a school bathroom and began shooting toward students who were having breakfast before heading to their classes on the morning of January 4, 2024.

The first details about the tragedy had barely started trickling out when the first questions began. And five months later, most of those questions remain. Where did Dylan Butler get the guns he used that day?

Who owned the guns?

Did his parents know he had access to the weapons?

Were there any signs before that morning Butler might be thinking about violence?

Had he been the target of bullying by other students?

These questions, and many others, have been asked and asked again and again by people in and around Perry. That includes parents, grandparents, teachers, other school employees, and countless residents who all are horrified by what occurred in their community.

The Iowa Freedom of Information Council has received phone calls from journalists who have been wrapped up in the shootings since they learned of the events within minutes of the first 911 calls. I have heard concerns of community members — and from a Perry High School teacher who called my office last week.

He was at the school that awful day. He knew the young people and the adults who were shot. He is hungering for information

See EVANS, page 8



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison Kiwanis announced its annual scholarship winners this week. The club awarded scholarships to from left to right, Nathan Bowen, Lexi Beebe, and Jenna Hellman.

COUNTY NEWS

Supervisors give final OK to loose livestock ordinance

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – An ordinance that will penalize livestock owners for repeated incidents of animals getting loose was warped ahead by county supervisors Tuesday.

At the regular meeting, moved to Tuesday to accommodate for election deadlines, the county approved a second reading of the ordinance and moved to forego a third reading, making the new law part of the county code once it's published in a local paper.

None of the five supervisors said they

had heard anything from anyone on the new ordinance once the first reading was done at last week's meeting.

Lee County Supervisor Chairman Garry Seyb said he did get a comment from a county resident who said they

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WEATHER

WED 12 Jun Hot & sunny, 91° F/ 70° F
THU 13 Jun Hot & sunny with chance of storms later, 91° F/ 63° F
FRI 14 Jun Sunny & warm, 85° F/ 62° F

IOWA LOTTERY

DOUBLE PLAY 06/10 9 15 27 32 65, Powerball: 10
LOTTO AMERICA 06/10 5 11 14 25 26, Star Ball: 9 All Star Bonus: 2
LUCKY FOR LIFE 06/10 7 9 14 23 47, Lucky Ball: 17
PICK 3 MIDDAY 06/10 7 8 1
PICK 3 EVENING 06/10 7 4 5
PICK 4 MIDDAY 06/10 8 8 5 0
PICK 4 EVENING 06/10 3 6 9 4
POWERBALL 06/10 3 10 33 58 59, Powerball: 9 Power Play: 2

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

JUDITH M. CULLEN

Judith M. "Judy" Cullen, 67, of West Point, IA, passed away at 5:15 a.m. on Thursday, June 6, 2024 at Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice House in West Burlington, IA, surrounded by her family. She was born on December 8, 1956 in Fort Madison, IA to Cyril & Lois Coster Meierotto. She married Ronald R. Cullen on September 13, 1980 in Fort Madison, IA. She worked at Lee County Bank and the Sheaffer Pen Company until their closing. She then used her Hawaii vacation fund to help start Cullen Construction & Excavating, where she did the bookkeeping from 1988 until her death. She was an avid runner all her life and also enjoyed mowing, planting flowers, babysitting her grandson, Eli, camping & playing cards with friends, traveling, golfing & helping her children make their houses a home.

Of all her accomplishments, she was most proud of her children and their accomplishments. She loved spending time with them and helping them achieve their goals any way she could. She cherished the time she had with her grandson Eli and was heartbroken that she wasn't able to reach her goal to see her two unborn grandchildren.

Judy is survived by: her husband: Ron Cullen of West Point, IA; 1-daughter: Tarah (Misty) Shaver of Ankeny, IA; 1-son: Travis (Justina) Cullen of Fort Madison, IA; 1-grandson: Eli Cullen of Fort Madison, IA; 3-brothers: Dave (Brenda) Meierotto of West Point, IA, Larry Meierotto of Fort Madison, IA & Mark (Lori) Meierotto of West Point, IA and several nieces & nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, Cyril & Lois Meierotto.

