

February 13, 2024

The Afton City Council met in regular scheduled session at 6:30 PM February 13, 2023. Mayor Burger presided with Council members Sheryl Parham, Kristie Nixon and Steve Kinyon, Jeff Burger present. David Cunningham was absent.

Nixon moved to approve the agenda and Parham seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried. Kinyon moved to approve the consent agenda which consisted of the minutes of January 9, 2023 meeting, report of the City Clerk/Treasurer, Afton Police Department and the following bills. Burger seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Iowa Dept. of Revenue	Gen/RU/Sr/Elec- State W/H- Jan	\$ 505.05
941 Payment	Gen/RU/Sr/Elec- Payroll Taxes Jan	\$ 4,620.98
IPERS	Gen/RU/Sr/Elec- Retirement Jan	\$ 2,405.94
Capital One	Gen/SR/Elec- Concession Stand Rec	\$ 574.04
SIRWA	Gen/SR- Water- Feb	\$ 120.00
Verizon	Gen- Police -Due Feb	\$ 40.01
Windstream	Gen-Internet City Hall/WIFI	\$ 353.72
Employees	Gen/SR/Elec/RU- Payroll 1/18/24	\$ 5,235.88
Alisha Tucker	Rec- re-imburse for Rec Purchases	\$ 14.97
IAMU	IAMU Energy Conference- Roxy Training	\$ 250.00
Innovative	Gen- Com. Center Cleaning	\$ 90.00
Madison National Ins.	EB/RU/SR/Elec- Life Ins & Supplemental	\$ 47.82
Mid-American Energy	Gen/SR- Com. Center/City Shop Heat	\$ 168.94
NAPA	Gen/RU- Supplies/Police	\$ 45.91
SW IA REC	Rec- Ball Field Elec	\$ 69.00
Utility Fund	Mtr Dep- I. Sparks	\$ 150.00
Wellmark	EB/RU/SR/Elec- Health Ins- Feb	\$ 1,262.52
Employees	Gen/SR/Elec/RU- Payroll 02/01//24	\$ 5,172.59
Ally's Print Shop	Gen- Police Office Supplies	\$ 55.00
Dakota Supply Group	RU- Plow Blade Part	\$ 265.00
Fastenal	Gen- Shipping for supplies	\$ 16.39
Feldhacker Contracting	RU- Culvert Repair	\$ 2,455.00
IDALS	Gen- Pound Renewal	\$ 75.00
J&J Plumbing	Gen- Com. Center Furnace Repair	\$ 80.00
Meggen Weeks PLC	Gen- Annual Contract	\$ 22.00
Mount Ayr Record News	Gen- Greenlawn Mowing AD	\$ 125.00

T&S Industries Inc	RU- Part for Snowplow	\$ 8.91
Utility Fund	Mtr Dep- R. Chute & A. Vandel Final Bill	\$ 447.00
Iowa Dept. of Revenue	Sr/Elec-Sales Tax -Feb	\$ 1,706.45
Windstream	Gen-Phone Feb	\$ 149.30
Afton Star	Gen- Publication Minutes- Mowing Ad	\$ 405.26
Akin Building	REC- Concession stand building	\$ 1,688.76
Innovative	Gen- Com. Center Cleaning	\$ 90.00
Iowa One Call	SR/Elec- Email	\$ 3.60
L. Carlos Alberto	Mtr Dep- Final Bill	\$ 120.26
New Cooperative	RU- Fuel	\$ 775.00
SW IA REC	Elec- Annual Testing & Light Removal	\$ 628.50
The Exchange	Gen- Mowing Ad	\$ 82.60
Utility Fund	Mtr Dep- L. Carlos Alberto	\$ 104.74
USIC	SR- Locates	\$ 68.44
Ziegler	RU/SR- Skid loader Repair	\$ 1,554.25
RPGI	Elec- Elec Purchase	\$ 55,960.58
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 88,014.41</b>

<b>Expenditures</b>	
General Fund	\$ 1,784.68
Road Use	\$ 4,399.50
Employee Benefit	\$ 8,289.94
Recreation	\$ 2,346.77
Sewer Fund	\$ 1,279.71
Electric	\$ 58,683.34
Meter Deposit	\$ 822.00
Payroll	\$ 10,408.47
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 88,014.41</b>

<b>Receipts</b>	
General	\$ 10,619.14
Road Use	\$ 10,336.87
Employee Benefits	\$ 119.84
Lost	\$ 12,415.02
Recreation	\$ 1,129.50
Sewer Fund	\$ 7,436.91
Sewer Sinking	\$ 3,150.83
Electric	\$ 69,481.19
Electric Sinking	\$ 13,747.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 128,436.55</b>

### **Public Forum:**

Devon Springer discussed ideas of putting up a fence on the East and South side of the Splashpad. She stated that there have been some community concerns about children running into the street. Devon also had some thoughts about updating some playground equipment. Such as the sand box and adding a handicap swing. She requested to be put on the April Agenda. Until then she would contact SICOG about possible playground grants.

## **RESOLUTIONS:**

Nixon moved to approve Resolution **2024-09 Resolution Setting Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2025 Proposed Tax Levy for March 26, 2024 at 6:30pm**

Kinyon seconded the motion. Votes aye: Parham, Burger, Kinyon, and Nixon. Motion carried.

Parham moved to approve Resolution **2024-10 Resolution to Participate in the planning and Development Programs of the Southern Iowa Council of government (SICOG)**. Nixon seconded the motion. Votes aye: Burger, Parham, Kinyon, Nixon. Motion carried.

