

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Thursday, July 18, 2024 | 9 pages | Volume 8 • Issue 121



www.pencitycurrent.com

Bridge closure will impact city



Pen City Current file photo

Burlington Northern Santa Fe officials notified the city of Fort Madison today that they will be leaving the bridge open for an additional week in September to accommodate the Tri State Rodeo and the Mexican Fiesta. But the bridge will be closed for close to three months, forcing traffic to Burlington and Keokuk. City Manager Laura Liegois said that will hit the city economically.

PENDING CLOSURE: City Manager says staff has discussed traffic, other impacts

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The length of the upcoming extended closure of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe bridge over the Mississippi River in Fort Madison is still becoming clear.

An announcement sent out on July 8 indicated that maintenance on the bridge will result in a lengthy closure for the bridge through November.

The bridge was set to be closed to auto traffic in August

from the 5th through the 30th and then reopen for the Tri State Rodeo, only to close again on Sept. 9 through Nov. 22, 2024.

However, sources close to the Mexican Fiesta, which is set for Fort Madison's historic Mexican Village from Sept. 12-14th have hinted that rail officials have agreed to keep the bridge open for auto traffic during the Fiesta.

Angela Salazar, who represents the fiesta in dealings with

See BRIDGE page 8

FMHA head says authority making strides

HOUSING AUTHORITY: Dear says work is not just hard work, but "heart" work

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison Housing Authority Director Michael Dear told city officials Tuesday night that the housing authority is experiencing a resurgence.

Dear gave the presentation as part of the regular Fort Madison City Council meeting.

He said he's going on two years with the authority and there are resets taking place all over the housing authority's properties.

Dear said FMHA has about 10 vacancies and he called that unfortunate and fortunate at the same time.

"They are not fully occupied. I'm gonna say that's unfortunate and fortunate at the same time," Dear said. "We are taking advantage of the vacancies to go further than just deep cleaning and trying to create something sustainable for the future. The next families that come will really experience a reset."

City Manager Laura Liegois said she has toured the facility apartments and there are some complete resets with new cabinetry, carpet, and appliances among other upgrades being brought into the facilities.

Dear said he's also working on bringing additional services to Hillview for senior residents there including dental services, mental health services, and other needed services to address more than just providing housing.

"My job is to help people who need help. It's one thing to give them keys, but they also need keys to life," Dear said. "I've been reaching out to community partners and did some outreach at Salvation Army to let people know what's

See FMHA page 8



DEAR

STATE NEWS

Iowa Utilities Board now the Iowa Utility Commission

DES MOINES – After 38 years as the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB), the state agency is welcoming a name change today and is now the Iowa Utilities Commission (IUC). In conjunction with the agency name change, Board members will now be known as Commissioners.

Additional changes to legal, physical, digital, and agency branding will be phased in over the next few months. The IUC website — now iuc.iowa.gov — also

has been updated. Staff and business email addresses are in the process of being updated.

The name change is the result of legislation in Senate File 2385 and follows state government reorganization in 2023 that removed the IUB from under the umbrella of the Department of Commerce. The law does not impact the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA), a division of the Iowa Department of

Justice.

Visitors also will notice new signage outside and inside our building. While not all updates will occur today, the agency will continue to roll out physical and digital name changes including updates to the agency's electronic filing system.

With the launch of the revised IUC website and new web address, users who have bookmarked previous pages may need to update frequently accessed pages.

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WEATHER

THU 18 Jul Sunny & cooler, 77° F/ 58° F ●
FRI 19 Jul Sunny & cooler, 78° F/ 59° F ●
SAT 20 Jul Mostly sunny, 80° F/ 62° F ☀

IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 07/16.....	21 26 31 34 40, Lucky Ball: 15
MEGA MILLIONS 07/16.....	5 35 42 58 66, Mega Ball: 22 Megaplier: 2
PICK 3 MIDDAY 07/16.....	7 8 2
PICK 3 EVENING 07/16.....	0 4 2
PICK 4 MIDDAY 07/16.....	3 2 6 9
PICK 4 EVENING 07/16.....	6 2 2 5

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

SARAH WRIGHT

Sarah Wright, 71 of Keokuk passed away Tuesday, July 16, 2024 at her home surrounded by her family.

