

Slater Regular City Council Meeting September 14, 2015

A regular meeting of the Slater City Council was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Steve Ransom at 7:30 P.M. on August 10, 2015, at City Hall, 101 Story St., Slater, Iowa. The roll being called the following council members were present as follows: Susan Erickson, Ken May, Ann Sobiech-Munson, Steve Ransom and John Kahler. Absent: Mayor Gary Halverson.

It was moved by Kahler and seconded by Erickson to approve the consent agenda, minutes from the August 10, 2015 meetings and bills totaling \$108,747.35 presented as follows:

ALLIANT ENERGY	UTILITIES	24,666.09
AMES LOCK AND SECURITY	DEADBOLTS, LOCKS	625.30
ASTARITA, JULIE	RAFFLE TICKETS	12.00
AUTOMATIC SYSTEMS	MAG METER PCB ASSEMBLY REPAIR	1,781.61
BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS	BOOKS	1,312.88
CASEY'S GENERAL STORE	FUEL	197.58
CENTRAL IOWA DISTRIBUTING	TOILET PAPER	186.10
CULLIGAN	WATER	12.50
DEMCO	BOOK COVERING SUPPLIES	321.51
EAGLE ENGRAVING	NAME TAGS	106.55
ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING	PAGER PROGRAMMING	15.00
FICA	FED/FICA TAX	5,975.58
FREDERICK, HEATHER	SPORT REFUND	20.00
GALE CENGAGE LEARNING	LP BOOKS	55.98
GATE HOUSE MEDIA	PUBLICATION	118.46
GOGERTY, JENNIFER	MILEAGE	88.55
HAWKINS, INC	AQUA HAWK	2,457.35
HEARTLAND COOPERATIVE	CHEMICALS	27.23
HORNBUCKLE, DARLA	CUPS & NAPKINS	24.77
HUXLEY COMMUNICATIONS	PHONE/INTERNET	433.12
IHLE, TRACEY	BUSINESS PURCHASE LOAN	4,484.40
INGRAM	AUDIO BOOK	21.99
IOWA DNR	2016 PERMIT	210.00
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE	SALES TAX	2,631.00
IOWA HISTORY JOURNAL	SUBSCRIPTION	18.95
IOWA LIBRARY SERVICES	EBSCO HOST	189.45
IOWA ONE CALL	IOWA ONE CALL	8.10
IOWA PARKS AND REC ASSOC	TICKETS THROUGH LABOR DAY	282.00
JENNIFER DAVIES	RECORDING FEES	174.00
JOLLIFFE, BETTE	FOR TWEEN READING PROGRAM	61.00
JORDAN & MAHONEY	UTILITY EASEMENT	485.00
JUNIOR LIBRARY GUILD	CHILDREN'S BOOKS	291.00
KABEL BUSINESS SERVICES	PSF PLAN	15.00
KEYSTONE LABORATORIRES	TESTING	953.00
KING'S THRONE, LLC	PORTABLE RESTROOM	150.00
MANATTS, INC	STREET REPAIR	3,020.00
MIDAMERICA BOOKS	CHILDREN'S BOOKS	84.75
MUNICIPAL MANAGEMENT CORP	LEAK ISOLATION	600.00
MUNICIPAL SUPPLY, INC.	METER COUPLING	538.91
MUNN LUMBER	WOOD	315.20
NEUBAUER, MELISSA	BUSINESS PURCHASE LOAN	18,000.00
OUR IOWA	SUBSCRIPTION	18.98
OVERDRIVE	BRIDGES E BOOK SUBSCRIPTION	369.01
PARTSMASTER	CUTOFF WHEEL, HEX	102.68
PENGUIN MANAGEMENT, INC	1 MONTH E-DISPATCH	79.00
PENWORTHY COMPANY	PUPPETS	122.95
POSTMASTER-SLATER	POSTAGE UTILITY BILLS	204.40
QUICK'S HARDWARE HANK	BREAKER, CHISEL, HAMMER RENTAL	207.93
ROY LINN	CIVIL WAR SPEAKER	100.00
SAFE BUILDING COMPLIANCE	MECHANICAL PERMITS - 2	150.00
SAM'S CLUB	SUMMER READING PICNIC	273.16

SCHONHORST, KAYLA	HUX COMM, BUS.CARDS, HAIR SUPP	304.16
SCHULING HITCH CO, INC	TRUCK HITCH	1,356.68
SECRETARY OF STATE	NOTARY	30.00
SLATER COMMUNITY CLUB	2015 4TH OF JULY	5,000.00
SLATER LITTLE LEAGUE	2015 PARTICIPANT DONATION	480.00
SNYDER & ASSOCIATES	SYSTEM STUDY	340.00
SOUTH STORY BANK & TRUST	ACH	26.75
SOUTH STORY BANK & TRUST CREDIT	CORDLESS 20V KIT, LUMBER, BOOKS	2,344.53
STAPLES	PAPER	153.40
THE DES MOINES REGISTER	SUBSCRIPTION	312.03
TOM WALTERS COMPANY	DUUMPSTER TIPPING FEE	320.73
TOWN & COUNTRY MARKET	FLOWERS	166.70
UNITED BENEFIT SOCIETY	LIFE INS	31.25
VAN-WALL EQUIPMENT	MOWER, OIL FILTER, PIN FASTENE	3,924.70
VERIZON WIRELESS	PHONE	417.98
WEEKS CONSTRUCTION	CH UPDATE-STORY CO UR GRANT	15,474.00
WELLMARK BLUE CROSS	HEALTH INS	5,491.42
XENIA	REFUND	-27.00

