

BOARD OF TRUSTEE MINUTES - REGULAR SESSION – April 13, 2020

The Board of Trustees met in regular session on April 13, 2020, in the City Hall Council Chambers. Chairperson Mike Rozga called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm and on roll call the following members were present via phone: Lesley Forbush, Mike Rozga and Adam Voigts. Absent: Jim McClymond.

The consent agenda consisting of the following was approved on a motion by Forbush and seconded by Voigts. Question was called for and on voice vote the Chairperson declared the motion carried unanimously.

Claims list for April 6 and 13, 2020.
Minutes from March 23, 2020.

General Manager Chris Des Planques and Electric Superintendent Mike Metcalf led a discussion on the underground conversion project. Staff recommended delaying the project due to concerns with COVID-19. Board members asked if it was possible to delay some parts of the project. Al Powers, P&E Engineering Company, said IMU could delay phases of the project. Consensus of the Board was to table the resolution approving a proposal from P&E Engineering Company for the 2021-23 Electrical Underground Conversion Project until the June 8th, 2020 meeting.

The Electric Department requested a special Board of Trustee meeting to receive authorization to purchase diesel fuel for their turbines while prices are at a record low.

Mike Metcalf, Electric Superintendent, reported on the Electric Utility Informational Items which included half of the staff working from home each week due to concerns with COVID-19; doing a lot of homeowner requested locates; and the issue of Century Link testing IMU-owned poles.

Voigts moved and Forbush seconded to approve the notification from Warren Water as required by law to service 13656 Kennedy Street, Indianola Iowa. Question was called for and on voice vote the Chairperson declared the motion carried unanimously.

Lou Elbert, Water Superintendent, reported on the Water Utility Informational Items which included scheduling half-staff due to COVID-19 concerns.

Kurt Ripperger, Telecommunications Superintendent, updated the Board on the Communications Utility Informational Items which included running with half-staff also due to concerns over COVID-19; doing 5-10 installations per week; and holding off on using new Minerva 10 devices until restrictions have settled down and they are able to help customers with any issues.

It was moved by Voigts and seconded by Forbush to approve Resolution 2020-18 approving the lease agreement for land with West Hill Brewing Company of Indianola, Iowa subject to West Hill having a minimum of a one-million-dollar insurance policy. Question was called for and on voice vote the Chairperson declared the motion carried unanimously. Kurt Ripperger verified that West Hill Brewing policy is at the minimum amount.

General Manager Des Planques led a discussion of the IMU bond rating.

Charlie Dissell, Community and Economic Director of the City of Indianola asked for direction on an annexation application from Jon F and Mary H Peterson. Consensus of the Board is that they don't want to stop progress from going forward; it is in Mid-American electric territory and it would be expensive to

switch it to IMU; the developer would need to pay for the water line to go out there; and fiber could be ran although it is costly.

General Manager Des Planques led a discussion regarding temporary phone service for work-from-home employees. He stated State code allows the communication utility to offer a preferred rate to the City and IMU and that can extend to phone services for work-from-home employees. The Board gave approval to staff to move forward.

Dianna Lane, Utility Billing Supervisor, requested permission to recalculate and increase budget billing amounts after the sewer rate change goes into effect and stated Ryan Waller, City Manager has said the City will be communicating the rate increase to customers. The Board asked staff to work with the City on communicating rate increases and taking customer phone calls.

Dianna Lane informed the Board that she has been looking at more cost-effective credit card vendors and working on bill presentment for eLation bills to customers.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm on a motion by Voigts and seconded by Forbush.

Mike Rozga, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Jackie Raffety, Deputy City Clerk