She was born February 8, 1953 in Carthage, IL the daughter of Charles and Gracia Erickson Wright.



WRIGHT

She graduated from Keokuk High School with the class of 1971 and later from Southeastern Community College in 1999 with honors with a Registered Nursing degree.

On December 18, 1970 she was united in marriage to Charles Hatfield in Warsaw, IL. They later divorced in 1979. To this union two children were born.

Sarah was a jack of all trades including working as a haul truck driver at the AMAX Bel Ayr mine in Gillette, WY. However, the job she enjoyed the most was working as a nurse for her patients as if they were her family.

Sarah was proud of her family history and became a member of the Mayflower Society and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

She is survived by her daughter, Bryn Asbury (John) and her son, Jason Wright (Nicole) all of Keokuk; five grandchildren, Rhiannon Schilling of Cedar Rapids, Jae Lambert (Michael) of Keokuk, Logan Frazier (Courtney) of New Madrid, MO, Jaylynn Wright and Austin Wright both of Keokuk and five great grandchildren, Grayson and Ellie Lambert, Paisley, Ava and Emery Frazier. She is also survived by two brothers, Charles Wright (Judith) of Sandy, UT and Carson Wright (Sandra Schreck) of Petoskey, MI and one sister LeNell Smith (Raymond) of Gillette, WY along with nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Charles and Gracia (Erickson) Wright.

A gathering of remembrance will be held Sunday July 21, 2024 at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with the

Memorials may be made to Alzheimer's Association.

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

MICHAEL D. SNOOK

Michael Dale Snook, 69 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died at 3:23 pm Tuesday, July 16, 2024 at the Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice House, West Burlington, Iowa. He was born September 10, 1954 in Iowa, the son of Robert and Martha Snook. On August 12, 1978, he married Kristine Strohbein.

He grew up in Davenport, Iowa. Michael served in the U.S. Navy, during the Vietnam War. After his time in the service, he married and raised his family in Bloomfield, Iowa. He and Kristine, moved to the Lee County area 14 years ago. He did auto body repair. He loved fishing, reading, his vegetable garden and raising rabbits.

He is survived by two sons: Michael Joseph (Amber) Snook of Fort Madison, Iowa; David (Kate) Snook of Donnellson, Iowa; two sisters: Sharon (Danny) Antle and Sheila Butler; six grandchildren: Loren, Gavin, Athena, Edward, Abigail and Ethan, nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents, wife and one brother, John Snook.

Per his wishes, his body has been cremated. A private family celebration will be held at a later date. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Snook family and an online guest book may be found at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.



OBITUARIES

ELIZABETH ENGEMAN

Elizabeth (Betty) Engeman of Springfield, Massachusetts and formerly of Ft. Madison, passed away at the age of 99 years old on Wednesday, July 10, 2024 at 8:00 am.

Betty lived in Fort Madison, Iowa most of her life and moved to Springfield, Massachusetts in 1985. On November 28, 1942 Betty married Maurice Engeman and he passed away on November 30, 1975. She was also predeceased in death by two sons, John and Jim Engeman and a son-in-law Robert O'Keefe as well as her brother John (Jack) Norton.



ENGEMAN

Betty's selflessness and kindness towards others shined bright. Just as her passion for music lasted throughout her life. She was a special lady to everyone who knew her. Betty with her husband opened Engeman True Value Hardware Store at 1301 Avenue G in Fort Madison from 1954 until her husband's death in 1975.

