

**Earlham City Council Meeting**  
**August 10, 2020**

The Earlham City Council met in regular session, on Monday, August 10, 2020, 7:00 p.m. Due to Covid-19 precautions, the meeting was held electronically. Mayor Lillie called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. and the following answered roll: Baskin, Fredericksen, Payne, Petersen. Absent: Swalla. Also present: Clerk Hibbs, Police Chief, Public Works Superintendent Coffman.

1. Approval of Agenda  
**Motion by Payne, second by Fredericksen, to approve agenda**  
**Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.**
2. Swearing in of Officer Matt Stringham. Officer Stringham unable to attend. Will be sworn in at a later date.
3. Public Forum  
Tom Lenner, Madison County Development Group - update on revolving loan fund. 1) MCDG revolving loan fund has been expanded to all of Madison County. 3% loan up to \$25,000 and up to 10 years to repay. Grant will coordinate with local banker. This will help businesses get over the hump. \$125,000 in fund now. 2) Madison County will be part of digital survey for connectivity. This will be for both homes and businesses. This will provide more internet coverage and more speed.
4. Consent Agenda:
  - a. Council meeting minutes for July 13, 2020
  - b. Treasurer's Report as of July 31, 2020
  - c. Claims and Receipts Report for August 10, 2020
  - d. Consider approval of liquor license renewal for Hometown Market
  - e. Consider approval of liquor license renewal for West Side Bar & Grille**Motion by Fredericksen, second by Baskin, to approve consent agenda**  
**Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.**
5. Boards, Commission, Committee Reports - none
6. Department Reports
  - a. Public Works - Gary Coffman, Public Works Supervisor  
Mowing, trimming, pool. Trimmed bushes and trees in alleys for garbage trucks. Sprayed for weeds in streets. Valve turner is in town, exercising water valves, and crack sealing will be done next week. Railroad will start repairing cemetery crossing and Sycamore Ave crossing this week. Fence at old basketball court was taken down. Coffman asked if they wanted the hoops taken down, to which they responded yes. They will also be taking down cemetery fence. Coffman asked if he could remove fence on north and east sides of the pool. It serves no purpose since property owners along there have 6-foot privacy fences along there and it makes mowing/trimming difficult. Consensus of Council agreed to remove fence. Coffman stated there was a lot of tree damage due to storm today. He met with the engineer and the DNR via Zoom to start the lagoon project. Engineer will come up with design scheme, then that goes to DNR for approval. Water tower construction is moving right along. Engineer denied change order on the piers. Expected completion date is December 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - b. Police Department – Chief Jason Heimdahl  
Stated Sands last day was July 4<sup>th</sup>. Is now working for Madison County Sheriff's Office. New officer Matt Stringham started last Monday. He is certified and will get a signing bonus paid out over 4 years. The employment contract states if he quits before the end of the four years, he will not get the remainder of his bonus. Mayor said he appears to be a good fit for a small town.

7. OLD BUSINESS - None

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Consider approval of Resolution No. 20-31 Authorizing Transfer From General Fund to the Employee Benefits Fund For \$15,847.71 to Zero Out the Employee Benefits Fund for FY20.  
**Motion by Petersen, second by Baskin, to approve Resolution No. 20-31 Authorizing Transfer From General Fund to the Employee Benefits Fund For \$15,847.71 to Zero Out the Employee Benefits Fund for FY20.**  
**Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.**
- b. Consider approval of Resolution No. 20-32 Approving the Application for Tax Abatement for 340 NE Oak Avenue, Earlham, Iowa  
**Motion by Baskin, second by Fredericksen, to approve Resolution No. 20-32 Approving the Application for Tax Abatement for 340 NE Oak Avenue, Earlham, Iowa**  
**Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.**
- c. Consider approval of Resolution No 20-33 Approving FY20 Street Finance Report  
**Motion by Petersen, second by Payne, to approve Resolution No. 20-33 Approving FY 20 Street Finance Report**  
**Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.**
- d. Consider approval of Pay App #4 from Maguire Iron for Water Tower Project.  
**Motion by Fredericksen, second by Baskin, to approve Pay App #4 from Maguire Iron for Water Tower Project in the amount of \$68,400.**  
**Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.**
- e. Consider approval of proposal of Eagle Scout project from Grant Mundus.  
Mundus explained his project is for a flagpole in the city park to present the American flag. He is proposing a 20-foot pole somewhere near the stage. There will be a solar light on the top of the pole to satisfy lighting requirements. Will be using other Scouts for the labor. Consensus of Council was to okay the project. A committee consisting of Baskin, Fredericksen, Swalla and Coffman will meet with Mundus to find best location. Hibbs will email all to determine a date.  
**Motion by Payne, second by Baskin, to approve Eagle Scout project from Grant Mundus, based on approval of location.**  
**Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.**
- f. Consider contesting of mowing bill for 155 E 1<sup>st</sup> Street - Joe Nugent  
Mr. Nugent not present. Died for lack of motion.
- g. Consider approval of Sesquicentennial plans for Saturday, September 5, 2020, Parade, street dance, street closure, fireworks  
Hibbs explained the activities will be the same as would have been for FreedomFest, except the street dance will be held on Saturday night instead of Friday. Discussion was held as to whether or not this celebration should be held in light of the Covid-19 outbreak. Petersen stated is not in favor. Mayor will support Council either way they vote. Baskin said he could go either way. Payne said he didn't think it would be the like it would have been before. Fredericksen said we are holding sporting events, and kid are returning to school. If people do not feel comfortable, then don't come. But he added if something drastic changes in that timeframe, he would hope the committee would do what's right, if something happens. Petersen asked if fireworks can be set off by individuals. Consensus was no, as this is not FreedomFest, but the Sesquicentennial.  
**Motion by Fredericksen, second by Baskin, to approve Sesquicentennial plans for Saturday, September 5, 2020, Parade, street dance, street closure, and fireworks.**  
**Roll: Baskin-aye; Fredericksen-aye; Payne-aye; Petersen-nay. Motion passes.**