A visitation will be held from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. on Monday, June 10, 2024 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The memorial mass will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at Sacred Heart Church in Fort Madison with Rev. Gary Beckman officiating. Burial will be held at Sacred Heart Cemetery. Following the burial, a luncheon will be held at the Fort Madison Eagles Club. In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established for Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice House. Online condolences to the Cullen family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.



CULLEN

OBITUARIES

LLOYD A. STEFFENSMEIER

Dr. Lloyd A. Steffensmeier, D.C., 91, of Laguna Vista, Texas, passed away Friday, April 26, 2024, at his residence.

Lloyd Anthony Steffensmeier was born on June 14, 1932, the son of Bernard "Ben" and Rose Umthun Steffensmeier. Growing up on the family farm with nine brothers and sisters, he learned to make and fix everything from furniture to machinery. He graduated from St. James School in St. Paul, Iowa in 1950.

Lloyd was working construction when he was drafted into the army on September 16, 1952. After basic training, he went to Korea with the 555th field artillery battalion. Attached to a gun crew,

Lloyd was usually a "handy man" doing maintenance and repair on the guns. In his spare time, he built things with the lumber from the wooden shell boxes. On July 14, 1953, Lloyd and several others in his unit were injured during an attack by North Korean and Chinese soldiers. Lloyd spent five months recovering in Tokyo before returning to his unit. He received a Purple Heart and an honorable discharge with a 50% disability pension from the military.

Growing up, Lloyd received chiropractic care and had an older brother and a brother-in-law who were both chiropractors and this influenced his decision to be a chiropractor. After he was discharged from the army, he enrolled at Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa. As a student at Palmer in the 1950s, Lloyd designed, produced and sold portable adjusting tables. He graduated in 1957 as a Doctor of Chiropractic. In 1960 Lloyd set up a Chiropractic practice in Mount Vernon, Iowa, where he continued making chiropractic tables and soon founded Lloyd Table Company. Lloyd designed tables for his own needs at first, but as he learned new chiropractic techniques and met other chiropractors, he developed tables to fit their needs. By 1972 Lloyd Table Company moved to a larger facility in Lisbon, Iowa. The company continued to expand and develop new tables for various chiropractic techniques. He received many awards; in 2010 he received the Parker Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his countless contributions to the advancement of the chiropractic profession. When asked what he wanted to be remembered for, Lloyd said "just what I have been doing...making the best tables.... helping chiropractic to be spread across the world."

Lloyd married Colette Lecler on June 14, 2015. He retired and they moved to Texas in 2020. Lloyd died at home after a short illness.

Lloyd is survived by his wife: Colette; two step-children: Michelle Lecler and Stive Lecler, Texas; his brother: Paul (Phyllis) Steffensmeier, Fort Madison, Iowa; his sister: Annette Nares, Davenport, Iowa; and 33 nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held at 11:00 a.m. Friday, June 14, 2024, at St. James the Less Catholic Church in St. Paul, Iowa, with Father Dan Dorau officiating.

Burial will be at St. James Cemetery in St. Paul with military honors. Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.



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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/For the Record

OBITUARIES

KENNETH R. BEAIRD

Kenneth "Kenny" Ray Beard, 85, of Keokuk, IA passed away Sunday, June 9, 2024 at his home.

He was born December 4, 1938 in Keokuk, IA the son of Ernest and Eudora Malloy Beard. Kenny graduated from Keokuk High School with the class of 1957. He attended Western Illinois University and the University of Virginia. He later graduated from the National FBI Academy in 1976 in Quantico, VA.



BEAIRD

On June 30, 1957 Kenny was united in marriage to Sally Jennings in Keokuk. She survives. Other survivors include three daughters, Terri Christenson of Independence, MO, Tammi Kircher (Dr. Edward) of Keokuk and Kathryn "Micki" Holterhaus (Scott) of Keokuk, one son, L. Douglas Beard (Mary) of Burlington, IA, eight grandchildren, Molly Christenson, Anna Christenson, Megan Clatt (Adam), Dr. Kali Kircher Ruffcorn (Blake) of Keokuk, Hilary Beard, Dilan Beard (Jaci), Brooke Wagner (Ryan) and Dr. Bailie Bryant Kruse (Bill) and six great-grandchildren, Beau and Emma Wagner, Avery and Collins Clatt, Paytyn Ruffcorn and Hallie Ray Beard. He is also survived by one brother-in-law, Terry Jennings of Unionville, IA and two nephews, one niece and two special friends, Dean Gaylord and Richard Zobel.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two sons-in-law, Scott Bryant and Mike Christenson, his brother, Freddy Beard, his sister and brother-in-law, Barbara and Robert Swanson and one sister-in-law, Betty Jennings.

