**City of Richland**

**Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting**

**March 13, 2023**

The Richland City Council met on Monday March 13,2023, in regular session. Mayor Hoekstra called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Council members Alisa Tolle, Michael T. Hadley, Kathy Brower, David Balster, and Brei Beam were present. Also present: City Clerk Susan Carroll, Public Works Supervisor Garrett Webb, and several residents.

Brower moved and Hadley 2nd to approve the agenda: 5 ayes, motion carried.

Hadley moved and Brower 2nd to approve the minutes of the February 6th public hearing, regular February 6th council meeting, and the special meeting held on February 20th: 5 ayes, motion carried.

Brower moved and Tolle 2nd to approve payment of the claims: 5 ayes, motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS/MAINTENANCE REPORTS  
Water/Wastewater affidavit operator Jason Rebling was absent. Public Works Supervisor Garrett Webb reported the installation of the generator at the water plant has been completed. Also, the sonar analysis of the lagoon was performed, with the results of the samples pending. The city completed the purchase of a 2014 Ford pickup for the Public Works department.

PUBLIC FORUM FOR CITIZEN COMMENTS--No action to be taken:

There were no citizen comments.

Mayor Hoekstra discussed the proposal submitted by Dave Brown for development of a sub-division in Richland. The tentative plan is for five lots surrounding a cul-de-sac at the end of South Mulberry St. More information will be shared in the future.

The council discussed whether to keep or sell the 2004 Ford pickup owned by the city. Balster moved and Brower 2nd to include the pickup in Greiner’s Spring Auction, with a reserve of $2000: Roll Call vote--3 ayes, 2 nays (Tolle, Hadley), motion passed.

There was discussion about needed road repairs on Oak St. Brower moved and Tolle 2nd to table further discussion until the April meeting to gather more information on possible options: 5 ayes, motion carried.

Council member Beam expressed concern about maintenance of the city lot on S. Walnut. Beam moved and Brower 2nd to continue with the maintenance agreement voted on last year, which was to have the owners of the fitness center haul rock to the site, with the city paying for the rock and providing the labor to spread the rock onto the lot: 5 ayes, motion carried.

Council member Beam also shared concerns from her and other residents about a semi parking in an alley between 102 E. Main and 104 E. Main. There have been complaints about the semi blocking the alleyway. Beam moved and Tolle 2nd to send a letter to the property owner regarding compliance with the city ordinance that prohibits blocking access through public alleys: 3 ayes, 2 nays (Hadley, Balster), motion carried.

The city received two sealed bids for the removal of a tree in the city right-of-way at 205 E. Main. Hadley moved and Brower 2nd to accept the low bid of $1000 from Trent Greiner Logging: 5 ayes, motion carried.

The council was informed of a fiber utility project being done by Farmtel. It will run along Mulberry St. from E. Division to E. South St, then follow E. South St. to S. Oak St., and then south to the city limits. The council had no objections to the project.

Tolle moved and Beam 2nd to approve a fence permit for 415 S. Oak St.: 5 ayes, motion carried.

Tolle moved and Beam 2nd to approve a solar permit for a roof-mounted solar panel project at 401 S. Oak St.:

5 ayes, motion carried.

Brower moved and Balster 2nd to approve a building permit for a garage at 301 W. North St.: 5 ayes, motion carried.

Andy Nelson addressed the council about the property at 305 W. North St. He is concerned about the condition of the house and the resulting safety issues and possible decrease in property valuation that could affect his residence. He also reported that the owner of the property has been burning various items in the ditch, including some hazardous materials. He feels the smoke and fumes from this illegal burning could cause health issues for himself and other nearby residents. Tolle moved and Beam 2nd to send a letter to the owner to cease burning materials in the public right-of-way: 5 ayes, motion carried.

There was further discussion about various nuisance properties around town. Chad Reed addressed the council about the condition of the property at 301 S. Walnut and asked if the council was planning any action. The council was open to possible future legal action regarding this property. Other properties were discussed as to how to proceed to encourage residents to adhere to city ordinances in the care and maintenance of their properties. No action was taken at this time.

Council member Balster presented quotes from LED Lighting Solutions for refurbished verses new flashing stop signs at the intersection of Locust and College. Balster moved and Beam 2nd to contact the company as to the availability and purchase of three refurbished signs: Roll Call vote--3 ayes, 2 nays (Tolle, Hadley) motion carried.

Tolle moved and Balster 2nd to approve the annual Easter Egg Hunt in Richland’s Central Park on Saturday, April 8th at 10am, put on by the Richland Community Club in conjunction with Federation Bank: 5 ayes, motion carried.

Brower moved and Hadley 2nd to reach out to Sheriff Hinnah of the Keokuk County Sheriff's Office and invite him to the April council meeting to discuss renegotiating the 28E agreement between the City of Richland and the Sheriff’s Department: 5 ayes, motion carried.

Mayor Hoekstra updated the council on information he had received regarding recent events involving the City of Brighton and the Brighton Fire Department, and how their situation might involve the Richland Fire Department assisting in fire coverage. No action was taken.

Brower moved and Beam 2nd to schedule a budget workshop on Wednesday, March 15th at 5:30pm at City Hall to review the pending city budget for FYE2024: 5 ayes, motion carried. Tolle moved and Brower 2nd to schedule a public hearing on Monday, April 10th at 7pm at City Hall to provide a forum for public input regarding the pending city budget for FYE2024: 5 ayes, motion carried.

Mayor Hoekstra adjourned the meeting at 8:48 pm.

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 Mayor Thomas A Hoekstra City Clerk Susan Carroll