Betty is survived by her daughter Barbara Sullivan and her husband Michael of Springfield, MA, Patricia Engeman also of Springfield, MA, Robert Engeman of Kalona, Iowa and Rebecca (Reba) O'Keefe of Sioux Falls South, Dakota. Also two daughters-in-law, Babara Charles Engeman of Niota Illinois and Debbie Engeman of Washington, Iowa. Betty was blessed with four grandchildren, Michele Reinhardt, Nicole Rings, Jeremy Engeman and Jamie Engeman Evans; 5 great grandchildren and 1 great grandchild and two nieces, Stevi Norton Hogenson and Trudi Norton Blickhan,

A memorial mass will be held on Thursday, July 24, 2024 at 10:30 AM at Sacred Heart Church with Rev. Dan Dorau officiating. Burial will follow at Soldiers' Circle, Oakland Cemetery both of Fort Madison, Iowa.

Online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

DANIEL R. JAMES

Daniel R. "Danny" James, 46 of Ft. Madison passed away on Wednesday, July 17, 2024 at the Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in Ft. Madison.

He was born on February 13, 1978 in Ft. Madison to Carlin and Patricia Davis James. Danny enjoyed playing slow pitch softball, being outside, giving tattoos and being with his dog, Ace.



JAMES

Survivors include four children, Jaydiane Engeman of Ft. Madison, Heaven James of Farmington, Daniel James of Camp LeJeune, NC, and Meghan James of Kirksville, MO; also Misti Carroll of Keokuk and Victoria Fordham of Hamilton, IL whom he helped raise and considered his own; his father, Carlin James, Sr. of Kirksville, MO; his mother, Patricia James of Carbondale, IL; several grandchildren; siblings, Troy James of Ft. Madison, Tiffany James of San Diego, CA, Carlin James, Jr. of Ft. Madison, Shawna Hinton of Salina, KS and Jessica James of Kirksville, MO; several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his grandparents.

Per his wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A celebration of life will be held on Sunday, July 28, 2024 beginning at 11 AM at Tena's Tap II.

A memorial has been established for his children and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.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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Iowa News/For the Record

Christmas in July on tap for Van Buren County this weekend

VAN BUREN COUNTY - HO, HO, HO with Christmas in July, in four of the Scenic Villages of Van Buren County! On July 19 & 20 there will be a fun filled two-day shop hop along this scenic and historical area of Southeast Iowa. Van Buren County is one of the oldest settled counties in the state of Iowa. All four villages were a historic river town along the Des Moines River dating back to the 1830s. The Villages of Keosauqua, Bentonsport, Bonaparte, and Farmington will be participating in this two-day Hot Cocoa Run. Historic buildings, museums, specialty boutiques, artisan studio/galleries, and craftsman shops will be featured.

To start, pick up a North Pole Passport at most of the locations featured on the map for your journey to begin through the 20 + shops and museums that are involved in the Hot Cocoa Run for both days! Prize drawings value this year at \$200 for the Hot Cocoa Run! In-store sales, some shops doing in-store drawings, author book signings, porch musician, and of course sweet treats along your trip through these four scenic villages. Leave your completed North Pole Passport at the last shop you stopped at for the prize drawings that will be announced on Historic Greef General Store Facebook page the following Saturday. This year

a minimum of 12 shops are required. If 20 are completed, you will be put into a special drawing for a Mrs. Claus Mystery Gift! Need not be present to win. One entry per person.

If the Hot Cocoa Run wasn't enough fun...stop this year along Scenic Bentonsport Historic District's Riverfront Park for its 40+ Vendor Faire!! July 20th 10 to 4, but a few will be set up on July 19th. There will be a *Rudolph Run Scavenger Hunt* with the 40+ vendors on July 20th. Each vendor will have your scavenger sheets for you to participate in for a \$100 value prize drawing at 4pm. The required minimum is 20 vendor stops. If you stop at all the vendors a special drawing will take place for a Santa Mystery Gift. Drawing 4:15. Drop Off for Rudolph Run Scavenger Hunt sheets is at the Greef General Store. Need not be present to win. One entry per person. For vendor information contact 319-592-3579 or 641-233-7793.

