

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE EMERSON CITY COUNCIL  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.  
THIS MEETING THROUGH ZOOM FOR GENERAL PUBLIC  
ORIGINATING FROM EMERSON CITY HALL – 410 MANCHESTER  
(MAYOR PRO-TEM/COUNCIL/CITY STAFF IN PERSON AT CITY HALL)**

Mayor Pro-Tem Mike Branigan called the regular meeting of the Emerson City Council to order on Wednesday, August 11, 2021, 6:00 p.m. Mayor Pro-Tem, City Council and City Staff were in person with public access through Zoom, originating from Emerson City Hall.

Pledge of allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: Present: Councilperson Ann Roth, Larry Johnson, Randy Gray, Bob Huntsman, and Mike Branigan

Absent: None

Moved by Councilperson Roth, seconded by Huntsman to approve the agenda.

Roll Call: Ayes: Councilperson Johnson, Gray, Huntsman, Roth, and Branigan

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Moved by Councilperson Johnson, second by Roth to approve consent agenda:

\*Minutes from regular meeting of July 14, 2021

\*Warrants for July 2021

\*Financial Report for July 2021

Roll Call: Ayes: Councilperson Gray, Huntsman, Roth, Johnson, and Branigan

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Moved by Councilperson Johnson, seconded by Huntsman to approve claims for August 2021 in the amount of \$22,476.56

Roll Call: Ayes: Councilperson Roth, Johnson, Gray, Huntsman, and Branigan

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Visitors opportunity to speak:

\*Kim Steinman – encouraging people to get out and vote school election on 9/14

\*Max Austin – advised he was chased by a loose dog and fell, causing personal injuries.

Wants council to know there is still a loose dog problem.

Moved by Councilperson Roth, seconded by Johnson to purchase laptops and accessories as pre-approved through the BuyIT@OCIO Program, under the direction of IT Mike Formhals and not to exceed the \$9,500.

Roll Call: Ayes: Councilperson Gray, Huntsman, Roth, Johnson, and Branigan

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Moved on to next agenda item as the speaker was not on-line yet.

ADA compliance for city hall access was discussed. Consensus of the Council is to wait and see how our new census count might affect our eligibility for grants that are considered by the town's median household income.

Rachel Reis of Glenwood Area Chamber of Commerce explained the Mills County Rural Housing Assessment and committee that are being put into place. There are three groups that are focusing on: Community Development, Community Pride, or Code Enforcement. Our Mayor Pro-Tem Mike Branigan is serving on the Code Enforcement committee. She will send the city a draft of the housing assessment and information on the CDBG funds that may be available through disaster relief programs.

No action on agenda item #11 regarding engineering agreement for ADA compliance as the project was tabled at this time.

Moved by Councilperson Roth, seconded by Johnson to direct City Clerk to apply through the Southwest Iowa Foundation Grant for two Friedrich Zone Aire Portable AC Plus Heat for the water plant and water well houses.

Roll Call: Ayes: Councilperson Gray, Huntsman, Roth, Johnson, and Branigan  
Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Moved by Councilperson Roth, seconded by Gray to ask Fire Department to clean the city streets for Emerson Days.

Roll Call: Ayes: Councilperson Huntsman, Roth, Johnson, Gray, and Branigan  
Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Fire Department Report:

\*Needing a new air conditioner for the upstairs office area of the station.

Councilperson Branigan presented a proposal for a City Dump Policy and Future Upgrading. No action was taken on the proposal.

Moved by Councilperson Roth, seconded by Gray to make amendment to the proposed resolution to add "or the Emerson Cemetery Association" to the end of the paragraph beginning with Now, Therefore, Be it Known.

Roll Call: Ayes: Councilperson Huntsman, Roth, Johnson, Gray, and Branigan  
Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Moved by Councilperson Roth, seconded by Gray to approve Resolution No. 2021-22, as amended **RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING POLICY ON USE OF THE CITY OF EMERSON YARD WASTE SITE**

Roll Call: Ayes: Councilperson Huntsman, Roth, Johnson, Gray, and Branigan  
Nays: None

Motion Carried.