Nixon moved to **Designating Day Before Christmas as Holiday**. Kinyon seconded the motion. Votes aye: Burger, Parham, Kinyon, and Nixon. Motion carried.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

Appointment to Greenlawn Cemetery board. Nixon motioned to Appoint Rhonda McIntosh to the Cemetery Board. Kinyon seconded. All voted Aye. Motion carried

Replacement of sidewalks on Gregory St going North towards Filmore, 508 E. Filmore going East. The City of Afton has \$10,000 in grant funds tentatively approved for use of sidewalk replacement. The City will know by the March council meeting if grant funds are approved.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Assessor's Office- Guest Mindy Schaefer from the Union County Assessor's Office discussed 2024 Re-valuations of Residential and Ag Land. Assessor's Office will be mailing out notices February 26<sup>th</sup> regarding the Re-valuations. This data was collected by Vanguard. If property owners have questions or concerns, they should reach out to the Union County Assessor's Office in Creston to discuss. Vanguard will be available for appointments with property owners who have concerns in Mid-March. These appointments will be scheduled by the Union County Assessor's Office.

Rec Board- Rec Board guests were Robbie Dike, Jennifer Jackson, and Ben Clear. There was discussion about the Rec budget for FY 2025 and future plans for the facilities, equipment, and uniform needs. The Rec Board provided a list of the 3 most important facility projects over the next few years. 1. Repair East & West outfields. 2. Practice field & fence 3. Parking. Discussed using portions of LOST funds for these projects. The Rec Board is going to work on getting some estimates together for the maintenance/repairs that are needed before moving forward.

Gate across Iowa Street on city property. There was discussion about the gate's location on city property and the challenges it creates for snow removal. The gate was not installed by the city of Afton. The matter will be turned over to the City Attorney for review.

City worker Jesse Shade brought up some challenges of snow removal around the city square. Shade stated that for the most part the snow emergency ordinance works well. The challenge is when the snow emergency is no longer in effect & sidewalks are being cleared. The snow on the sidewalks around the square is being pushed into the street. When people start parking on the square overnight, he cannot get the snow removed due to cars parking back on the square. There was discussion of a few different ideas to handle this challenge. 1. No parking on square overnight during the winter months. 2. Rotating sides of the street that are available for overnight

parking during the winter months on the square. The city will look into options to reduce snow removal challenges on the square. No motion was made at this time.

Stop Sign needs- Council Member Parham brought up the need for a stop sign on Grand Street. Parham stated that people drive too fast and with the steep incline of the road and some hidden driveways that it is a dangerous area. Afton Police Chief McGuire and city employee Shade were both present for the discussion. The council discussed other options to reduce the dangers on Grand Street. Such as policing the area more to help control speeding, hidden driveway signs or a speed sign. It was discussed that putting a stop sign at the top of a steep hill may cause other safety issues when road conditions are poor. McGuire is going to monitor traffic in that area for now and evaluate the area for future needs.

Livestock Permit application for 4-H bottle calf on Iowa St. the council discussed property size, proximity to neighbors, and applicants plan for animal waste removal. Nixon moved to approve the livestock permit. Parham seconded. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

Gibson Memorial Library guest Danielle. Danielle provided updated information regarding the Gibson Memorial Library project and the activities the library provides for the community. Previously in 2020 the City of Afton voted to allocate \$2,500 over 4 years for the remodel/addition of the Gibson Memorial Library to be paid when the project was completed. The plans for the remodel have since changed. An outdoor pavilion with outdoor seating will now be built in the Spring of 2024. Gibson Memorial Library approached the City of Afton to see if the council will still pledge the \$10,000 for the new plans. Nixon motioned to continue with the pledge and change the use of funds from the original remodel to the pavilion. Parham seconded the motion. Votes aye: Kinyon, Burger, Nixon, Parham. Motion carried.

New Storm Siren is scheduled to be installed on 2/15/2024 out at the Rec ballfield. The new storm siren will be set off by radio frequency. The radios will be operated by the Afton Fire Department. The current radios at the Afton Fire station will need to be upgraded to be able to activate the new siren. Radio upgrades were not included in the bid from Blue Valley Public Siren. The radio upgrade and labor costs are separate from BVPS and performed by a different company. The quote for the radio upgrade is \$760 for the upgrade and technical labor \$405.00 for a total of \$1,165. The new siren will not be fully functional until the radios are upgraded and the final electrical is hooked up.

Downtown Façade Grants – The City of Afton Received 4 applications for the Downtown Façade Grant. The applicates were

1. Hull Monuments requesting \$15,000 for residing their building on the north and east sides. The estimated cost for the project was \$37,750.00.
2. Carol Eckles requesting \$5,324 for new windows, painting and new tin on overhang. Eckles' roof also needs repaired. This cost is an additional 12,000. The total estimate for the project is \$17,324.
3. Jennifer seals requested \$10,000 for tuckpointing on the South, West and North side of building. Seals also requested \$5,500 for the Stairs, Deck and Landing on the west side to the apartments. The total estimates for the project are \$15,500.
4. Roger & Lupe Lopez requested \$125,000 to add a patio/deck to the east side of the building or expand the building to the east side. The estimated cost of the project is \$150,000.

The council reviewed the applications, estimates and pictures submitted by the applicants. The council took into consideration the amount in the city's budget for 2025, the size and scope of the projects. If the applicants had been awarded the downtown façade grant in the past, and if they followed through with previous grant projects. Nixon moved to approve Hull and Eckels for \$5,000 each. Burger seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion passed

The City of Afton received 2 bids for trimming trees around powerlines in the City of Afton. The applicants were Huddleson Tree Service and McNeill's Tree Service. The Council discussed the bid prices and took into consideration the timeline needed for the work to be completed. Nixon moved to approve McNeill's Tree Trimming Bid. Parham seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Burger moved to adjourn and Kinyon seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the Council adjourned at 8:29 PM.

---

Michelle Burger, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kayla Lacina, City Clerk