Plan your day trip or make it a two-day family or ladies trip to enjoy this part of the Historic Hills Scenic Byway, Historic Buildings and Museums, Lakes, Looking for Orbs on the Public Hiking Trails, or just Relax at any of the B & Bs and Cabins in Villages of Van Buren County, Southeast Iowa's Scenic Gem!

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

07/16/24 - 12:50 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit-and-run in the 1900 block of Avenue D.

07/16/24 - 9:15 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Heaven Marie Kensett-Victory, 23, of Fort Madison on Sunnyside Drive on a charge of disorderly conduct.

07/16/24 - 9:15 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Angela Kay Gregory, 48, of Fort Madison, on Sunnyside Drive on a charge of disorderly conduct.

07/17/24 - 4:42 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 800 block of Avenue G.

07/17/24 - 5:03 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1700 block of Avenue H.

Keokuk Police Report

07/16/24 - 10:33 p.m. -

Keokuk Police cited Miranda Elizabeth Meyers, 28, of Fort Madison, in the 600 block of Mississippi Drive, on a charge of driving while barred.

07/17/24 - 4:26 a.m. - Keokuk Police arrested a 14-year-old male juvenile in the 1600 block of Timea Street on a charge of operating a vehicle without owner's consent. He was referred to juvenile court.

07/17/24 - 6:39 a.m. - Keokuk Police arrested a 15-year-old male juvenile in the 1600 block of Timea Street on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. He was released to a parent.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

07/16/24 - 12:35 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Gerald Lee Litty, 53, of Keokuk in the 2900 block of Plank Road, on a

charge of violation of sex offender registration. He was held in Lee County Jail.

07/16/24 - 8:15 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Niccolo Luis Michael Moylan, 22, of Burlington, at the sheriff's office on warrants for assault displaying a dangerous weapon and trespassing. He was held in Lee County Jail.

07/17/24 - 2:30 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident on U.S. 61 southbound at about mile marker 28. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Juliene Kay Spiker, 58, of Montrose entered the median after Spiker said she must have fallen asleep. Deputies were notified about four hours after the accident. No citations or injuries were reported.

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

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Health News/Illinois News



Ozark Jubilee comes to Legacy Theater in Carthage

CARTHAGE - The Ozark Jubilee has chosen The Legacy Theater in Carthage to present a Branson Country Christmas.

This holiday and patriotic show featuring the comic characters of the Ozark Jubilee will be 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 2. This is a third-party hosted rental event held at The Legacy Theater.

Coming directly from Branson, Mo., the Ozark Jubilee brings a cast of top entertainers for an all-new Christmas show. This year, the Ozark Jubilee pays tribute to veterans.

The entire second half of the show features a variety of Christmas music from traditional standards such as "Silent Night," "White Christmas," to some more contemporary Christmas selections.

The Ozark Jubilee features Branson's funniest comedian and world-class fiddler, Doofus Doolittle, with his new lineup of jokes and routines plus his captivating fiddle music.

Having performed with several artists, Doofus shares stories from some of those legends and salutes the great comedians of yesteryear such as Archie Campbell, Stringbean, Minnie Pearl, and other favorites.

Branson Country Christmas the spirit of Christmas with music, comedy, and a message for an uplifting afternoon of entertainment.

Tickets for Branson Country Christmas, with a special tribute to veterans, are \$45 each and are available through the Legacy Theater box office. Group purchases of 20 or more tickets are available for \$40 each. Online convenience fees will apply.

Tickets can be purchased from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday and 2 hours prior to events at The Legacy Theater Box Office, 1160 Buchanan Street, Carthage, Illinois; by calling 217-357-9479; or by visiting www.thelegacytheater.com.

