

City of Agency, Iowa
Council Meeting
January 12-2023

The regular meeting of the Agency City Council was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Nathan Bissell at City Hall. Council members in attendance were Tom Boos, Samantha Ulin and Kathy Thrasher. Council members Jacoby Deshler and Mandy Thrasher were absent. Also present were Sheriff Phillips, Deputy Floen, City Attorney Heather Simplot, Linda Heston, Dennis Collis, Michael Sanders, Suzanne Harrison, Deb Blew, Darrell Jones, Fred Clubb and Heather Fellingner.

APPROVE OR AMEND AGENDA:

Mrs. Ulin motioned to approve the Agenda. Second by Mrs. Thrasher. **All Ayes. Motion passed.**

CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Thrasher motioned to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Mr. Boos. **All Ayes. Motion passed.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE-Annual Budget 23-24 workshop was held.

STREETS, ALLEY, WATER & SEWER COMMITTEE-None

HEALTH COMMITTEE-None

BUILDING & GROUNDS & PARKS-Community Center furnace was fixed.

FIRE BOARD-None

Library Board-None

PERMITS- None

Public Forum- None

MAYOR/COUNCIL COMMENTS- None

OLD BUSINESS-

DOG NUSIANCES- City Attorney Heather Simplot stated that she was there at the request of the Mayor to discuss dog nuisance letters that she was asked to draft and send. Dennis Callis asked if he had to have his dog on a leash if the dog was in his own yard. He stated that his dogs are not vicious. City Attorney asked him how he could guarantee his dogs would not take off if it was not on a leash. City Attorney asked if he understood if his dog were to step off the property that would be a dog "at large" and City would be able to impound and take the dog away. She stated that with the dog not being on a leash he was running a big risk of his dog taking off. Michael Sanders talked about his dog and walking it with a leash around town. Sheriff Phillips informed Mr. Sanders that this was what the City was trying to reiterate was that dogs need to be on a leash. Mr. Callis stated that he was told the dog needed to be on a leash in his own yard. Attorney commented that because he lives in a building with other tenants it's officially not his yard but the owners of the complex he lives in. She stated that because there are other tenants that live there with him not having his dog on a leash he runs the risk of his dog biting/attacking another person. Mayor Bissell stated that it ultimately comes back to if their dog does not cause issues the City will never hear or have complaints about a dog. Deb Blew commented that she has seen dogs in their own yards when she has walked her little dog. She said you don't know what the intentions of that dog are when they see your dog or how they will react when they run at you and that it can be very intimidating. Linda Heston commented that they have seen numerous large dogs running and owners chasing and trying to catch their dogs. She stated it's a hardship for the elderly and parents with young children. Mr. Jones commented that his dogs are some of the dogs in question and he knows what he has to do to take care of the problem. Mayor Bissell commented that it is not the Councils wish to do anything to someone's dog but that there has to be a solution to the dogs not being under control of the owner. Suzanne Harrison stated her neighbor's dog was getting over into her pen again and chasing her dogs. Mayor Bissell recommend that she call the Sheriff the next time she has a dog

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come onto her property. Mayor commented that it doesn't matter if a dog is vicious or not, at large means its running loose and not under the control of its owner. Mrs. Blew asked about dogs defecating on City sidewalks and in people's yards. Sheriff Phillips commented that if they document or have proof of the owner of the dog that the Sheriff's Office can issue a citation.

DOG ORDINANCES- City Attorney commented that there were a few things she saw that needed to be addressed and changed. Mayor Bissell gave her permission to look into and make changes to dog ordinances.

RESOLUTION 2023-1 AMENDING THE RESIDENTIAL GARBAGE COLLECTION RATE-Mrs. Ulin motioned to approve the amended residential garbage collection rate to **\$21.06 beginning December 28, 2022**. Second by Mrs. Thrasher. **Roll Call Vote.**

Ayes: K. Thrasher, S. Ulin, T. Boos

Nays: None

Absent: M. Thrasher, J. Deshler

Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

2023 APPOINTMENTS- Council reviewed **2023 Appointments**.

RESIDENTIAL WATER RATES-City Clerk informed the Council that the last time the City raised the water rates was in 2005. The City did have a water rate increase in 2015 but the Council decided at that time not to pass the rate increase onto the residents. The City was notified that the rates were going to be increased by 3% beginning February 1, 2023. Mayor asked the Council to take into consideration that there are other expenses like maintenance, supplies, wages and so forth that the water revenue must cover. Mrs. Thrasher commented that if it is approved that the Residents need to be informed that the water rate will be increased. Mrs. Ulin asked if the rate increase can be added to the City Newsletter for January & February with the increase effective March 1st. **Mrs. Ulin made a motion to increase the residential water rate to \$10.50 per month for the first 1,000 gal. or less and \$6.50 for all over 1,000 gals.** Second by T. Boos. **All Ayes. Motion passed.**

CITY HALL & LIBRARY LIGHTS-Due to issues with the lights in the Library the Mayor thought now would be a good time to update our lights to LED and potentially save the City money in monthly electrical bills at the same time. **Mrs. Thrasher made a motion to accept the bid for installation of LED lights in the Library for \$800 and \$850 for City Hall from Winger Companies.** Second by Mrs. Ulin. **Roll Call Vote.**

Ayes: S. Ulin, T. Boos, K. Thrasher

Nays: None

Absent: M. Thrasher, J. Deshler

SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE OF FEB. 9-PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY-Mrs. Ulin motioned to set the Public Hearing for the Proposed Property Tax Levy as **February 9th at 7 pm**. Second by Mr. Boos **All Ayes. Motion passed.**

COMMUNITY CENTER RENT-Mayor proposed to the Council an increase of rental rates due to increase of utilities and supplies and if agreed upon a date to set the increases. Mayor also commented that due to some renters not calling and canceling ahead of time to insure that others have a chance at that date that the contract needs to be updated. Mayor suggested that he and the City Clerk work together to get the details of the contract worked out. **Mrs. Thrasher made a motion to increase the Community Center rent to \$100 beginning February 1, 2023.** Second by Mrs. Ulin. **All Ayes. Motion passed.**

ADJOURNMENT-Mr. Boos motioned to adjourn. Second by Ms. Ulin. **All Ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.**

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Nathan Bissell, Mayor

Attest: Pam Muntz-City Clerk

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