October 14, 2025

The Afton City Council met in regular scheduled session at 6:30 PM October14, 2025. Mayor Burger presided over council members Dave Cunningham, Sheryl Parham, Steve Kinyon, Kristie Nixon and Jeff Burger.
Kinyon moved to approve the agenda. Parham seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried. Parham moved to approve the consent agenda which consisted of the Minutes from the September 9, 2025 meeting, City Clerk/Treasure and the following bills. Cunningham seconded the motion. All voted aye.

		September 9, 2025-October 14, 2025	
Check #	**Vendor Name**	**Fund-Purpose**	**Amount**
793E	CASEY'S	GEN- POLICE GAS-SEPT	$ 147.89
794E	WINDSTREAM	GEN- EMAIL SEPT	$ 12.48
795E	IOWA DEP OF REVEN	SR/ELEC- SALES TAX	$ 1,794.20
796E	IOWA DEP OF REVEN	MONTHLY STATE PAYROLL W/H-AUG	$ 309.54
797E	IPERS	GEN/RU/SR/ELEC- WITHHOLDING MATCH	$ 2,418.60
798E	EFTPS	GEN/RU/SR/ELEC-PAYROLL TAXES	$ 3,483.72
799E	CAPITAL ONE	GEN/REC- CONCESSION FOOD	$ 195.13
800E	CASEY'S	GEN- POLICE GAS-OCT	$ 212.21
801E	RPGI	ELEC- ELEC PURCHASE	$ 45,802.62
802E	SIRWA	GEN/SR- WATER	$ 3,163.00
803E	WINDSTREAM	GEN- EMAIL OCT	$ 12.66
804E	WINDSTREAM	GEN- PHONES	$ 149.05
805E	VERIZON	GEN- POLICE INTERNET-OCT	$ 40.01
34304	BOMGARRS	RU/SR- BATTERY/OIL	$ 179.98
34305	DAVID MCNEILL	GEN/ELEC- TREE TRIM	$ 300.00
34306	JIMS SANITATION	GEN- GARBAGE	$ 6,227.22
34307	LOCKRIDGE	GEN- INTERNET	$ 168.00
34308	MADISON NATIONAL	EMBEN/SR/ELEC/RU- LIFE INS. SUPP LIFE	$ 48.25
34309	MEGGEN WEEKS PLC	GEN- LEGAL FEES	$ 374.00
34310	MIDAMERICAN ENERGY	GEN/SR- GAS	$ 30.19
34311	PETTY CASH	REC- START UP MONEY FOR CONCESSION/GATE	$ 550.00
34312	RADAR ROAD TEC	GEN- POLICE RADAR CERT.	$ 40.00
34313	SW IOWA REC	REC- LIGHTS	$ 80.00
34314	THE LENOX COMPUTER STORE	GEN-LAPTOP PURCHASE/SETUP	$ 1,288.00
34315	WELLMARK BC/BS	EMBEN/SR/ELEC/RU- HEALTH INS	$ 1,526.19
34316-34319	EMPLOYEES	GEN/RU/SR/ELEC- PAYROLL #20	$ 5,948.47
34320	ACCESS SYSTEMS	GEN/SR/ELEC- PRINTER SERVICE	$ 178.86
34321	BRETT STREET	GEN- WINDOW WASH- SEPT	$ 60.00
34322	ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES	GEN/REC/SR/ELEC-EMAIL/TRAINING/POSTAGE/JANITORIAL	$ 2,155.58
34323	MAINSTAY SYSTEMS	GEN- POLICE GEAR	$ 89.00
34324	MIDWEST VAC PROF	SR- SR CLEAN/TV	$ 2,228.41
34325	PODIUM INK	REC- COACH SHIRT	$ 21.40
34326-34329	EMPLOYEES	GEN/RU/SR/ELEC- PAYROLL #21	$ 6,040.42
34330	AFTON FIRE DEPARTMENT	GEN- FIRE SERVICES	$ 12,393.00

34331	AFTON STAR ENTERPRISE	GEN- PUBLICATION	$ 349.95
34332	AKINS BUILDING	SR- LIGHT FOR SHOP	$ 40.00
34333	BRETT STREET	GEN- WINDOW WASH- OCT	$ 60.00
34334	EU HS VOLLEYBALL	REC- CONCESSION HELP	$ 440.78
34335	FAREWAY	REC- CONCEESION FOOD	$ 362.68
34336	GARY BEEBE	GEN- REFUND FOR COMMUNITY CENTER	$ 50.00
34337	IAMU	ELEC- FALL ENERGIZERS	$ 142.80
34338	INNOVATIVE	GEN- CLEANING	$ 90.00
34339	JESSE SHADE	SR- MILAGE RE-IMBURSEMENT	$ 21.00
34340	KELLY KLOMMHAUS	GEN- MOWING	$ 5,000.00
34341	MIDAMERICAN ENERGY	GEN/SR- GAS OCT	$ 30.19
34342	NEW COOP	GEN/RU/SR/REC-FUEL/GAS	$ 308.61
34343	SCHILDBERG CONST	RU-ROCK	$ 1,136.77
34344	STATE HYGIENIC LAB	SR- LAGOON TEST	$ 65.00
34345	SW IA REC	REC- LIGHTS	$ 59.00
34346	THE LENOX COMPUTER STORE	GEN- LABOR/SET UP	$ 360.00
34347	USIC LOCATING	ELEC- LOCATING	$ 325.85