- h. Discussion and possible action on request for change in Earlham Code regarding urban chickens – Alicia McMahon  
Clerk stated McMahon was sent invitation for virtual meeting. Mayor stated she did the leg work - found other ordinances, provided documentation, listed questions and answers. The same issue came up a year or two ago and was voted down. At that time, the question was would you like it if your neighbor had them, and the answer was no. Payne stated if you possibly lived on edge of town, away from others, it might be alright, but then you'd have them everywhere. In her letter, Ms. McMahan stated chickens do not make noises, and they do not smell. Baskin agreed with her and said when he lived out in the country, they had them, and he wouldn't mind them now. But he can see how others wouldn't want them. Baskin said most towns have limits on numbers.  
**Motion by Baskin, second by Petersen, to consider changing the Earlham Code of Ordinances allowing urban chickens.**  
**Roll: Baskin-aye; Petersen-aye; Frederickson-nay; Payne-nay. Motion fails due to lack of majority.**  
Mayor asked if Council wanted to place this on the September agenda for further discussion when Swalla is present. Consensus was no.
- i. Possible discussion/action on waiving subdivision of review within two-mile radius of Earlham.  
**Motion by Frederickson, second by Baskin, to waive review of subdivision at 1151 Fawn Avenue, which is within the two-mile radius of Earlham.**  
**Roll: Ayes – unanimous. Motion passes.**
- j. Discussion and possible action on allowing ATVs, UTVs and golf carts on city streets - Kim Harris  
Kim Harris presented information on popularity of recently adopted ordinance in the City of Truro. Payne stated he has had several people ask him about it. Topics brought up by Council: insurance, drivers license, safety flag, registration with City, daytime only or 24 hours. The Public Safety Committee will meet Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m., at City Hall, to discuss this further.
- k. Alissa Johnson Bricker-Price Events - Outdoor Trivia Event, Farm-to-Table Update  
Ms. Johnson said the Earlham Chicks With Checks approved buying a picnic table to be placed on the old basketball court cement slab. They also approved to fund \$300 for supplies for the new sports court – basketball, pickle ball supplies etc. They will be placed in the box that is there. She also stated the Big Dream/Farm-to-Table event was postponed until June, 2021. But Bricker-Price Block will be doing a Farm-to-Table event on Sunday Oct 4<sup>th</sup>. One Hundred people will be served on Chestnut. She sent Chief a list of street closure. She will contact property owners on Chestnut. Need variance on Noise Ordinance. Also hosting an Outdoor Trivia called “Tail Gating Trivia” to be held on Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 P.M. It will be held on W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, on the north side of their building, and request closing 1<sup>st</sup> Street from Chestnut to Locust starting at 5:00 P.M. Trostel's will be serving food, and she will get liquor license for outdoors. Will work with residents and businesses regarding any parking issues. These two events are to raise funds for Bricker-Price Block programming.
9. Mayor's Report  
A belated notice on hiring Matt Stringham as new police officer. Also hired a new utility billing clerk, Kristy Amsdan, who will start next Monday.
10. Clerk's Report  
Hibbs stated she is still looking at columbarium fees and will bring to next meeting. Roger Borcharding informed City Hall he wished to resign both Park & Recreation Committee and the Community Building Committee. Community Building Committee now has four openings on the committee. Received notice from Simmering-Cory of recent legislative changes that might affect our code. Hibbs will look at this and bring to council at next meeting to see if they want to amend the Code.

11. Council comments/discussion - none

12. Adjourn

**Motion by Payne, second by Baskin, to adjourn.**

**Roll: Ayes – unanimous.**

Being there was no further business, meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

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Jeff Lillie, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Sue Hibbs, Clerk/Treasurer