Kenny had been employed by the City of Keokuk as a police officer from 1963 until his retirement in 1994. Throughout his career, he demonstrated bravery, integrity and compassion which earned him the title of Major.

Kenny was of the Christian faith. He was a member of the Keokuk Lions Club for many years.

He was athletic and competitive and loved a good game of pickleball. He enjoyed spending time outdoors fishing, but most of all he treasured the time he spent with his family. After his retirement, Kenny and Sally enjoyed several years in Texas where many long lasting friendships were made.

A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m., Wednesday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with Reverend Bill Mitchell officiating. Burial will be in the Evangelical Cemetery in Donnellson, IA.

Visitation will be held from 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, at the funeral home with family meeting with friends at that time.

Memorials made to the Keokuk Police Department K-9 Fund.

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

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

06/10/24 - 8:32 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Amy Kaylene Yarrington, 46, of Fort Madison in the 2600 block of Avenue L, on a charge of disorderly conduct. She was held at Lee County Jail.

06/10/24 - 5:44 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Erica Ray Kimble, 42, of Fort Madison in the 1400 block of Avenue H, on a charge of public intoxication and harassment.

06/10/24 - 3:21 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of personal injury accident at 18th and Avenue H.

06/10/24 - 3:22 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of property damage accident in the 1700 block of Avenue H.

06/11/24 - 8:01 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2600 Avenue J.

Keokuk Police Report

06/10/24 - 1:30 p.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 600 block of Grand Avenue.

06/10/24 - 1:59 p.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 500 block of Main Street.

06/10/24 - 5:30 p.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 3300 block of Main Street.

06/10/24 - 7:55 p.m. - Keokuk Police arrested Kelsey Joan Levandowski, 18, of Keokuk, in the 900 block of Fulton Street, on a charge of violation of a no contact order.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

06/10/24 - no activity reported.

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

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Sports

Lady Hounds surrender two to Chiefs Monday night

SWEPT: Fort Madison girls squander several chances to take leads in doubleheader loss to Keokuk

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON - The chances were there in both games. But Fort Madison High School's softball team couldn't capitalize in the doubleheader loss to Keokuk on Monday at the Baxter Sports Complex.

The Bloodhounds couldn't get anything out of a bases-loaded, one-out situation in the seventh inning of the 7-4 loss in the first game. They only got one run out of a bases-loaded, one-out situation in the fifth inning of the 9-7 loss in the second game.

"Like I've said the other day, we just need all nine (hitters) to be hot," Fort Madison coach Jared Rehm said. "I don't know who were the hottest ones today."

The Bloodhounds had all kinds of traffic on the bases, but only had one hit off Keokuk pitcher Ada Wood in the first game. Reilynn Turnbull scored on a throwing error and Lauryn Helmick scored on a wild pitch in the second inning. Two runs came in on an error in the fifth inning.

Yet Fort Madison had the tying runs on in the seventh before Wood finished the game with back-to-back strikeouts.

"We got four runs and didn't have a hit, or one hit," Rehm said. "If we get some hits in some of those situations, it's a different game."

Fort Madison's bats got going in the second game, scoring four first-inning runs off five hits. The Bloodhounds had 13 hits overall, but left eight baserunners.

The crucial inning, though, was the fifth. Brylie Lorence's run-scoring single that tied the game at 6 was sandwiched between walks to Taylor Johnson and Kylie Lumina. But



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Lady Hounds' Brylie Lorence takes a cut at a pitch in the fourth inning Monday evening at Baxter Sports Complex. The Hounds would drop both games of the doubleheader 7-4, 9-7.

Keokuk pitcher Gracie Thompson struck out the next two hitters, then got Helmick on a fly ball to right field to end the inning.

"We just didn't capitalize," Rehm said. "We had the bases loaded and no one out and scored (one). We should expect to get more than one run in that situation."