Expenditures		**RECEIPTS CONT..**	
GENERAL	31558.64	GENERAL	21719.91
ROAD USE	1459.51	ROAD USE	13449.30
EMPLOYEE BEN	7136.96	EMPLOYEE BEN	2749.98
RECREATION	2091.60	LOST	13192.95
CAP, PROJECTS		WALKING TRAIL	6.50
SEWER	3367.82	TYLER CEM	266.04
ELECTRIC	48907.29	HUSS CEM	13.00
PAYROLL/MAYOR/COUNCIL	11988.89	PERPERUAL CARE	5.36
TOTAL	**106,510.71**	RECREATION	3728.35
RECEIPTS		SEWER	8320.50
ELECTRIC	89025.02	SEWER SINKING	5171.08
ELEC SINKING	13705.96	SEWER RESERVE	52.00
METER DEPOSIT	13.75	**TOTAL**	**171,419.70**

Public Forum: Kristie Nixon wanted to thank city hall for having the donation box for Blue Star Mothers of Iowa in the office. Nixon appreciated the donations that were dropped off.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING/RESOLUTIONS: None

Old Business:

Previously street parking/signage was discussed at a council meeting. City Employee Jesse Shade asked if the city could remove some of the signs around the square. The reason for this request was it would make snow removal and mowing easier for him. If the signs could be removed Jesse would paint the curb/street with verbiage regarding parking. The laws regarding parking and signage were reviewed by Meggen Weeks, City Attorney. Per Meggen's research, If the signage is removed then the 1-hour parking will not be able to be enforced. Under Iowa Code, local parking restrictions are not enforceable unless appropriate signs give notice. Because the language says "signs" and not "markings" you have to have signs. The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices states that regulatory parking restrictions must be communicated by vertical signs and that pavement markings can supplement but cannot replace the required signs. Afton's code specifically requires

all traffic control devices to comply with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices so painting would violate the Code and local ordinance.
The City Clerk received information from Verizon regarding cell phones/plans for the city. The city could get 4 smartphones with unlimited calling, text & data for $36.99 per line. This equals $147.99/mo. The smart phone options were iPhone 15/128GB Free, iPhone 16E/128GB Free, or an iPhone 17/128GB $379.99/each. Pricing is with a 2-year agreement. Cunningham made a motion to move forward with the cell phone plan for city employees with each city employee getting a 16E/128GB smartphone to use for work purposes. Nixon seconded the motion. All voted Aye. Motion carried.
The council previously discussed the Textmygov service option that would allow the city to send out text messages to residents for a wide range of notifications. Such as late payments, snow emergencies, office closures, power outages, and street closures. The service could also be on the city website to answer common questions. Nixon reached out to East union school and to Union County Emergency management to see how their text service works. Nixon stated that the one the school uses is only for schools and the one EMS uses provides additional weather alerts and requires certification to be able to use. Neither of the services would suit the city's needs. It was discussed that since cell phones we just approved that the city should wait to see how the cell phones work out. One comment was made that the city could use the work cell phones to send out messages if needed. Nixon made a motion to hold off on the textmygov service at this time. Kinyon seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:
Debra Brant requested to be on the agenda for a complaint about the privacy fence her neighbor installed. She states she cannot see to back out of her driveway despite having a back up camera on her car. She voiced concerns over safety. The privacy fence goes right up to the edge of the sidewalk. The neighbors completed a building permit, paid the fee and Jesse measured the property line. The city approved the permit. City attorney Meggen Weeks asked for the permit to be emailed to her for review.
K'Lea Johnson with the Afton Development Club stated that the ADC had some leftover paint from donations and wanted to know if they could paint the inside of the park restrooms. The paint they have available are base colors. Nixon asked if the color be light shade since the restrooms are small. Nixon made a motion to approve the painting of the restrooms. Burger seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.
K'Lea gave an update on the grain bin shelter that will be installed at the lake. Th Pettit family donated the grain bin, Feldhacker can haul the bin. He can also grade, gravel, pour the concrete and set the bin. The cost of the grade, gravel and concrete is $6,819.00. they do not have a bid/cost for hauling the bin at this time. City Clerk Kayla Lacina gave an update on the pit latrine grant for the Afton Lake. City Clerk completed the grant, but has not heard back, if the city was selected. If selected the city will pay all expenses for the project and then the DNR will re-imburse 75% of expenses. The estimate of the 25% the city is responsible for is $5,000-6,000.
Police report/updates from Mcguire- McGuire gave an update on the case of the City Truck. The Truck was swabbed for DNA and sent to DCI. It could take months before any results come back. McGuire spoke with property owners at 100 W Iowa Street. Owners verified that they received the letter of intent by the city to remove the garage. The property owner made some threating comments to Officer McGuire regarding the removal of the garage. There was discussion that the property owners at 100 W Iowa street were seeking funding from a lender to repair the garage. At the time of the council meeting the city and city attorney did not have confirmation from the lender that funds were secured. Mcguire sent out nuisance letters for junk vehicles on W Filmore and E Filmore this week.
McGuire received a quote for the speed sign. The quote came in at just under $3000. This does not include the electrical hook up to the sign. The city previously received grant funds for a speed sign for $4000.
Police Chief McGuire gave an update on the camera system. Progress is moving along. There is power to 5 camera boxes have 4 more to go. Some cameras may be installed as early as the next two weeks. Lockridge is supplying internet service to the cameras.
City attorney Meggen Weeks was present to answer questions and provide clarification for the mowing of ditches and banks. Weeks cited the City of Afton's Ordinance 135.10 Property owners' responsibility for maintenance. Weeks also Cited Code of Iowa Sec. 364.12 [2c]. Weeks stated that City employees should not be entering on residential properties to mow ditches or banks. The city is not required to maintain or mow the right

