

**August 4, 2021**

The regular meeting of the City of Bertram was held on the above date at 7:00pm at City Hall. Mayor Dave Hunt presided at the meeting. Council members present were Steve Carpenter, Bill Mulholland, Chris Price, Margy Wilson, and Jim Unzeitig.

Wilson made motion to approve the agenda. MSB Carpenter. Ayes: Carpenter, Mulholland, Price, Wilson, Unzeitig. Agenda approved.

Public comment on agenda items:

Item 12 Nuisance Cats. Rep from Iowa Humane Alliance was present to provide info on humane options for feral cats, spay/neutering the clan. A TNR workshop was held a couple of years ago in the community. Cost is \$35-50 per cat which includes spay/neuter and rabies vaccination. For surrounding members of the community plagued by the issues brought about by the cats, there are natural deterrents to keep the cats off their property. Trapping the feral cats and taking to CVHS will cost \$25 and they will be euthanized. Property owner that continues to feed the cats claims the population has declined.

Sheriff's Report: 26.0 hours; 12 calls for service.

Mulholland made motion to accept the minutes from the 7/7 meeting. MSB Unzeitig. Ayes: Carpenter, Mulholland, Price, Wilson, Unzeitig. Motion approved.

Wilson made motion to accept and pay the following bills for August. MSB Price. Ayes: Carpenter, Mulholland, Price, Wilson, Unzeitig. Motion approved.

Warrant No	Payee	Purpose	Amount
0244	Alliant Energy/IPL	City Hall electricity	47.47
0245	Alliant Energy/IPL	Street Lights	562.71
0246	Alliant Energy/IPL	City Park Electricity	58.16
0247	Alliant Energy/IPS	High Point Electricity	11.36
0248	Verizon Wireless	Phone/Internet	88.14
0249	Woodward Community Media	Publication Fees	111.53
0250	IPERS	Retirement Benefits	40.34
0251	Anthony Vislisel	Payroll	175.64
0252	Bradley Vislisel	Payroll	80.80
0253	ECICOG	Comprehensive Plan Administration	130.00
0254	Linn County Sheriff	Police Protection	2,964.00
0255	Anthony Vislisel	Reimbursement: Fuel for City eqpt	70.00
0256	Margy Wilson	Reimbursement: Lumber for big chair	325.92
0257	VISA	Document printing; blades for mower	102.63
0258	US Nameplate	Nameplate for UPRR fence	325.00
		<b>Total Bills for Operating Account</b>	<b>5,093.70</b>
W0059	Alliant Energy/IPL	Pump house electricity	128.44
W0060	Jared Vogeler	Operations	300.00
W0061	Keystone Laboratories, Inc	Water Testing	12.80
W0062	Iowa Dept of Natural Resources	Annual Water Supply Fee	25.00
W0063	Anthony Vislisel	Payroll	18.00
		<b>Total Bills for Water Account</b>	<b>484.24</b>
		<b>Total Bills for August</b>	<b>5,577.94</b>

Price made motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for the month ended July 31, 2021. MSB Carpenter. Ayes: Carpenter, Mulholland, Price, Wilson, Unzeitig. Motion approved.

	Beg Fund Balance	Deposits	Disbursements	End Fund Balance	Investments	Total Fund Balance
General	530,889.31	17,450.48	67,699.16	480,640.63	0.00	480,640.63
Road Use Tax	148,932.68	4,598.99	0.00	153,531.67		153,531.67
LOST	125,726.10	3,461.65	0.00	129,187.75		129,187.75
Building Fund	17,812.22	0.00	0.00	17,812.22		17,812.22
Park Renovation	5,100.00	0.00	0.00	5,100.00		5,100.00
Water	22,003.46	447.71	6,470.09	15,981.08		15,981.08
<b>Total Clerk's Balance</b>	<b>850,462.54</b>	<b>25,958.83</b>	<b>74,169.25</b>	<b>802,253.35</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>802,253.35</b>
Total Outstanding				(6,382.16)		
<b>Total Bank Balance</b>				<b>795,871.19</b>		

Price made motion to authorize Planning & Zoning Committee to review setbacks in current zoning ordinance and offer recommendations for clarification on whether setbacks occur from foundation wall or overhangs, as well as guidance for setbacks on freestanding structures such as solar panels. MSB Wilson. Ayes: Carpenter, Mulholland, Price, Wilson, Unzeitig. Motion approved.