"We just have to string hits together and put together big innings."

The Chiefs then broke the game open with three runs in the top of the sixth inning. Fort Madison got one run back in the bottom of the inning for the final margin.

Keokuk was able to string together hits off Fort Madison's young pitchers in both games.

Freshman Emma Snaadt gave up seven hits in four innings in the first game. Eighth-grader Jordyn Marshall gave up 13 hits in seven innings in the second game.

"It's definitely a learning curve, growing pains," Rehm said. "Jordyn, I think, is picking up on things. It's just a lot of lessons for them."

Fort Madison fell to 5-8 overall, 3-4 in the Southeast Conference. Keokuk moved to 6-7, 4-4. The two teams play Thursday in a single game in Keokuk.

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Ag News/From the Front

Producers encouraged to file crop acreage reports

DES MOINES – Agricultural producers in Iowa should make an appointment with their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office to complete crop acreage reports before the applicable deadline after planting is complete.

“Many USDA programs require producers to file an accurate crop acreage report by the applicable deadline in order to receive program benefits,” said Matt Russell, State Executive Director in Iowa. “Once planting is complete, call your local FSA office to make an appointment to report your acreage. We also encourage you to take care of any other FSA-related business during your appointment.”

An acreage report documents a crop grown on a farm or ranch, its intended use and location. Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planted acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits.

How to File a Report

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable in Iowa:

July 15, 2024

All crops including perennial forages

December 16, 2024

Fall-seeded small grains

To file a crop acreage report, producers need to provide:

- Crop and crop type or variety
- Intended crop use
- Number of crop acres
- Map with approximate crop boundaries
- Planting date(s)

- Planting pattern, when applicable
- Producer shares
- Irrigation practice(s)
- Acreage prevented from planting, when applicable
- Other required information

Acreage Reporting Details

The following exceptions apply to acreage reporting dates:

If the crop has not been planted by the acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.

If a producer acquires additional acreage after the acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP-covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or crop harvesting begins.

Prevented Planted Acreage

Producers should also report crop acreage they intended to plant but were unable to because of a natural disaster, including drought. Prevented planted acreage must be reported on form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA).

FSA recently updated policy that apprais varieties.

Repeated violations of code could result in fines

CODE - Continued from Page 1

were happy to see the board worked collaboratively with other groups, including the Lee County Cattleman's Association, to craft the new language.

The ordinance has been in the works for several years at the request of the Lee County Sheriff's Office to help reduce the number of incidents of livestock being on county roads, where several accidents have occurred.

Supervisor Matt Pflug motioned to approve the second reading and waive the third reading.

The motion approved 5-0.

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber thanked the board for approving the measure.

The new law goes into Chapter 10B of the county code, but will require at least one more reading approval before being published as part of the code.

Iowa code requires all new ordinances be read into the record at least three times. However, the third time can be waived after the second reading if elected officials vote to do so.

Under the ordinance language “loose” is defined at “not confined, unrestricted, escaped from confinement, uncontrolled, set free, and/or released.”

The new ordinance requires livestock owners to keep livestock confined at all times and from being on the property of other people without permission. Landowners are also responsible for maintaining tight fences per Iowa Code.

Violations of the ordinance are considered a simple misdemeanor. A citation can only be issued after three warnings in a calendar year. The first offense is a \$500 fine, followed by a \$750 fine for a second violation, and then a \$1,000 fine for any subsequent violations. Each day the livestock are considered to be at large constitutes separate offenses under that new code.

The sheriff also has authority under the code to seize or destroy livestock to protect the public from harm after three written warnings are issued and received. All costs of those actions are to be paid by the owner of the animals.

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SONNY'S *Super Market* Lunch Specials June 10-14 11am - 1pm

Monday, June 10
Pulled Pork, Baked Beans, Potato Salad

Tuesday, June 11
Meatballs, Cheese Potatoes

Wednesday, June 12
Minit Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Corn

Thursday, June 13
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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING NOTICE
The Mount Pleasant City Council will meet in Regular Session on Wednesday June 12, 2024, at City Hall,

HELP WANTED

BECOME THE BRAVEST Fort Madison Fire Department is Hiring Firefighters

The Civil Service Commission of the City of Fort Madison, Iowa will be conducting examinations for the position of Firefighter on 09.28.2024

Applicants must be between 18 and 64 years of age, be able to read and write in the English language, and must possess a valid high school diploma or GED.

