

CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 22, 2024
6:30 PM

The Milford City Council met in regular session January 22, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in east ½ of the Community Center. Mayor Anderson presided.

Members present: Chris Hinshaw, Doug Frederick, Shane Hoffman, David Worshek and Kyle Mohni.

Absent: None

Others present: City Administrator LeAnn Reinsbach, City Attorney David Stein, Rebecca Graves, Todd Johnson, Trevor Smith, Drew Hage, Erin Reed, Brad Simington and Brad Sanderson.

Mayor Anderson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Hinshaw second by Hoffman to approve the agenda. Voting aye: Hoffman, Frederick, Hinshaw, Worshek and Mohni. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Hoffman second by Mohni approve the consent agenda. Voting aye: Hoffman, Frederick, Hinshaw, Worshek and Mohni. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Items on the Consent Agenda were as follows:

- Minutes of January 8, 2024 council meeting

CITIZEN OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENT

Public Hearing on FY2024 budget amendment at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Anderson opened the public meeting at 6:31 p.m. City Administrator LeAnn Reinsbach mentioned no written or oral comments were received at the City Clerk's office. With no other comments from the public Mayor Anderson closed the public hearing at 6:32 p.m.

ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Milford Housing Study update from RDG Planning & Design- Charlie Cowell

Charlie Cowell with RDG Planning & Design gave a recap of the housing study noting there were 324 responses or 10% which Cowell felt was a good response rate based on their experience. On the community insight portion of the study about half of the respondents looked for a new place to live in the past 3 years and noted an undersupply of units for sale under \$300,000 and rentals under \$1000 a month. On the landlord survey insight there seems to be a constant demand for rental vacancies. It also showed that renters are paying more than 30% of their income on rent, showing the need for more rentals. The study confirms lack of affordable housing and at the same time some residents are actually looking to move into higher-end homes. This shows a portion of those residents are living in units they either don't prefer to be in or would like to move to something else, in turn it opens up a lower price point home for someone else that wants to be in the community. Goals moving forward were listed as maintaining existing housing stock, be prepared and proactive for lot development, share risks for a variety of housing, grow rental options, be transparent and consistent and to proactively communicate and educate. Lastly, there are a number of key partners required to facilitate this multi-faceted approach to include builders and contractors, banks and lenders, major employers, Iowa Lakes Corridor and the Okoboji School District just to name a few, that need to be a part of future housing, the city cannot do it alone.

Council to discuss cutting down trees at 1602 16th St.- Rebecca Graves.

The council reviewed pictures that were taken by Public Works Director Kent Eilers that shows there is an unknown infestation. As a reminder the council gave authority a year ago to remove trees in the right of way to get ahead of the Emerald Ash Borer crisis. Of the two trees in question the west tree is sitting 16% on private property and the east tree is sitting on 50% of private property. The council also reviewed an email from Jeff Jensen from Trees Forever. Jensen noted that he does not believe the holes are Emerald Ash Borer. Typically, if a tree is infested with Emerald Ash Bore the exit holes are fairly small and capital D shaped, the holes in the pictures appear to be much larger. Mr. Jensen stated there are a host of other native tree borers from the two lined chestnut borers to lilac borers and more; so just because you see lots of holes in trees, does not mean it is the Emerald Ash Borer. Rebecca stated she has been in touch with Tru-Green and the cost for her to treat the trees was approximately \$250.00 a piece, but the company explained to her that in order to identify what to treat the tree for is better when the tree has a full canopy. After much discussion there was motion by Hinshaw second by Hoffman to table this discussion until the July 8, 2024 council meeting giving time for the homeowner and Tru-Green to identify the issue.

Erin Reed update on budget, discuss future trail expansion and also discuss Right-of-Way from A34 North to 21st, and Jones Park.

Erin Reed, Executive Director of the Dickinson County Trails Board let the council know the amount to budget for FY2025 is \$8,535.00 and doesn't think it will change. She also distributed information about past and future projects. The first phase of the Clay County Connection project is scheduled for construction in late 2024. The project is funded in part with Federal Recreational Trails and Iowa DNR REAP grants totaling \$355,895 with additional support from Imagine Iowa Great Lakes. The second phase of the Clay County Connection is scheduled for construction in 2025 but that could change depending on additional grants to support the project as the cost is approximately 4.5 million dollars. Reed is planning to apply for the first round of the Destination Iowa Grant which has a deadline of January 31st. Part of this grant is to show the City of Milford supports the project. The council discussed what was feasible and decided they could allocate \$25,000 paid over a 4-year period. This needs to be done by resolution and a special meeting. Motion by Hinshaw second by Hoffman to meet Thursday, January 25th at noon to approve a resolution regarding contributions to the Dickinson County Trails Board. All voting aye. Motion carried. Mayor Anderson noted that if the city moves forward on the TEAP study it could change the dynamics or the scope of phase two on the Clay County Connection.

There was a brief discussion on the old railroad right-of-way along the bike trail from A34 going north to 23rd street. The trials board is in favor of taking this over. City Attorney, Dave Stein said he would provide information to the city clerk's office on the steps the city will have to take to quit claim deed this area.

Council approves sending Deputy City Clerk to IMFOA Conference April 17-19, 2024.

Motion by Hoffman second by Hinshaw to approve sending Deputy City Clerk to IMFOA Conference April 17-19, 2024. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Resolution amending the current budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

Motion by Hinshaw second by Worshek to approve Resolution **24-21** Resolution amending the current budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. Roll call vote. Voting aye: Hoffman, Frederick, Hinshaw, Worshek and Mohni. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Council to review/discuss ordinance changes on Chapters 70.07(Alternative Traffic Violation Enforcement), 79 (Golf Carts),105(Solid Waste and Landscape Waste Control),134(Right of Way/Street Excavation Management) and 152(Drainage Limitations).

The council did not make any changes to Chapter 70.07 and made minor changes on 79 (Golf Carts),105(Solid Waste and Landscape Waste Control),134(Right of Way/Street Excavation Management). Chapter 152 Drainage Limitations still needs some work but decided to see if there are any comments during the public hearing on February 12th. Mayor Anderson suggested if it's feasible maybe a connection could be made to the storm sewer.

COMMENTS BY MAYOR, COUNCIL, AND STAFF

Council person Kyle Mohni thanked Kent and his staff for doing such a wonderful job with snow removal. Mayor Anderson spoke that he attended a recent County Planning and Zoning meeting and passed out a map showing the city limits of Milford back in the 1970's vs. what they are today and what a two- or three-mile radius would be. The concern is the new county wind turbine ordinance proposed setbacks is not far enough from a building. Mayor Anderson is planning to write a letter with a recommendation to request a 3-mile radius. The council supports this and will act on it at the special meeting on January 25th. With no other discussion, motion to adjourn by Hoffman second by Hinshaw at 9:08 p.m. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven R. Anderson, Mayor

LeAnn Reinsbach, City Administrator/Clerk