

**Calmar City Council
Regular Meeting
April 6, 2009**

Dr. Lang Chee Wee, Jim Buchheit and John Heying were present. Dr. Wee is on the Strategic Plan Wellness and Community Center committee. The committee is still in the data gathering and research phase. He stated that before they go any further they would like council permission to engage other area communities in the discussion. Jim Buchheit stated that they would also like to know if the Calmar council is supportive should this prove out to be a viable venture. He also said that moral support and financial support would be needed. Dr. Wee stated that this would not be a NICC center; they are participating because they want to partner with the regional community. The council had no objection to this plan. The committee stressed that this is still in the planning phase to see what other communities have in mind but there are no firm plans of any kind at this time. Dr. Wee mentioned that this could possibly be incorporated with a possible shelter for the area with some possible grant funding through FEMA.

Mayor McCasland called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. at the Calmar Fire Station. Present were: Meyer, Phillips, Zweibahmer, Huinker and Anderson.

Motion by Phillips, second by Zweibahmer to approve the consent agenda (agenda, minutes, clerk/treasurer reports, claims and ABD License for Calmar Can & Beverage) Aye: Meyer, Huinker, Anderson, Phillips and Zweibahmer.

Claims March 2009

A & J Petersburg	insurance	19570.00
Alliant Energy	electricity	6476.53
Apple Time	supplies bike rode	72.18
Aramark	uniform	115.26
Black Hills Energy	gas	1759.45
Blazek Corp.	gaskets	510.46
Book Look	books	233.76
Bruening Rock	recycled asphalt	44.38
Business Systems	copier contract	87.20
Calmar Courier	publishing	343.32
Center Point Lg. Pnt	large print books	40.14
City Laundry	supplies	428.91
Creative Source	police supplies	311.50
Culligan	water services	32.10
Data Dech	reg. mtg	95.00
Decorah Impl	filter etc	116.64
Decorah Newspaper	add library	74.26
Farmers Co-op	diesel	76.51
Fastenal	bolts	2.55
Hach	spectrometer	3400.35
Hawkeye Truck	part	5.96
Heying Lbr	supplies	15.84
IAMU	dues, ceu's	447.91
Intram	books	290.84
IRS	taxes	4038.81
League of Cities	workshop	60.00
Workforce	unemployment	52.85
Ipers	ipers	2011.12
Joe McCasland	mileage	88.55
Junior Boyer	insurance	573.50
Keystone Labs	testing	350.00
Kirkeby Welding	repair	279.00
Kirkwood	marquette	135.00
Klimesh Motors	fire dept	153.47
Kwik Star	gas	414.14
Linda Crossland	postage	26.12
Malcolm	Feb & March	11456.30
Michele Elsbernd	supplies for notice	18.85
Municipal Supply	meters, repair gun	1341.75

Napa	strobe,flasher,fuse	189.68
Norby's	supplies	145.76
Postmaster	postage, stamps	289.00
Postville Vet Clinic	ship samples	81.50
Presto	pest control	38.00
Qwest	phone	439.34
Rite Price	toner, contract	469.34
River City Paving	cold mix	316.00
Scholastic Publishin	reference books	240.50
Secretary of State	renewal of notary	30.00
Sim's	softwear etc	322.96
Star Uniforms	uniform Dawn	155.90
Tekippe Engineerin	GIS	1045.40
Thompson Gale	large print books	46.74
Treas St. IA	taxes, sales tax	3587.00
Upstart	summer reading	197.84
US Cellular	phone	386.33
USA Blue Book	shelving, probe	530.78
Walmart	story hour supplie	132.53
Wellmark	premium	3674.11
Wiltgen	west st. break	2326.00
Winco	salt	109.90
Payroll	March	12327.25
Total		82632.37
Expenses by fund		
Generl		51038.92
Road use		2739.79
Benefits		2394.40
Water		14449.55
Sewer		12009.71
Total		82632.37
Revenue by fund		
General		20259.31
Road Use		8342.53
Benefits		2762.92
Emergency		335.64
Lost		7563.27
Tif		11345.97
Sewer		12640.06
Water		29495.06
Total		92744.76

Dan Timp was present requesting to possibly purchase the alley between his properties on W. Charles St. He wants to put a house on this property and enter the garage from the alley. He was informed that other people had also requested to purchase portions of this alley in the past. The alley has utilities and the city needs to keep it for that reason. He was also told that he can still use this alley as entrance to the property and would need a zoning variance only if the garage would be closer than 10' from the alley.

The Budget Amendment 08-09 was discussed. Due to grants received by the fire department this area will possibly be increased more than previously anticipated. Motion by Phillips, second by Anderson to set the date for the public hearing on the 08-09 Budget Amendment for May 4, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. Aye: Huinker, Zweibahmer, Meyer, Phillips and Anderson.