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- Tuition Assistance

Application packets are available by contacting the Fort Madison City Clerk at Fort Madison City Hall, 811 Avenue E, or cityclerk@fortmadison-ia.com, or (319) 372-7700, ext. 206.

Application packets must be returned to the City Clerk's Office, P.O. Box 240, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627 or emailed to cityclerk@fortmadison-ia.com no later than 4:30 p.m. on 06.14.2024.



307 E. Monroe Street, second-floor meeting room at 5:30 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Roll Call.
2. Consent Agenda: To the Public -All items with an asterisk(*) are routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion and a roll call of the Councilmembers. There will be no separate discussion of items unless the Mayor, a Councilmember or citizen so request, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered in

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its normal sequence on the Agenda.

3. Receive & file communications.
4. Approve agenda.
- * 5. Approve minutes of previous meetings.
- *6. Approve payment of bills.
- *7. Receive report of Officers including Resolution No. 2024-62 approving May transfers.
8. Old Business-
 - a) 3rd reading/adopt ordinance amendment for Flexible Business Space.
 - b) 2nd reading/ adopt ordinance relating to the regulation of commercial vendors and city streets during RAGBRAI waiving 3rd reading.
 - c) Resolution approving award of construction contract for Eugene Way Street Project.
 - *d) Renewal applications for 2024 retail cigarette permits.
 - *e) Renewal of a Class B Retail Alcohol License for Midwest Old Threshers Camper Store at 405 E Threshers Road.
 - *f) Renewal of a Class E Retail Alcohol License for Casey's General Store #1612 at 400 W Washington Street.
 - *g) Renewal of a Special Class C Retail Alcohol License with outdoor service for Henry County Fair at 405 E Threshers Road.
 - *h) Outdoor Amplified Sound Permit RAGBRAI event in Central Park July 26 from 12 p.m. to 11 p.m.
9. New Business
 - a) Accept resignation of Harry Hayward, Parks Supervisor.
 - b) Accept resignation of Drew Schumacher, Mount Pleasant Volunteer Firefighter.
 - c) Resolution approving the hiring of Gary Shahan for the position of Building and Zoning Administrator.
 - d) Approve the renewal of the contract with Johnson Controls to service the Library/Civic Center HV AC system.
 - e) Resolution authoriz-

ing the filing of an application for the Iowa Department of Transportation State Recreational Trails Program for construction of Mount Pleasant Trail System.

10. Public Forum.
11. Adjourn to meet in regular session on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING MINUTES West Burlington Special City Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday, April 24, 2024

The West Burlington City Council met in Special Session on Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at West Burlington City Hall, 122 Broadway Street, West Burlington, Iowa, with Mayor Ron Teater presiding.

MEMBERS PRESENT:
 Andy Crowner, John Johnson, Melanie Young, Therese Lees, and Ringo Covert

MEMBERS ABSENT:
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 Young, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by the following votes:

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

CONSENT AGENDA
 • Minutes from Regular City Council meeting on April 17, 2024

• Quote from Dave Bessine Electric to install traffic cameras at Hwy 34 and Gear Ave. - \$38,729.99

• Approve Liquor License for JB's LLC, 1201 Derek Lincoln Drive
 Moved by Lees, seconded by Young, to

approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. Motion carried by the following votes:

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

PUBLIC HEARING
 Public Hearing on the proposed City Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Mayor Teater opened the floor for comments regarding the proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. City Administrator Mandsager explained to Council that the Public Hearing Notice was published with the maximum levy rate of \$10.25. During the budget process Council discussed setting the levy at \$10.10, which was City Administrator Mandsager's recommendation. No written or public comments were received. Mayor Teater closed the Public Hearing at 6:03 p.m.