The Legacy Theater is available to rent by groups and businesses to hold programs, meetings, recitals and other special events. Contact Tom Robbins, theater manager, at director@thelegacytheater.com.

SEIRMC brings bariatric surgery to the region

WEST BURLINGTON - Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center (SEIRMC) adds Bariatric Surgery to its lineup of healthcare services.

The expertise of Jayaraj Salimath, DO, FACOS, FASMBS, leads this initiative. Dr. Salimath, a board-certified General Surgeon specializing in Bariatric Surgery, has been practicing for 17 years.

"It's exciting to offer a new, life-changing service," Dr. Salimath shared. "By adding bariatric surgery to the weight loss resources at Great River Health, we're giving people more options to take control of their health."

Bariatric surgery encompasses a range of procedures designed to aid in weight loss for individuals struggling with obesity. The types of surgery offered at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center, West Burlington will include Gastric Lap Band, Sleeve Gastrectomy, Duodenal Switch, Gastric Bypass, and SADI. The patient's unique needs and health circumstances determine which procedure is right for them.

Ideal candidates for bariatric surgery are those who have unsuccessfully attempted medical therapy or non-surgical weight loss methods. Additionally, individuals with a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 40 and above, or those with a BMI of 35 and above who also suffer from serious associated diseases, are prime candidates for this surgery.

The benefits of bariatric surgery are many. Beyond the obvious advantage of significant weight loss, recipients often experience blood pressure, cholesterol levels, and blood sugar regulation improvements. Bariatric surgery has been shown to alleviate or even resolve conditions like type 2 diabetes, sleep apnea, and joint pain, enhancing the overall quality of life and reducing the risk of future health complications for recipients.

Bariatric patients can also participate in a Bariatric Support Group led by Bariatric Coordinator, Mescha Bunell, RN. The Bariatric Support Group meets on the first and third Wednesdays of every month from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the Blackhawk Room on the SEIRMC, West Burlington campus. The support group provides a safe space for patients to share their journey with fellow bariatric patients. Participants can contact Bunell for more information at 319-768-4350.

To find out more about Bariatric Surgery at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center, visit www.greatriverhealth.org/health-services/bariatric-surgery.

Great River HEALTH

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
MINUTES OF THE
PROCEEDINGS
OF THE BURLINGTON,
IOWA CITY COUNCIL
Meeting No. 10
May 20, 2024**

The Burlington City Council met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. in the Thomas J. Smith Council Chambers, City

Hall, 400 Washington Street, with Mayor Billups, Council Members Bailey, Graham-Murray, Scott and Weiss present.
BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL
PROCLAMATION:
* Burlington Golf Club Day - Matt Baschke
COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE: Dean Phenicie of 2117 North-

ern Drive recognized Police Week and wished the City Council a Happy Memorial Day. All present had opportunity to speak and nothing additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.
CONSENT AGENDA:
To the Public:
All matters listed under Item I., Consent Agenda, having been discussed

were considered to be routine by the City Council and were enacted by one motion. There was no separate discussion of these items. If discussion was desired, that item was removed from the Consent Agenda and was considered separately.
Introduced By: Graham-Murray Seconded

By: Scott
MOTION: To approve all items listed under Item I., Consent Agenda.
DISCUSSION: Mayor Billups reviewed the items listed on the consent agenda to the viewing audience. Mayor Pro-Tem Graham-Murray announced those individuals appointed to various City commissions and boards. Council Member Scott requested the removal of the following resolutions for discussion at the close of the meeting: Resolution Supporting the Submission of an Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) Application to the Workforce Housing Tax Credit Program by Spearfish Development LLC at Burlington Crossing Subdivision; Resolution Repealing a Former Sanitary Sewer Special Assessment on Property Located at 713 South Gertrude in Favor of a New Special Assessment and Stating that Costs will be Assessed Against the Property; Resolution Approving Purchase of a City Light-Duty Bus for the Burlington Urban Service and Resolution Approving Final Acceptance, Final Payment and Release of Retention Monies for the Dankwardt Park Playground Project. He stated that these items were not discussed at the Work Session and he would like to discuss the resolutions. All present had opportunity to speak and nothing additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.