The Fire Department report was presented. The department has received a \$ 8,800 Community Foundation Grant for purchase of additional Self Contained Breathing Apparatus. Plans are to recognize all groups that contributed to the funding of these SCBA's. A picture will be taken with newspaper coverage. The sirens were discussed, the department will be testing sirens at 6:00 P.M. in addition the regular testing during Severe Weather Awareness week. They thought this would be a better time as more people are home at this time of day.

The Calmar Commercial club also received a \$ 5,000 grant from the Community Foundation for their trail landscape project.

The Police Department report was presented. Chief Ward reported that Dawn Wagner graduated from the academy on April 3rd and is working. He stated that Clean up day is planned for May 9th. The Carl Lensing mobile home was discussed in length. There have been many complaints regarding this and the council instructed Chief Ward to proceed with abatement. A garage for the police vehicle was discussed. Junior will proceed with obtaining estimates. Complaints of barking dogs were discussed in length. Chief Ward will continue to monitor the situation.

The Street Department report was presented. Word had been received from the DOT regarding the flashing lights on the square. They want these to be operational and they are the cities responsibility to maintain and keep working. The school flashing lights were discussed, Junior will check the timer and possibly replace. Junior stated that the new yard waste site should be completed by April 8th or 9th.

The Water/Wastewater report was discussed. Mentioned was a water line on West Street between W. Clay and W. South Street that has many repair clamps. Bob suggested that this should be replaced. The DNR regulations regarding ammonia discharge were discussed. Bob stated that we have a 10 year moratorium on our plant but that something would need to be done to keep us compliant in the future. This could be either a cover or chlorination. Water rates were discussed. Expenses have exceeded revenue by more than \$ 4,400 last year excluding the water project expenses of over \$ 82,000. This project considerably depleted our reserve and many projects will have to be done in the future including painting the interior of the water tower, updating meters and meter reading equipment, pulling and inspecting Well # 4, and replacement of fire hydrants. The increase would be to the minimum and price per thousand. The first reading of the ordinance will be at the May meeting with subsequent readings on June and July to allow for public input. Bob stated that we would apply for stimulus funding for some of the needed projects. George Tekippe stated that the rules and guidelines for this funding change almost daily. George & Bob will co-ordinate efforts to secure funding for needed projects. George stated that only certain types of projects are eligible for stimulus funding. Motion by Phillips, second by Meyer to approve the lowest bid for the Manhole Rehab Project. Aye: Anderson, Meyer, Phillips, Zweibahmer and Huinker. Motion carried. Phillips asked about the removal of the fire hydrant by the Train Station.

Mayor McCasland mentioned the Small City Workshop scheduled for Elkader on June 16th. He stated he had attended a Housing Trust Fund meeting in Decorah. This would set up a Regional Housing Trust Fund for the counties of Howard, Winneshiek, Allamakee and Clayton. This would repair houses, build houses etc. for income eligible residents. He also attended the Assessors meeting held recently in Decorah.

Corey Meyer stated that at the present there are no grants available for tree planting (Trees Forever). Grant applications will be available toward fall.

Luther Anderson reported on the Hazard Mitigation meeting held previous to the council meeting. He mentioned some of the items discussed as concerns were: storm safe structures, the serious hazards to the community including storms, hazard spills, rail spills and derailments, the issue that the tracks split the town from the fire and rescue equipment, how to notify residents of hazards that are not storm related (speaker notification system) etc. Stressed was utilizing the assets NICC has in the community. Future meetings will be held but are not scheduled at this time.

We have been notified by Alliant Energy and Mediacom of rate increases in the community. Information was received from the State of Iowa notifying us that they have implemented an Electric Permit Requirement.

The need for a stop sign at the intersection of Jefferson and Clay Street was discussed. It was noted that there are other intersections without stop signs in town. No decision was made at this time.

Incentives to new businesses were discussed but no decision made at this time.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Zweibahmer to approve Resolution # 448 approving salaries effective 7/1/09. Aye: Huinker, Anderson, Zweibahmer, Meyer and Phillips. Motion carried.

Information was received regarding Census 2010. The cities in Winneshiek County have formed a committee to promote Census awareness and participation. Residences that receive their mail at a Post Office box will have their census forms returned to the Census Bureau, this will result in Census workers calling door to door to take the Census in our community.

An area town asked if in the future, the city would consider entering into a 28E for code enforcement. It seemed to be the consensus that the council would be more interested in the type of 28E agreement we share with Ossian rather than just code enforcement.

Luther Anderson reported on the visit by the State Historical Society. They toured the Depot building on Friday, April 3rd. He stated that they felt the depot was the perfect site for the "Trail Head".

Mayor McCasland and council congratulated Officer Dawn Wagner on her graduation from the Academy and applauded her for her achievement.

Mayor McCasland declared the meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Michele Elsbernd
City Clerk

Joe McCasland
Mayor