First reading of proposed Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Emerson, Iowa by Removing Part of Chapter 151 and Adding a Section to Said Chapter Pertaining to Trees

Discussion took place with Attorney Fishman recommending the removal of Section 2.

Moved by Councilperson Gray, seconded by Branigan approve the amendment of the Proposed Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Emerson, Iowa by Removing Part of Chapter 151 and Adding a Section to Said Chapter Pertaining to Trees with the removal of Section 2 regarding planting of trees a distance from sewer mains or water mains.

Roll Call: Ayes: Councilperson Huntsman, Roth, Johnson, Gray, and Branigan  
Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Moved by Councilperson Branigan, seconded by Roth to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the Proposed Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Emerson, Iowa by Removing Part of Chapter 151 and Adding a Section to Said Chapter Pertaining to Trees

Roll Call: Ayes: Councilperson Johnson, Gray, Huntsman, Roth, and Branigan  
Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Moved by Councilperson Roth, seconded by Branigan to approve Resolution No. 2021-23  
**RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THE SUBMISSION OF THE**

**APPLICATION FOR STATE OF IOWA'S NON-ENTITLEMENT UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AS OUTLINED IN THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 (ARPA)**

Roll Call: Ayes: Councilperson Huntsman, Roth, Johnson, Gray, and Branigan  
Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Moved by Councilperson Gray, seconded by Huntsman to return council meetings to open meetings and public is invited back in.

Roll Call: Ayes: Councilperson Roth, Johnson, Gray, Huntsman, and Branigan  
Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Attorney Fishman explained the city's options in reference to the property at 502 King Street:

- City fix it and assess against the property
- File a municipal infraction and fines
- Get the property labeled as Abandoned
- Get it sold through a private sale

There was no action taken and this will be on next council agenda. The City will not be mowing the property and will need to take pictures of its condition.

Public Works maintenance report:

- \*Had a water leak while he was on vacation but it was handled nicely by Gray and Huntsman

Mayor's Report:

- \*Attended the workshop in Glenwood and is on the Code Enforcement Committee with Richard Crouch, Amber Farnam, and Kate McGann

Clerks Report was submitted in writing and a couple areas were referenced. An e-mail from Rachel Reis of Glenwood Area Chamber of Commerce was read that stated all towns in Mills County will be recognized with the Resiliency Award at the Betterment Banquet on September 9, 2021. Council acknowledged City Clerk Mary Bolton and Deputy Clerk Lana Moyers to attend and accept the award on behalf of the city.

Attorney's Report:

- \*408 Manchester property – he heard back from the IRS and they have signed off on their liens. The file has now been submitted to the judge and awaiting the judge's action.

Additional items as may come before the Council:

- \*Councilperson Johnson commented the old fire station by Chat Mobility needs trimmed (Todd advised he has sprayed) and also of two big chunks of concrete that need removed from Wilson Street from where some trees were removed
- \*Councilperson Gray asked if the lines would be painted downtown before Emerson Days (yes)
- \*Councilperson Huntsman references some branches in trees that need removed
- \*Councilperson Johnson also commented he had spoken with Tom Honeyman in reference to the possibility of removal of bleachers and dugouts at Bass Park. Honeyman advised him the property belongs all to the city so city can do as they wish.

Items for next agenda:

- \*Bass Park modifications
- \*Water Plant filter media
- \*502 King Street
- \*Tree Ordinance
- \*Economic Development Grant for old hotel

Moved by Councilperson Gray, seconded by Roth to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: Ayes: Councilperson Johnson, Gray, Huntsman, Roth, and Branigan  
Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Meeting Adjourned.

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Minutes prepared by:  
Mary L. Bolton, City Clerk

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Michael Branigan  
Mayor Pro-Tem presided over meeting