Expenses FY 15:

GENERAL	50,829.55
ROAD USE	7,253.78
TIF - ABSOLUTE	174.00
ECON DEV	22,788.56
WATER	16,580.19
SEWER	9,663.71
STORM WATER	1,084.22
RESOURCE RECOVER	373.34

August Revenues:

GENERAL	7,589.84
ROAD USE	20,624.89
L.O.S.T.	16,471.21
ECON DEV	1,798.42
PERP CARE	75.00
WATER	32,371.08
SEWER	20,519.17
STORM WATER	1,905.05
RESOURCE REC	2,898.48
Total	104,253.14

The Council discussed ways of moving traffic through town faster on ISU football game days with Sheriff's Deputy Liz Quinn. It may be possible to have someone direct traffic at both the stop sign on Main and at 6th to keep traffic moving faster both going to the games and after the games.

City Hall has received several compliments regarding the limb pick up and chipping. Several people had large piles and called to say how much they appreciate the city picking them up.

Mayor Pro-Tem Steve Ransom read the Proclamation declaring September 17-23 Constitution Week.

The council received the resignation of Mike Kaldenberg from Slater EMS. Sobiech-Munson voted to accept his resignation. Kahler seconded. The motion passed with a vote of 5 – 0.

The council is still waiting on engineering updates for both the storm water study and the sewer upgrade study. The easement for the sewer expansion has been given to the owner to sign and is expected to be returned within the week. There is also an issue with standing surface storm water on the SE corner of 10th and Marshall. Public works will investigate the elevation of the beehive collector.

Howard Hammond and Allen Suby asked to make a presentation to the council regarding how the city bills for water and sewer. Currently, there is a "connection fee" or minimum charge associated with both water and sewer. That is a base fee that is charged to every residence or business establishment regardless of how many meters it has. There is no usage attached to this fee. All usage is billed at a separate rate by the amount used. Hammond and Suby feel that the fee should be paid per meter rather than per residential or business unit and that multi-plexes are being unfairly charged by having the fee assessed one time for each unit and that under this method the multiplexes that do not have a meter for each unit are being charged for services that are not provided. The city only sends bills based on the meters and does not bill individual tenants of these units unless their usage can be determined by a meter. Suby contends that this releases the city from having to chase down tenants for unpaid bills and leaves him with that responsibly. The city has told him on several occasions that we would bill his tenants directly if he wanted to install meters for each of his units.

Significant discussion was held and the council was presented with charts comparing Slater rates to that of those in surrounding towns for multi-family dwellings. Councilman May summed up the City's position as this, the amount collected from the usage portion of the bill pays the city's expenses for producing water, the base fee portion of the bill pays the bonds that the city has for the water system. The bonds that the city has for the water and sewer systems are for the physical infrastructure and the rates were calculated based on the number of residential and business units in town. If there is only one fee being paid for a 4 family multiplex, because it is being based on the number of meters, than the amount of the other 3 fees not being paid by the other 3 families living in the building will have to be split among the people who are paying. For the City of Slater, there are approximately 120 of such "unmetered" locations so the resulting 120 fees would have to be split by the 550 locations that are metered increasing their bill. The city does not believe that it is fair for these locations to carry more of the burden of the bond debt versus allowing each residential and business unit to pay them equally.

The council considered the third reading an ordinance to set water rates. This ordinance would raise the cost of sewer by \$0.01 per 100 cubic feet. May moved to approve the ordinance. Kahler seconded. The motion passed with a vote of, Aye: May, Kahler, Ransom, Erickson, Sobiech-Munson. Nay: None. May moved to adopt the ordinance 261 setting water rates. Kahler seconded. The motion passed with a vote of, Aye: May, Kahler, Erickson, Ransom, Sobiech-Munson. Nay: None

The council considered the third reading an ordinance to set sewer rates. This ordinance would raise the cost of sewer by \$0.01 per 100 cubic feet and change the connection fee to \$10.50 per month. May moved to approve the ordinance. Kahler seconded. The motion passed with a vote of Aye: May, Kahler, Ransom, Sobiech-Munson, Erickson. Nay: None. May moved to adopt the ordinance 262 setting sewer rates. Erickson seconded. The motion passed with a vote of, Aye: May, Erickson, Ransom, Sobiech-Munson, Kahler. Nay: None

Kahler moved that Halloween Trick or Treat should be held on Halloween, October 31st from 6 to 8 pm. The motion passed with a vote of 5 – 0.

Public Works is short on Part-time help due to school commitments of current staff. Kahler moved to approve the keeping Garret Davies on at \$10.00 hr. Garret was part-time help at the pool. May seconded. The motion passed with a vote of 5 – 0.

The pool is drained and will be painted before opening next summer.

The Economic Development Incentive Review Committee asked Casey Mallon to submit a written copy of his plans before they will consider any grant requests. No plans have been submitted to date. The council asked staff to get estimates for the cost of demolition.

The council discussed the condition of 404/406 Main street. The buildings have been tested for asbestos. A grant has been presented to the county that could cover acquisition costs. The roof is in good condition, but the rear wall is not and will need to be rebuilt for the building to be sound and useable.

Kahler moved to adjourn. May seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:26 P.M.

Mary E Sprouse, City Clerk/Admin.

Gary Halverson, Mayor