Public Hearing on the question of the City's intentions to repeal Ordinance 541 and adopt a new Ordinance granting Interstate Power and Light Company a non-exclusive twenty-five-year franchise to acquire, construct, erect, maintain, and operate an Electric Energy system in the City of West Burlington, Iowa and to furnish and sell electric energy to the City and its inhabitants, and require said company to pay a 3% Utility Franchise fee to the City of West Burlington, Iowa

Mayor Teater opened the floor for comments regarding the question of granting Interstate Power and Light Company a twenty-five-year Franchise and implementing a 3% Electric Franchise Fee. No written or public comments were received. Mayor Teater closed the Public Hearing at 6:05 p.m.

Public Hearing on the question of the City's intentions to repeal Ordinance 542 and

adopt a new Ordinance granting Interstate Power and Light Company a non-exclusive twenty-five-year franchise to erect, construct, reconstruct, maintain, and operate plant and systems for the distribution of natural gas in the City of West Burlington, and require Interstate Power and Light Company to pay a 3% Utility Franchise Fee to the City of West Burlington, Iowa.

Mayor Teater opened the floor for comments regarding granting Interstate Power and Light Company a twenty-five-year franchise and implementing a 3% Natural Gas Franchise Fee.

Dan Hockett, 417 Ruthella Dr., West Burlington, addressed the Council with comments regarding the Franchise Fee. Hockett was opposed to implementing a Franchise Fee and felt it would double or triple tax residents. He asked the Council to look at other options to fund capital projects rather than implementing a Franchise Fee. Hockett said he understands there is a need for the project to be done, but he suggested tightening the belt on the overall budget.

Johnson asked City Administrator Mandsager to explain what the levy rate would have to be increased to in order to collect the same amount of money a 3% Franchise fee would generate. City Administrator Mandsager explained that the levy rate would have to increase significantly (Over \$1.57) to even come close to what the City could collect with the franchise fee. The City Administrator explained that the Council discussed several funding options for capital improvement projects, including General Obligation Bonds, State Revolving Loans, Utility Rate increases, and an increase in the levy rate.

Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

The Force Main project is a \$6.5 Million project. Implementing a franchise fee is one of the options available to cities to raise funds for capital projects.

Rick Raleigh, 506 Vernon, West Burlington, asked for clarification on the proposed Franchise Fee percentage. The City Administrator clarified that the proposed fee would be 3% of the total bill. Raleigh implied that the City should work harder to build the tax base by bringing businesses to town and should not be adding apartments.

Hans Trousil, 215 Broadway, West Burlington, approached the Council regarding the use of a Franchise Fee. He felt it was important to point out how Local Option Sales Tax was collected and distributed to West Burlington. West Burlington generates approximately 27% of the LOST in the County; however, when it is disbursed from the State, West Burlington receives approximately 7% back. If the Franchise Fee were adopted, West Burlington would be able to retain the entire 3% on Gas and Electric bills. With that being said, Trousil agrees that implementing a Franchise Fee is the best way to generate revenue

for Capital Projects, even if the 1% LOST revenue that is generated from Gas and Electric is eliminated.

No other Public Comments were received. Mayor Teater closed the Public Hearing at 6:37 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS
Consider a Resolution approving the proposed City Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

City Administrator Mandsager explained to the Council that the Public Hearing Notice was published with the maximum levy rate of \$10.25. During the budget process, the Council discussed setting the levy at \$10.10. If the Council would like to adopt a levy rate lower than \$10.25, the rate should be changed in the proposed Resolution. Crowner stated that he was not in favor of raising the levy rate and felt it should remain at \$10.00. Johnson asked Crowner to elaborate on what items in the budget he felt could be eliminated in order to keep the levy rate the same. Crowner indicated that the current budget was tight, but felt Council could have discussed eliminating services such as the library contribution or the swimming pool in

order to keep the levy rate at \$10.00. He was also opposed to the Franchise Fee because there was no guarantee that the revenue collected would be used toward projects he supported. City Administrator explained that while water and sewer rates should be set to cover water and sewer expenses respectfully, implementing a Franchise Fee is a tool that is available to cities to collect revenue for capital projects such as this. Utilizing the Franchise Fee option would allow sewer rates to stay as low as possible rather than trying to increase sewer rates to cover the capital project's cost. Using the franchise fee for a water or sewer project is an acceptable use of the franchise fee revenue.

