

**MINUTES OF THE OKOBOJI CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
HELD ON FEBRUARY 25, 2020**

Mayor VanderWoude called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM on February 25, 2020. Councilmembers Hentges and Robinson were present. Councilmember Mendenhall was present via telephone. Councilmember Andres joined the meeting in progress. Councilmember Delperdang was excused. Others present were City Administrator Michael Meyers, Brad Beck, Steve Anderson, Kae Hoppe, and Steve Schwaller.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor VanderWoude opened a public hearing to consider the vacation and transfer of a utility easement to the Iowa Great Lakes Sanitary District.

There were no comments in favor, opposition, or neutral of the vacation and transfer.

Mayor VanderWoude closed the public hearing at 1:01pm.

Mayor VanderWoude presented Resolution 20-06, "Resolution Approving Vacation and Transfer of an Unneeded Easement and Property to the Iowa Great Lakes Sanitary District".

Motion made by Councilmember Hentges and a second by Councilmember Robinson to approve Resolution 20-06. The following Councilmembers voted "YEA": Hentges, Robinson, Mendenhall. Motion passed 3-0.

Councilmember Julie Andres joined the meeting at 1:02pm.

Mayor VanderWoude presented the first consideration of Ordinance No. 254, "Ordinance Approving the Vacation and Transfer of an Unneeded Easement and Property to the Iowa Great Lakes Sanitary District".

Motion made by Councilmember Mendenhall and a second by Councilmember Robinson to approve Ordinance No. 254 on its first reading. The following Councilmembers voted "YEA": Hentges, Robinson, Mendenhall, Andres. Motion passed 4-0.

Motion made by Councilmember Hentges and a second by Councilmember Andres to waive the second and third readings of Ordinance No. 254. The following Councilmembers voted "YEA": Hentges, Robinson, Mendenhall, Andres. Motion passed 4-0.

Mayor VanderWoude presented the final consideration and adoption of Ordinance No. 254, "Ordinance Approving the Vacation and Transfer of an Unneeded Easement and Property to the Iowa Great Lakes Sanitary District".

Motion made by Councilmember Robinson and a second by Councilmember Hentges to adopt Ordinance No. 254, "Ordinance Approving the Vacation and Transfer of an Unneeded Easement and Property to the Iowa Great Lakes Sanitary District". The

following Councilmembers voted "YEA": Hentges, Robinson, Mendenhall, Andres. Motion passed 4-0.

Mayor VanderWoude discussed a possible Sanborn Avenue project and subsequent streetscaping of Sanborn Avenue. Mayor VanderWoude advised that in December 2019 the City submitted several projects to the Imagine Iowa Great Lakes group for consideration. VanderWoude mentioned that one of the primary projects was beautification and improvements to Sanborn Avenue. These improvements included, but were not limited to, a trail on the south side of Sanborn Avenue from Highway 71 to Speier Park, streetscaping, and reconstructing Sanborn Avenue into more of a boulevard style street with a center median opposed to its current configuration. VanderWoude indicated that Imagine Iowa Great Lakes also showed interest in this project. VanderWoude was thankful for the opportunity to submit projects to the Imagine Iowa Great Lakes group and hopeful for this project. VanderWoude advised that City Staff would now formally request this project be considered and studied. VanderWoude advised that this was not direction to move forward with project construction but to have Imagine Iowa Great Lakes fund a study to see what can and cannot be done at this location.

City Administrator Meyers commented that he has heard residents and Councilmembers discuss the need for safe pedestrian access to Speier Park and Highway 71 along the Sanborn corridor. Meyers believed there was significant opportunity for beautification, pedestrian safety enhancements, and vehicle safety enhancements.

Councilmember Andres inquired about additional input from the City beyond what has been provided. Brad Beck advised that if Imagine chooses to provide funding that Beck Engineering would move forward with preliminary design, 3D renderings, conceptual drawings, and cost estimates. The City would provide input along the way.

Councilmember Hentges advised that Sanborn Avenue was recently overlaid and that this project would consist of complete reconstruction of Sanborn Avenue which would provide the City with a brand new street at no cost to the City of Okoboji should Imagine Iowa Great Lakes decide to move forward with the project.

Councilmember Robinson liked the overall concept of the project and asked about amount of right-of-way in order to accomplish this. Beck advised that this first phase of review would help determine what is and is not possible in the given right-of-way. Beck commented that the challenge is the grade change.

Councilmember Mendenhall expressed support and appreciated the relationship with Imagine Iowa Great Lakes.

Motion made by Councilmember Robinson and a second by Councilmember Hentges to direct City Staff to formally request the study of Sanborn Avenue by Imagine Iowa Great Lakes. The following Councilmembers voted "YEA": Hentges, Robinson, Mendenhall, Andres. Motion passed 4-0.

Mayor VanderWoude asked City Administrator Meyers to provide an update on FY21 budget. Meyers advised that he sent the Councilmembers and email overviewing the FY21 budget and asked if any more detail or questions were needed. Meyers advised he expected something more detailed and presentable at the March 10, 2020 regular Council meeting. Meyers commented setting aside \$150,000 for future Lakeshore Drive improvements, a roof project at the City's public works building, and how he amended the way salaries and benefits are being paid in an effort to better reflect what employee is doing what work.

No action taken.

Steve Anderson, representing the Iowa Great Lakes Sanitary District, gave a brief update on their project happening through Okoboji. Anderson apologized for issues caused by the contractor of the project and advised that everyone involved has been warned on this. Anderson advised on the schedule of the project.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:26 PM.

ADJOURNMENT



Mayor Mary VanderWoude



City Administrator, Michael Meyers