

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
September 2, 2021
501 Main Street
6:30 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Keokuk met in regular session on September 2, 2021 at 501 Main Street. Mayor Thomas L. Richardson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. There were nine council members present, none absent. Mike O'Connor, Linda Altheide, Roslyn Garcia, John Helenthal, Devon Dade, Steve Andrews, Linda Marsden, Roger Bryant, and Susan Dunek were present. Staff in attendance: City Administrator Cole O'Donnell, City Clerk Jean Ludwig, Community Development Director Pam Broomhall, Bridge, Park, Cemetery and Sanitation Manager Bob Weis, Fire Chief Gabe Rose, and Sewer Manager Michael Clark.

MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE: Mayor Richardson welcomed everyone to the new City Hall. Read & signed the 2021 National Recovery Month Proclamation and heard from Nicole Tate regarding Alcohol and Drug Dependency Services in Keokuk. Thanked Sue Dickson upon her retirement for her many years of service as manager of Keokuk's Channel 9 TV station, involvement on boards/commission and volunteer projects.

Motion made by Dade, second by Altheide to approve the agenda, including the consent agenda. (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

- Minutes of the Council Workshop & Regular City Council meeting of August 19, 2021:
- **RESOLUTION NO. 300-21:** Approving a Liquor License for Dollar General Store #2385, 300 Main Street, effective September 21, 2021 – Class C Beer Permit, Class B Wine Permit & Sunday Sales;
- Motion to pay bills and transfers listed in Register No.'s 5227-5228;

Mayor Richardson opened the public hearing at 6:37 p.m. on the implementation of franchise fees on natural gas and electric utility services. A public hearing notice was published in the Daily Gate City on Friday, August 27, 2021.

COMMENTS: O'Donnell explained gas and electric franchise fees. Dorothy Cackley asked questions on the fees, revenue purpose statement, length of franchise and impact on industries. O'Donnell said he has been in contact with industries. He said an amendment needed to be made from 25 to 20 years on the gas franchise title due to an oversight. Councilperson Marsden said much consideration was given on impact to citizens and industries. Councilperson Garcia said all the franchise fees will stay in town, unlike L.O.S.T. which is divided among other county entities. Councilperson O'Connor said he would like to correct overspending before approving franchise fees. Gabe Rose stated Ft. Madison recently went through this process. He said the manufacturing portion of usage is tax exempt. Marsden also noted we will be losing backfill revenue.

No further comments were received, Mayor Richardson closed the public hearing at 7:02 p.m.

Old Business:

Motion made by Helenthal, second by Altheide to remove from the table a resolution setting fire service fees. (8) AYES, (1) NAY-O'Connor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Marsden, second by Bryant to approve the following proposed **RESOLUTION NO. 301-21**: “A RESOLUTION SETTING FIRE SERVICE FEES.” (8) AYES, (1) NAY-O’Connor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Marsden, second by Helenthal to remove from the table approval of two ad hoc committees, one being the Personnel Committee and the other being ARPA Committee. (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Dade, second by Helenthal to approve two ad hoc committees, one being the Personnel Committee and the other being ARPA Committee. (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

New Business:

Motion to amend the term of gas franchise from twenty-five to twenty years due to a misprint in the title of the resolution by Helenthal, second by Bryant. (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Helenthal, second by Dade to approve initial reading of an Ordinance repealing Ordinance No. 1998, and granting to Midstates Natural Gas, its successors, and assigns, a non-exclusive twenty-year franchise to acquire, construct, erect, maintain and operate a natural gas utility in the City of Keokuk, Iowa and to furnish and sell natural gas to the city and its inhabitants, and requiring said company to pay a franchise fee to the City.

ROLL CALL VOTE: (9) AYES – O’Connor, Altheide, Garcia, Dade, Helenthal, Andrews, Marsden, Bryant, and Dunek. (0) NAY. Motion carried.

Motion made by Helenthal, second by Marsden to approve the initial reading of an Ordinance repealing Ordinance No. 1830, and granting to Interstate Power and Light Company, its successors, and assigns, a non-exclusive twenty-five-year franchise to acquire, construct, erect, maintain and operate an electric system in the City of Keokuk, Iowa and to furnish and sell electric energy to the City and its inhabitants, and requiring said company to pay a franchise fee to the City.

ROLL CALL VOTE: (9) AYES – O’Connor, Altheide, Garcia, Dade, Helenthal, Andrews, Marsden, Bryant, and Dunek. (0) NAY. Motion carried.

Motion made by Helenthal, second by Altheide to approve Amendment No. 2 to the City Administrator’s employment contract.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS: Motion to approve appointment of Terry Twitchell to the Grand Theater Commission, term to expire 11/05/23 by Altheide, second by Helenthal. (9) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS: O’Donnell reported moving city hall from 601 Main to 501 Main is in progress and should be completed on schedule.

There being no further business, Mayor Richardson adjourned the meeting at 7:14 p.m.