Moved by Lees, seconded by Young, to approve a Resolution adopting the City Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 with a levy rate of \$10.10. Motion carried by the following votes:

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

Consider the first reading of an Ordinance repealing Ordinance 541 and granting Interstate Power and Light Company a non-exclusive twenty-five-year franchise

to supply Electric Energy to West Burlington and require Interstate Power and Light Company to pay a franchise fee to the City.

Council discussed the proposed Ordinance and reviewed a letter provided by Interstate Power and Light Company (Alliant) regarding clarification of the Ordinance related to who's responsibility it is to pay for the relocation of infrastructure. Section 4 of the Ordinance states that if the City requires Alliant to relocate lines in the public right-of-way that have already been relocated at the direction of the City during the previous ten years, the reasonable costs of such relocation will be paid by the City. Alliant provided a letter that stated there have only been two projects that required Alliant to relocate their lines. One project on Kimberly and a second project at Agency & Broadway. Alliant's purpose for including this language in their franchise agreements is to encourage cities to do their due diligence in planning construction so it isn't necessary to move utilities. City Administrator Mandsager said there has been no indication that there would be a need to relocate utilities

in these two areas. City Administrator will include the letter from Alliant with the Ordinance for future reference.

Moved by Lees, seconded by Young, approve the first reading of an Ordinance repealing Ordinance 541 and granting Interstate Power and Light Company a non-exclusive twenty-five year franchise to supply Electric Energy to West Burlington and require Interstate Power and Light Company to pay a franchise fee to the City. Motion carried by the following votes:

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

Consider the first reading of an Ordinance repealing Ordinance 542 and granting Interstate Power and Light Company a non-exclusive twenty-five year franchise to supply Natural Gas to West Burlington and require Interstate Power and Light Company to pay a franchise fee to the City.

Moved by Covert, seconded by Young, to approve the second reading of an Ordinance repealing Ordinance 542 and granting Interstate Power and Light Company a non-exclusive twenty-five-year franchise

to supply Natural Gas to West Burlington and require Interstate Power and Light Company to pay a franchise fee to the City. Motion carried by the following votes:

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

Consider a Resolution approving salary for non-union personnel for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Council considered a Resolution setting wages for non-union personnel for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. The proposed Resolution reflects a 4% increase in wages as budgeted.

Moved by Crowner, seconded by Johnson, Council considered a Resolution setting wages for non-union personnel for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 as presented. Motion carried by the following votes:

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

CITIZEN INQUIRIES
ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

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

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From the Front

Ross upset with board decision

LCHD - Continued from Page 1

employee's workload. He asked Ross if she had any data to support the contention that the additional employee is necessary.

Ross said she didn't have the data on the number of openings in the current staff, but she said not filling the position could also jeopardize potential supplemental funding.

"We use state Hope Grant (Healthy Opportunities for Parents to Experience

Success) funding and ECI (Early Childhood Iowa) funding to support this position," she said.

Holmes said he was having a hard time seeing how they would serve less families when they have absorbed them already.

"Because the openings they had are no longer available, so now we'll serve less families. Those other workers had time in their caseloads when they absorbed the other work. Now those vacancies are filled so we won't be able to serve other families," she said.

Ross said the case load is based on what level of service the families need. She said when someone has an opening, they move from level one to level two which is less time consuming. Level three service is a monthly visit.

Pflug asked why the discussion was continuing because the position received grant funding and

was already in an approved budget for the year.

"Why are we doing this? It's in her budget..." Pflug said.

Schulz said the county has to start looking at positions to save.

"Because at some point we have to find \$1.5 million to remove from our budget," Schulz said.

Seyb said the explanation caused him to move a little in his position but he was surprised that there were six full time specialists on staff.

Ross told the board she was "shocked" that she was having to explain why she needed to justify the replacement. She said the position is funded 75% with Hope grant funding, which is money from the Federal Transit Administration and 25% with ECI funding.

At that point, Pflug called for the vote and Schulz called for a roll call vote which requires each supervisor to vote individually rather than aye and nay. Schulz and Seyb both abstained because they said they didn't have enough information to make an informed vote. Holmes voted no, and Fedler voted yes.

Pflug, seeing there weren't votes to carry his motion to approve filling the position, and at the urging of Schulz, amended his motion to a motion to table until a follow-up meeting, where Ross could present more data.