-of-way. City of Afton's Ordinance 135.11 It is the abutting property owner's responsibility. If the abutting property owner fails to maintain it within a reasonable time, the city may then perform the required action and assess the cost against the abutting property for collection in the same manner as a property tax. Gary Clear was present and asked Weeks: If a property owner gave the city permission to mow a ditch, could the city then mow the ditch. Weeks stated NO, then that city employee is working for you using city resources and taxpayer dollars. Weeks followed up with; if there is a ditch that is very wet or something of that nature and city employee can reach it with the disc mower from the street without entering the property then city employee could mow that area if they wanted to but is not required to by law. Weeks recommended that prior to the next mowing season, that the city send out a letter to all the properties that were on the city's list, with notification that the city would no longer be mowing those ditches or banks for residences. Weeks also recommend that the letter include Afton's Ordinances 135.10, 135.11 and code of Iowa 364.12[2c] in the letter.
SICOG sent out some information about a Housing Renewal Program. A city, SICOG, or a 501c3 entity applies, purchases a problem home, rehabilitates the home, and resells it. The program provides up to $100,000 forgivable loan. The forgivable portion, with some nuances, is the total development cost (including realtor fees, taxes, insurance, program costs, and modest developer fee) minus final sales price. Nixon stated she thought the city should look into this. K'Lea with ADC asked if she could speak on the topic. She stated that ADC was going to apply and had a house that they were going to look at. In the guidelines of the program only 1 entity can be selected for the program per community. The council agreed that the city will not apply and compete with ADC for the housing renewal program.

Updates from Committees:
Rec Board- Football tournaments are going on and Basketball forms are going out to students. The rec board state the field lights need some work and they would like to get new lights. The Rec board has questions about grants. Kinyon suggested talking with MUSCO, SCICF, SICOG, DEKKO, or SW IA REC for grant opportunities. Kinyon asked city clerk to reach out to Alex on the rec board and work with them on options. The city sets aside a specific amount for the Rec Department for maintenance, repairs, updates as community betterment projects.
Landfill- Approved contractor for the new build. Waiting on FEMA to approve contractor.
EMC- meeting to be held 10/15/25
Fire- Meeting to be held 10/19/25.
Cemetery- Fall clean up was cancelled due to weather. Will wait until spring to schedule a cleanup. The city received a bid from Klommhaus for 3 years for $35,000/year. The Greenlawn board would like Meggen to edit the contract for 3 years and include a clause that would allow for contract termination if they failed to meet all terms outlined in the current mowing contract. Greenlawn board would like to ask the attorney to insert a clause into the contract that would require the contractor to provide at least 90 days of notice should they need to terminate the contract. Upon approval by the City Attorney, Greenlawn Cemetery would like to review the updated contract prior to extending it to Klommhaus. Nixon made a comment about limited help/volunteers for memorial day clean up. Nixon stated that the board/city ask Klommhaus if they would do it and how much they would charge.

Nixon made a motion to adjourn. Parham seconded. All vote aye. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

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Michelle Burger, Mayor

ATTEST: ____________________________
Kayla Lacina, City Clerk