(VOTE: 5 - "AYES")
CARRIED
HEARINGS:
1. Statement: Consideration of Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget Amendment No. 1
COMMENTS: Stephanie Stuecker, Director of Administrative Services, stated that the notice of public hearing on the 2023-2024 Budget Amendment No. 1 was published on May 8, 2024. She reviewed budget amendment No. 1 for FY 2023-2024 budget with Council and the viewing audience. All present had opportunity to speak and nothing additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.
Introduced By: Graham-Murray Seconded
By: Scott
Motion to Close CARRIED
Introduced By: Graham-Murray Seconded
By: Weiss
Resolution Amending the Current Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024
DISCUSSION: None.
(VOTE: 5 - "AYES")
ADOPTED
2. Statement: Consideration of Sale of Property Locally Known as 1428 Cleveland Avenue, City of Burlington, Iowa, with Conditions
COMMENTS: Eric Tysland, Development and Parks Director, reviewed the conditions of the sale of property with the City Council and the viewing audience. He stated that one (1) \$500.00 bid has been received from Plowman Properties, LLC for the property locally known as 1428 Cleveland Avenue, City of Burlington, Iowa. He stated that previously this property was sold and the deadlines for repairing the property were not met. Council Member Scott stated that he would not be voting in favor of the sale of property because he didn't agree with the process. All present had opportunity to speak and nothing additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.
Introduced By: Scott
Seconded By: Billups
Motion to Close CARRIED
Introduced By: Scott
Seconded By: Billups
Resolution Approving Sale of Property Locally Known as 1428 Cleveland Avenue, City of Burlington, Iowa, with Conditions
DISCUSSION: None.

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HOUSES FOR RENT

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

(VOTE: 4 - "AYES" - Graham-Murray, Weiss, Bailey & Billups ADOPTED 1 - "NAY" - Scott)

3. Statement: Consideration of Sale of Property Locally Known as 123 South 6th Street, City of Burlington, Iowa, with Conditions

COMMENTS: Eric Tysland, Development and Parks Director, stated that the property at 123 South 6th Street is a vacant lot that the City acquired.

He stated that one (1) \$500.00 bid has been received from Seena Enterprises, Inc. (Mohammad Nowroozi). He reviewed the conditions of the sale of property with the City Council and the viewing audience. All present had opportunity to speak and nothing additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.

Introduced By: Scott
Seconded By: Bailey
Motion to Close CARRIED

Introduced By: Scott
Seconded By: Graham-Murray

Resolution Approving Sale of Property Locally Known as 123 South 6th Street, City of Burlington, Iowa, with Conditions

DISCUSSION: None.
(VOTE: 5 - "AYES")
ADOPTED

4. Statement: Consideration of an Ordinance Amending Section 157.04 Service Entrance Wiring and Requirements of Chapter 157 Electrical Code of the City of Burlington Municipal Code

COMMENTS: Eric Tysland, Development and Parks Director, stated that the minor change includes that residential dwelling electric services shall conform, rather than only new electric service. All present had opportunity to speak and nothing additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.

Introduced By: Weiss
Seconded By: Scott
Motion to Close CARRIED

RIED
Introduced By: Weiss
Seconded By: Scott
Motion for Preliminary Adoption of the First Reading of an Ordinance Amending Section 157.04 Service Entrance Wiring and Requirements of Chapter 157 Electrical Code of the City of Burlington

DISCUSSION: None.
(VOTE: 5 - "AYES")
CARRIED

5. Statement: Consideration of an Ordinance Amending Section 161.07 Minimum Structure Standards for all Dwellings of Chapter 161 Housing Code of the City of Burlington Municipal Code

COMMENTS: Eric Tysland, Development and Parks Director, stated that the minor change includes the removal of the word "new" to allow that all dwelling units shall have exits as required by the building code and fire code of the city. All present had opportunity to speak and nothing additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.