That motion carried 5-0.

"We'll look at this again next week," Seyb said. "Let's just look at our data and where we're at there. This goes back to our budgetary issues were facing and going forward I want to make sure we're making the best decision long-term."

Ross asked if the board had made the same request for data from other department heads filling vacancies.

"The board can do that on any of those. This is the first time I can remember doing that, but I see it being more commonplace going forward just because of the position we're in," Seyb said.

Schulz said he didn't want the request to die at the meeting because he wanted to give the department a chance to explain the position and need better.

Seyb said this is something that's important for all department heads to pay attention to.

"We need to make sure we are crossing our 'T's and dotting our 'I's."

The department came under fire in 2023 for operating the Lee County Hospice program in the red and supervisors started digging into the LCHD budget.

Ross said the staff streamlined their budget for the upcoming year.

"We worked very hard on our program revenues and expenses in this fiscal year we are turning it around. And we decreased our budget for 2025. We worked hard on that, so it's kind of shocking that I can't do a replacement hire. But I will bring the data," she said.

Information will help planning

EVANS - Continued from Page 1

about the findings gathered by detectives from five months of interviews, analysis of social media postings and mobile phone data. And he is exasperated by the refusal of state and local law enforcement officials to share the facts they have gathered and the conclusions they have reached.

Most of all, he wants to know what the investigation has found to ensure everyone learns from this tragedy.

This was the worst mass killings at an Iowa school since 1991. A sixth-grade student and Perry High School Principal Dan Marburger were fatally wounded by Dylan Butler. Four other students and two other school employees were wounded in the barrage of bullets.

Butler had taken his own life by the time law officers located him inside the school. Before that January morning, Iowa's worst school shooting occurred in 1991 when Gang Lu, an angry University of Iowa physics student, killed three physics department faculty members, a physics graduate student, an associate vice president of the university and a student working outside the official's office.

School shootings were much less common in the United States in 1991, and scores of questions were asked of university officials and law enforcement investigators by the public and journalists from around the globe.

It should not be surprising, therefore, that parents, teachers, and lots of other Iowans want to know what investigators have learned since January 4 about the events leading to the Perry High School shootings. People want to know what takeaways school administrators and law enforcements officials have gleaned from the investigation, knowledge that might help reduce the likelihood of future tragedies.

Understandably, parents and grandparents, aunts, uncles and neighbors, want to know the details that will help them analyze the events that unfolded at a place occupying such a central role in the community.

Without officials sharing their findings with the public, it is difficult, if not impossible, for people to judge how effectively prepared law enforcement and school officials are to protect students during this era of nearly unfettered access to firearms. Without access to authoritative, accurate information from investigators, people do not know whether the rumors that naturally surface after a tragedy of this magnitude deserve credibility.

Without accurate, authoritative information, people do not know whether officials missed signals that Dylan Butler was a danger to himself or his school. People do not know whether he needed closer attention from school officials and law enforcement than he received. And the public also does not know whether reports are accurate that Butler had been the victim of bullying by fellow students.

All of this is important not for purposes of pointing fingers. It is important so communities know when and how they might be able to prevent similar tragedies in their schools.

The Perry High School teacher who called me last week was looking for guidance after the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation turned down his request for information from its five-month-long investigation. His questions were greeted with a, "Sorry, I can't tell you that" response. The DCI official told him sharing the findings could inform future potential shooters how they might circumvent safety protocols in place to protect students and school employees.

Often, details about what a criminal investigation found are kept from the public to protect the accused shooter's right to a fair trial. It is at trial that many questions about a crime get answered publicly for the first time.

But because Butler took his own life, there will be no criminal charges and no trial. There will be no opportunity for the public to get answers to their questions in that forum.

DCI officials have declined to provide updates on their investigation. The Perry teacher said the DCI official was noncommittal on whether even a summary of the agency's investigation will be shared with the public.

No one wants to jeopardize the future safety of students and school employees. No one wants to provide a blueprint for a future school shooting to someone who might be contemplating such horrific action.

But there must be some middle ground between releasing every detail from an investigation and releasing no information. That is not how government should treat the public and worried parents and relatives of Iowa school kids.

Randy Evans can be reached at DMRevs2810@gmail.com.

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