

**MINUTES**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**May 4, 2017**  
**6:30 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Keokuk met in regular session on May 4, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 415 Blondeau Street, with Mayor Thomas D. Marion presiding and eight council members present, one absent: Mike O'Connor, Ron Payne, Dan Winn, John Helenthal, Larry Mortimer, Sandy Pollitt, Roger Bryant and Susan Dunek. Mike Moore was absent. Staff in attendance: City Administrator Aaron Burnett, City Clerk Jean Ludwig, Public Works Director Mark Bousset, Fire Chief Gabe Rose, and Police Chief Dave Hinton.

**MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE:** The Mayor said April was Autism Awareness month and it was well supported by citizens. K-Play is having a community build at Tolmie Park May 4-7, and are looking for volunteers. Great River Players is presenting Unnecessary Farce at the Grand Theater May 5-7.

Motion made by Helenthal and seconded by Bryant to approve the consent agenda. (8) AYES, (0) NAYS motion carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- Minutes of the regular City Council meeting of April 20, 2017;
- Renewal Liquor licenses – **RES. NO. 253-17** Chintz's, 1310 Main Street, effective May 20, 2017 - Class C Liquor License with Sunday Sales; **RES. NO. 254-17** Walgreens #05886, 1215 Main Street, effective May 22, 2017 – Class E Liquor License with Sunday Sales;
- Sidewalk Display Permit for iWireless/Danville Telecom, 401 Main Street, Suite 3;
- Motion to pay the bills and transfers listed within Register No.'s 4923-4925;

Motion made by Helenthal, Second by Bryant to approve the following proposed **RESOLUTION NO. 253-17:** "A RESOLUTION APPROVING A LIQUOR LICENSE FOR CHINTZ'S, 1310 MAIN STREET, EFFECTIVE MAY 20, 2017 – CLASS C LIQUOR LICENSES WITH SUNDAY SALES." (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Helenthal, Second by Bryant to approve the following proposed **RESOLUTION NO. 254-17:** "A RESOLUTION APPROVING A LIQUOR LICENSE FOR WALGREENS #05886, 1215 MAIN STREET, EFFECTIVE MAY 22, 2017 – CLASS E LIQUOR LICENSES WITH SUNDAY SALES." (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion to consider the tabled item BYOB Pavilion special events permit by Winn, Second by Helenthal. The area where alcohol is permitted would be fenced, and a police officer would be present. Pollitt said she supports the Pavilion Commission, but does not support alcohol in the parks. O'Connor said BYOB is popular in other communities and festivals. Payne disagrees with having alcohol in the parks.

AYES – O'Connor, Winn, Helenthal, Mortimer, Bryant and Dunek. NAYS – Payne and Pollitt. Motion carried.

Motion to approve BYOB for events at the Pavilion by O'Connor, Second by Helenthal.

AYES – O'Connor, Winn, Helenthal, Mortimer, Bryant and Dunek. NAYS – Payne and Pollitt. Motion carried.

Motion made by Winn, Second by Helenthal to approve the following proposed **RESOLUTION NO. 255-17:** "A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE INITIAL READING

**OF ORDINANCE NO. 1968 AMENDING TITLE 13 RELATED TO SEWER DEPOSITS, FEES AND DELINQUENT PAYMENT COLLECTION.”**

New enrollees in auto pay would not have to pay a deposit. People already enrolled would get their deposit back in the form of a credit. This plan would align with the Waterworks new program.

Roll Call Vote: (8) AYES – O’Connor, Payne, Winn, Helenthal, Mortimer, Pollitt, Bryant and Dunek. (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Helenthal, Second by Pollitt to approve the following proposed **RESOLUTION NO. 256-17:** “A RESOLUTION SETTING WAGES FOR VARIOUS PART TIME PERSONNEL OF THE CITY OF KEOKUK EFFECTIVE MAY 13, 2017” (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Helenthal, Second by Dunek to approve the following proposed **RESOLUTION NO. 257-17:** “A RESOLUTION SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING FOR 6:30 P.M., MAY 18, 2017 IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 415 BLONDEAU STREET, TO DISPOSE OF THE PORTION OF CARROLL AND RIDGE STREETS AND ALLEYS IN THE BLOCK 75 AND 81 AND PORTION OF ALLEY IN BLOCK 13 IN THE ORIGINAL CITY OF KEOKUK, AND THAT PROPER NOTICE BE PUBLISHED.” (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Mayor Marion gave a brief review of the IUB Gas rate case. Liberty asked for a rate increase, the City objected. The City asked the Officer of Consumer Affairs to help. The City settled for a rate increase less than the amount requested by Liberty Utilities. Burnett said Liberty is entitled to costs associated with the case, which originally was \$ 667,000.00. They then anticipated it would be \$ 1,000,000.00, which is passed on to Liberty users. This is an additional cost that the City thinks is unfair, and they will never stop asking for increases if it doesn’t cost them anything. The Mayor thinks they should have to pay some of the costs. The City contested the rate increase. IUB awarded Liberty an \$ 870,315.00 increase in costs for gas distribution and \$ 814,643.00 recovery costs for the rate case experts and legal fees, etc. Liberty stated they may come back for another increase in 5 years, which would be another \$ 1,000,000.00 that about 4,400 users would pay to increase their own bills. Burnett said IUB considered decreasing the recovery costs by \$ 250,000.00 but settled on decreasing it by \$ 25,000.00. Statute says costs must be just and reasonable and the City finds it unjust and unreasonable. That’s why there was a filing on behalf of the City and it’s very disappointing that we’re at this point. Costs only from IUB and OCA were about \$ 400,000.00. A significant amount of money just to have the hearings. It appears we’ve lost on every aspect of the rate case. Where the City goes from here is the next item on the agenda and it could be litigation or continue to look at municipalization. Even if less efficient than a private utility, the city would get rid of future rate case costs and save substantial money for citizens.

A motion was made by Winn and seconded by Bryant to enter into closed session at 6:57 p.m. (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Winn and seconded by Helenthal to return to open session at 7:03 p.m. (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Helenthal and seconded by Dunek. (8) AYES, (0) NAYS motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

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THOMAS D. MARION, MAYOR

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
JEAN LUDWIG, CITY CLERK