Introduced By: Bailey
Seconded By: Graham-Murray
Motion to Close CARRIED

Introduced By: Bailey
Seconded By: Weiss
Motion for Preliminary Adoption of the First Reading of an Ordinance Amending Section 161.07 Minimum Structure Standards for all Dwellings of Chapter 161 Housing Code of the City of Burlington Municipal Code

DISCUSSION: None.
(VOTE: 5 - "AYES")
CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS:
Introduced By: Bailey
Seconded By: Weiss

1. Resolution Awarding Contract for the 2024 7th and Valley Parking Lot Rehab Project
DISCUSSION: Nick MacGregor, Assistant City Manager for Public Works, stated that

the resolution approves the contract with Porter Brothers Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$211,754.50. All present had opportunity to speak and nothing additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.

(VOTE: 5 - "AYES")
ADOPTED
Introduced By: Billups
Seconded By: Scott

2. Resolution Supporting the Submission of an Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) Application to the Workforce Housing Tax Credit Program by Spearfish Development LLC at Burlington Crossing Subdivision

DISCUSSION: Eric Tysland, Development and Parks Director, stated that the resolution supports the submission of the application by Spearfish Development, LLC at Burlington Crossing Subdivision. He stated that the development proposal includes construction of thirtyfive condominium single-family residential units. All present had opportunity to speak and nothing additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.

(VOTE: 5 - "AYES")
ADOPTED
Introduced By: Billups
Seconded By: Scott

3. Resolution Repealing a Former Sanitary Sewer Special Assessment on Property Located at 713 South Gertrude in Favor of a New Special Assessment and Stating that Costs will be Assessed Against the Property

DISCUSSION: Chad Bird, City Manager, stated that the city previously certified a sanitary sewer repair on September 6, 2022 to the Des Moines County Courthouse which imposed a special assessment on the property. He stated that the homeowner has not made any payments towards the cost in the last two

years and the property will be up for tax sale. He stated that the resolution will repeal the former special assessment in the amount of \$7,800.00 and a new special assessment will be imposed in the amount of \$8,745.00 that includes the accrued interest and cost of the delinquent former special assessment through May 31, 2024. All present had opportunity to speak and nothing additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.

(VOTE: 5 - "AYES")
ADOPTED
Introduced By: Billups
Seconded By: Graham-Murray

4. Resolution Approving Purchase of a City Light-Duty Bus for the Burlington Urban Service
DISCUSSION: Nick

MacGregor, Assistant City Manager for Public Works, stated that the city has received CARES Act funding for capital use and a part of the contract will allow for the replacement of a light duty bus. He stated that the bus will be purchased from Hoggund Bus Company, Inc. of Marshalltown, Iowa and the grant is 100% federal participation. All present had opportunity to speak and nothing additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.

(VOTE: 5 - "AYES")
ADOPTED
Introduced By: Billups
Seconded By: Scott

5. Resolution Approving Final Acceptance, Final Payment and Release of Retention Monies for the Dankwardt Park Playground Project

DISCUSSION: Eric Tysland, Development and Parks Director, stated that the Dankwardt Park Playground Project is completed. He stated that the final payment will be issued and the release of retention monies will be issued within thirty (30) days to Myers Construction, Inc. All present had opportunity to speak and nothing additional was filed in the office of the City Clerk.

(VOTE: 5 - "AYES")
ADOPTED
Adjournment: 6:07 p.m.
Approved: June 3, 2024
Katie Music, CMC, City Clerk

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

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Iowa News/From the Front

BNSF bows to Mexican Fiesta

BRIDGE - Continued from Page 1

the city including Fort Madison City Council, said the railroad has agreed to open the bridge again only to close on September 16.

