

City of Melbourne  
Regular City Council Meeting  
December 11, 2023  
7:00 at Library basement

Melbourne City Council met in regular session on December 11, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Melbourne Library basement. Council members present were Carrie White, Gaege Bracy, Lucas Hauser and Gary Fricke. Also present were Mayor Mansager, City Clerk Mary Pothast, Beth Opperman, and Deputy Clerk Merrilee Harris. Mayor Mansager called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Deputy Cole and Councilman Beth Smith joined shortly after.

Motion to approve the consent agenda by Hauser, 2<sup>nd</sup> by White. Vote was all ayes. Agenda order was altered to accommodate the arrival of the Deputy and Councilman Smith. First discussed was a letter regarding a Resolution that the City of Decorah had passed opposing the Alliant rate increase to present to the Iowa Utilities Board. Consensus among the Council was that it be modified with our information and presented at the January meeting.

Re-elected officials Beth Smith, Lucas Hauser and newly elected Beth Opperman were sworn into office with their terms beginning January 1, 2024. Council woman Carrie White was presented with a certificate thanking her for 8 years of service to the City as a member of City Council. Her guidance and service has been greatly appreciated.

Next it was touched upon that there has been a 5% increase in water rates from Iowa Regional Utilities for the January billing period. In accordance with our Ordinance, the City will institute a 5% increase plus the 3% increase stated in our Ordinance unless otherwise determined. Resolution will also be presented at the January meeting. Motion made by White, with 2<sup>nd</sup> by Fricke to approve Stone Sanitation hauler permit application. Vote was all ayes. There was also a brief discussion regarding the obligation of ARPA funds that will need to be included in the budget discussions in January. Clerk asked if the January Council meeting could be moved to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month, January 15<sup>th</sup> instead of the 8<sup>th</sup> to get more departmental input for the budget. Since the legislature made changes to the budget process again this year, it is a new timeline requiring different steps. Pothast will get the entire budget schedule set and distribute it to Council via email. It will also be available at City Hall if anyone is interested.

There were no updates on the nuisances or the wall issue. White requested a nuisance letter be sent to an address regarding junk and junk vehicles. Fricke and Pothast discussed the meeting with V&K engineer Olivia Patton and the route they would like to go for the lagoon upgrade. They are on schedule to be compliant with the permit as required. Pothast shared that they had received a phone call from the State Auditor's office that the City of Melbourne had won an award for Most Improved City in the PIE program (Public Innovations and Efficiencies) for cutting down waste in terms of paper, electricity, etc. State Auditor Rob Sand will present the award and a pie on Wednesday, December 13 between 2:15 and 2:45. Clerk invited anyone available to attend.

Motion to adjourn made by Hauser, with 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bracy. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

EXPENSES: GENERAL \$15,846.05, ROAD USE \$4704.60, EMP BENEFITS \$1899.04, LOST 1<sup>ST</sup> RESP \$255.41, WATER \$9924.33, SEWER \$7157.79. TOTAL EXPENSES \$39,787.22.

REVENUES: GENERAL \$30,836.9A, ROAD USE \$8700.31, EMP BENEFITS \$1741.25, EMERGENCY \$371.81, LOST FIRE \$1308.26, LOST 1<sup>ST</sup> RESP \$1308.26, POOL \$2814.47, LOST REC CENTER \$1677.94, WATER \$16,193.97, SEWER \$20,214.30. TOTAL REVENUES: \$85,167.46.

Submitted prior to approval.