

Committee of the Whole
May 23, 2017

Present: Mayor Vulich, Council Members Seeley, McGraw, Connell and O'Neill, City Administrator, City Attorney, City Clerk, Press and interested citizens. Councilmember Allesee – absent.

1. Diffuser Replacement for Aerobic Digesters – Bob Milroy

Regional Waste Water Reclamation Facility Superintendent Bob Milroy advised the Council that this is something he has always wanted to do since he became superintendent; he has wanted to run one blower for 9 hours a day and shut the others off for 15 hours. He stated that this could not be done with the old diffusers. He continued in stating that he has been trying the replacement diffuser and there is no issue with plugging up. He further stated that he is requesting permission to purchase the other three at a cost of \$56,500 which will result in a cost savings of \$47,500. He proceeded to state that Alliant Energy will contribute \$28,000 toward the project.

Councilmember Seeley inquired regarding whether this is a piece of equipment which must be replaced continually. Superintendent Milroy stated that the diffusers should last 15 years. He further stated that City personnel can install the diffusers which will be paid for out of the EPA Equipment Replacement Fund 53.

M/S, Gassman-Seeley moved to forward the diffuser replacement for aerobic digesters to the next City Council agenda. On roll call, carried unanimously.

2. D.O.T. Lease – Matt Brooke

City Administrator Matt Brooke advised the Council that the Department of Transportation performs CDL testing in the west parking lot of Lumber Kings Stadium. To offset the cost of repairs the City has worked out a lease for \$1,000 per month for two years. Councilmember Seeley inquired regarding whether the lease should revolve around monthly payments of repairs to the parking lot. City Administrator Brooke stated that an alternate location is being looked into. The DOT has two more years left in the current building and \$1,000 per month is manageable.

M/S, Seeley-Connell moved to forward the D.O.T. lease to the next City Council agenda. On roll call, carried unanimously.

3. Policy for Disposition of City Owned Properties – Matt Brooke

City Administrator Matt Brooke stated that the Policy for Disposition of City Owned Properties is still in "Phase 0". He continued in stating that there is no hurry; however, he wants to mold the policy. Councilmember Gassman stated that the Cedar Rapids offers persons a payment to tear down their nuisance properties which costs less and is easier. They have had success in getting properties demolished. Councilmember O'Neill suggested that the City keep the policy simple, either you own the adjacent property or you don't.

Councilmember Seeley stated that there are a lot of subjective things in the policy. He stated that he is concerned regarding conforming to zoning rules related to 50' and 40' properties. He continued in stating that he is also concerned regarding the assessed values of properties and

land banks. City Administrator Brooke stated that he would also like to look at properties for homeless individuals.

4. Mayor & Council Updates

Mayor Vulich announced that the CCDA awarded the City a \$200,000 grant toward the soccer fields and \$200,000 to Friends of Riverview Stadium for the Lumber Kings Baseball Stadium. He stated that the resolution concerning the Federal Bureau of Prisons was placed on the agenda for cities and counties to make a formal request that law enforcement be exempt from the federal wage hiring freeze in order to get Thomson Prison staffed.

City Administrator Matt Brooke advised the Council that the Roosevelt Building received a historic building tax credit. He stated that Washington Middle School came close; however, will be moved to the fall because it is not complete. He further stated that the trolley would be rolling on Saturday.

Mayor Vulich wished everyone a safe Memorial Day holiday. He stated that there would be a memorial service at Clinton Lawn Cemetery.

Councilmember O'Neill stated that he would hold his public forum at the Ericksen Center on Saturday, June 4th from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Van Loo
City Clerk