Liegeois said Wednesday the railroad issued a revised statement to that effect on the closures. Peter Skosey, executive director of government affairs for Iowa and Illinois, confirmed in an email to Pen City Current that the bridge would be open for an additional week to allow for the Tri State Rodeo and Mexican Fiesta.

Liegeois said four months of closure will obviously have some impact on the city.

“Well, obviously there will be some economic impact with sales tax dollars that won’t be coming in,” she said. “The people who live across the river that used to come into Fort Madison to shop could stop in Keokuk or Burlington if they have to go that far to cross the river.”

She said there haven’t been in-depth conversations with city staff about that economic impact. However, staff has discussed how traffic will change.

“Many people who come across the river to work will have to go through Burlington or Keokuk to get here,” Liegeois said.

“They’ll have to leave earlier and our traffic patterns will change from an east side heavy pattern to the west, southwest, and northern roadways into the city.”

Maintenance work on the bridge will include replacing floor beams and associated stringers at six different locations on both the east and west approach. Since the bridge is owned and operated by BNSF Railway, toll revenue collected on the bridge is paying for part of the maintenance with BNSF making up the remainder of the cost. No public dollars are being used.

BNSF will halt work during the Tri-State Rodeo in Fort Madison from Aug. 31 to Sept. 8 to allow for traffic across the bridge.

The closest other bridges across the river are Keokuk to the south and Burlington to the north.

Council hears update from FMHA

FMHA - Continued from Page 1

going on out here.

“If you walk into Hillview today, there’s been a reset out there. We’ve been thinking how we make it easier for folks that are disabled to get around Hillview and also to get outside the facility.”

He said they have also been doing compliance checks on all units under the program. He said it’s important to keep tabs on what’s going on with residents in authority units to try to help curb depression.

“Prior to me coming on, compliance checks were not done for a very long time. I’ve been inside every one of these places. Clutter and depression go side-by-side. Look it up,” he said.

“Two years have passed and I’m still here. That has a lot to do with faith and the community partners I’ve worked with. I shine the brightest when I can work with demographics that need help. This isn’t just hard work, this is heart work.”

Dear said groups like Milestone Area Agency on

Aging, Bridges Out of Poverty, and Lee County Health Department have been on-site at Hillview where the FMHA is headquartered, to provide ancillary services to residents. He also reminded the council of a \$250,000 safety grant the authority earned to ramp up security at FMHA properties.

“That’s a game changer,” Dear said. “This adds a level of peace to an environment that I come from. It’s hard to explain what it’s like to be on both sides of the table. But God provides and now I’m able to do that.”

Dear thanked city and other community partners for helping him carry the load at the authority.

“We’re changing the culture of what Ivanhoe was. We’re only in the first phase of what we plan on doing. Hopefully we get people curious about how we are changing and how they can help us.”

Councilwoman Angela Roller asked if the authority had any staffer on site to help with mental or cognitive health.

Dear said there isn’t, but he is always reaching out to get people on the calendar at FMHA properties.

Bird human trafficking law now in effect

DES MOINES—Iowa Attorney General Brenna Bird announced this month the law she championed to combat human trafficking officially took effect on July 1. The law heightens penalties for human traffickers and ensures victims receive the support they need.

“Human trafficking is a heinous crime that can happen anywhere, including in our own backyard,” said Attorney General Bird. “We

need to call it like it is: modern-day slavery. With this law, traffickers will serve mandatory prison time, and victims will have strong support through the criminal justice system. I thank the legislature and Governor Kim Reynolds for turning our bill into law. As

Attorney General, I promise to continue working to combat human trafficking and protect victims.

The new law will do the following:

Require human traffickers convicted of level “B” felonies to serve a mandatory minimum of 50% to 70% of

their sentence without parole.

Provide victims of human trafficking access to an advocate for support during criminal proceedings.

Provide court-appointed counsel during criminal cases for witnesses with a mental disability.

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