

Sutherland, Iowa City Council Meeting – May 4, 2020 – 7:00 PM – 110 Ash Street – Meeting Room

City of Sutherland Council Meeting was held May 4, 2020. In order to help stop the spread of COVID-19, this meeting was held electronically. On March 19, 2020, Governor Reynolds issued a Proclamation of Disaster Emergency which included a suspension of Iowa laws that would prevent the use of electronic meetings or the limitation on the number of people present at an in-person meeting site. The agenda and the City's social media sites had posted more than 24 hours in advance the instructions on how others could participate in the meeting. Only the Mayor, Councilmembers, and City Clerk were allowed in-person.

Mayor Kay Gifford called the public hearing for the amendment of the 2019-2020 budget to order. Roll call showed council members present were: Johanna Homan, Bruce Engelke, Chase Cox, Jack Wallinga, and Patrick Nelson. Others present were: David Becker, Connie Cody, Nancy Hill, Sharon Flinders, Officer Jami Webster, Tony Larsen and Amanda Vanderhoff. There were no comments or questions from the public. A motion was made by Engelke seconded by Wallinga to adjourn from the public hearing. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Kay Gifford called the council meeting to order. Roll call showed council members present were: Johanna Homan, Bruce Engelke, Chase Cox, Jack Wallinga, and Patrick Nelson. Others present were: David Becker, Connie Cody, Nancy Hill, Sharon Flinders, Mari Radke, Gina Kiehn, Officer Jami Webster, Tony Larsen and Amanda Vanderhoff.

A motion was made by Engelke seconded by Homan to approve the agenda, previous minutes and clerk's report. Roll call: Ayes – Homan, Engelke, Cox, Wallinga, and Nelson. Motion carried.

The Guests were not present.

There were no public comments.

Council reviewed the bills and asked a few questions. A motion was made by Engelke seconded by Homan to accept the bills. Roll call: Ayes – Homan, Engelke, Cox, Wallinga, and Nelson. Motion carried.

The Economic Development report was given by Sharon Flinders. Sharon updated Council on Violet Street. They are getting quotes for blacktop and concrete. Doug Sweeney has received a bid for concrete for \$30-35K. They have set up subcommittees within Economic Development and Sharon will have more information on those at the next meeting. They are going to proceed with Spruce up Sutherland with a possible deadline date of October 31, 2020. Wallinga brought up concerns about the condition of Alpine Street, the thickness of the material they are thinking of using for Violet, and the ditches on Violet.

Nancy Hill gave the Library Report. The library will revisit reopening on the 15th. Nancy is still doing curbside and deliveries.

Chief Mark Shriver was not present at the meeting. He did let the clerk know there was 10 ambulance calls and 3 fire calls last month. The EMS Contingency Plan for Sutherland Ambulance Service and Granville Ambulance Service is tabled until next month.

The Police Report was given by Officer Jami Webster. She read through her Police Report. She informed Council she will look into the fuel usage from April.

Communications and topics for discussion:

The clerk presented Council with information from the League of Cities on the possible COVID-19 impacts on local finance.

The clerk advised Council because of the possibility of lower revenues that only the Library and Police Employee Benefits should be transferred at this time until we know the full impact.

The clerk asked Council on their interpretation of the “One-time Late Payments Penalty” ordinance. This will be readdressed at the next meeting.

Council decided to discontinue the no shutoffs for delinquent utility bills

Joe Sweeney would like to donate a nativity scene to the City. A discussion was had if the City could use City time and City property to display a religious scene. This will be readdressed at a future meeting.

Mayor Kay Gifford appointed Engelke and Cox to the Wage Review Committee.

A motion was made by Homan seconded by Engelke to approve Resolution 2020-16: Amending the Current Budget for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020. Roll call: Ayes – Nelson, Wallinga, Cox, Engelke, and Homan. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Engelke seconded by Cox to approve the date change to May 16, 2020 for Sweeney’s Clubhouse and Rumors on Main outdoor liquor licenses. Pending restrictions on gatherings are lifted. All were in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Wallinga seconded by Homan to approve the date change to May 16, 2020 for the street closure of Main Street from 1st and 2nd Streets for the Cruise-In and street dance starting at 10 am. Pending restrictions on gatherings are lifted. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Standing Committee Reports:

Jack Wallinga will be taking over Dennis Templer’s committees. – Water, Lights, Weed & Debris, and Sanitary Landfill

Water – purchased 2,460,000 gallons.

Streets – A truck route was discussed again. As for now the city will contact the businesses in town and ask them to use certain roads and to be more careful turning corners.

Sanitation (sewer) – 7,691,000 million gallons to the ponds. Tony will finish discharging on Friday and mentioned the need for some larger rocks for the west and south side of the east lagoon.

Town Property – the City is now planning to wait until FY22 to purchase a new lawnmower.

Park – A motion was made by Engelke seconded Nelson to approve Tami Sohn to the park job position. Roll call: Ayes – Homan, Wallinga, Engelke, Cox, and Nelson. Motion carried.

Weeds and Debris – Officer Webster has sent out 2 notices for properties in violation. One property is cleaned up and Officer Webster will contact the owner again about the vehicles on the other property.

Lights – none to report.

Sanitary Service (garbage) – The city will try a 6 months trial with a new recycling bin at the shed for \$37.00 a month. This bin will have lid and should stop the cardboard from blowing out.

A motion to adjourn was made by Engelke seconded by Cox. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Kay Gifford

Amanda Vanderhoff, City Clerk