Wilson made motion to approve ag exemption for Larry Ditch to build a replacement shed to store farm equipment based on Planning & Zoning recommendation. MSB Unzeitig. Ayes: Carpenter, Mulholland, Price, Wilson, Unzeitig. Motion approved.

Price made motion to approve variance to allow 64' x 42' pole building installation on third lot of 1286 Bertram Street property due to previous allowance on same property, based on Planning & Zoning recommendation. MSB Wilson. Ayes: Carpenter, Mulholland, Price, Wilson, Unzeitig. Motion approved.

Wilson made motion to approve rezoning request for Tanager Place (outside city limits) to rezone acquired property from residential to agricultural to match the rest of their property, based on recommendation from Planning & Zoning. MSB Carpenter. Ayes: Carpenter, Mulholland, Price, Wilson, Unzeitig. Motion approved.

Price made motion to approve a resolution to calling for special election to change the terms of elected offices of Mayor and City Council from two-year to four-year terms. MSB Carpenter. Unzeitig-Aye; Carpenter-Aye; Wilson-Aye; Price-Aye; Mulholland-Aye. **Resolution R-09-2021** passed as follows: WHEREAS, the City Council has received a valid petition as defined in § 362.4 of the Code of Iowa requesting that the term of the elected offices of Mayor

and City Council be changed to four (4) years, and WHEREAS, § 376.2 OF THE Code of Iowa requires that a special election be held. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by City Council of the City of Bertram, Iowa, as follows:

Section 1. That the City Council hereby directs that this matter shall be submitted as a question at a special city election to be held concurrently with the next city/school election.

Section 2. That the city/school election on November 2, 2021, shall include the following specific ballot issue: PUBLIC MEASURE A: Shall the term of the elected office of Mayor and City Council of the City of Bertram, County of Linn, State of Iowa, be changed from two (2) year to four (4) year terms as set forth in § 376.2 of the Code of Iowa?

Section 3. That obtaining the requisite number of Council votes, the Ballot Issue set forth above shall appear for consideration of the voters in the city/school election to be held November 2, 2021. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to submit a certified copy of the Resolution to the Linn County Auditor/Election Commissioner.

Carpenter brought to Council's attention three dead trees in city right of way in the Rustic Ridge neighborhood that need to be removed. Council recommended Carpenter solicit quotes for removal.

Price made motion to accept a CARES Act grant for new computer equipment as follows: five (5) laptops; two (2) bundles including laptop, docking station, monitor and wireless mouse/keyboard; and two (2) webcams totaling \$9,095.26 (less than the \$9500 maximum allowance). MSB Unzeitig. Ayes: Carpenter, Mulholland, Price, Wilson, Unzeitig. Motion approved. Laptops will be distributed to Mayor, Council and Clerk. One will be left at City Hall. All will remain city property for a minimum of three years.

Wilson has applied for a second grant from UPRR and would like to thank Four Oaks for their support in the grant application process. Big chair for City Park is done – need to find best location for it and lay foundation for it to sit on. Fundraiser pavers may be purchased by donors and will be place in a walkway from the new playground. TSI is planning to start repairs to tennis court second week of August. Guard rail still needs to be replaced. A scrapper will be picking up scrap metal from the city in near future. We have clarification from insurance company that broken trusses on pavilion need to be replaced, so we can work on getting quotes to complete the repairs. Any additional work required may be completed through a change order and submitted to insurance company for reimbursement. This also applies to City Hall and Pump House.

Council will need to determine whether city employees can handle snow removal or if we will need to contract it out. A decision will need to be made soon. Reminder of public input session for City's Comprehensive Plan Update is August 11<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Survey response results will be reported.

Correspondence: Need candidates for city council and mayor.

Open to Floor: There are still derecho-damaged trees laying on First Street – Is city going to clean up? Council to review. There are voids in road on Green Street/Hilltop. Public Works can try cold patch to fix; Council to review options. City equipment is inadequate to remove posts where firetruck was installed in upper City Park, nor is city tractor big enough to move the firetruck itself.

Mulholland made motion to adjourn. MSB Carpenter. Ayes: Carpenter, Mulholland, Price, Wilson, Unzeitig. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

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Lisa Berry  
Clerk

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David Hunt  
Mayor