

City of Camanche, Iowa

March 5, 2013

The City Council of the City of Camanche, Iowa met in regular session March 5, 2013 at 6:00 P.M. at Camanche City Hall. Mayor Fahlbeck swore in Trevor Willis as the new council member. Present on roll call: Mayor Fahlbeck, presiding, and the following named council members: Willis, Kramer, Varner, and Kampe. Nelson was absent. Also present were City Administrator Roth, City Attorney Lonergan, and department heads Houzenga, Schutte and Jindrich.

A moment of silence was observed. Mayor Fahlbeck led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Varner, second by Willis to approve the agenda. On roll call – all ayes.

Fahlbeck opened a public hearing on the FYE 2014 Budget at 6:04 PM. Willis wanted to commend the council and department heads for the job on the budget. Fahlbeck also wanted to thank the city administrator and city clerk for putting the budget packet together – it was easier to follow. Hearing no comments from the audience and having no written comments for or against, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 6:06 PM.

Micah Gearhart, principal at the Camanche Elementary School, was present to address the safety issues around the elementary school. The safety issues involve the dropping off of the students in the morning. He presented 3 options and the options do involve making one or more streets a one-way. He stated they have moved the bus drop off areas. Houzenga commented that he is not a fan of one-ways especially if they were only going to be one-ways during school hours. He doesn't want anyone to rush into this. Lonergan advised Fahlbeck that the council think it over. He suggested the council and the school meet at the site to check things out. Gearhart stated between 8:00 and 8:10 is the worse time. He realizes that nothing can be done this school year. He would like to see something resolved for next school year. Kramer asked if the city could help the school by one-way streets or sidewalks. Gearhart stated these are just options and there may be another solution.

Dave Schutte, Fire Chief, stated that the Fire Department presents a Fire Safety Program to 3rd grade students. About 1-1/2 weeks ago, one of their former students came home from school to a house filled with smoke. Nolan Baker used what he was taught, did not go into the house but instead went to the neighbors and called 911. Schutte presented Nolan with a Certification of Appreciation, a t-shirt and stocking cap. He said the family should be proud of Nolan and the fire department was proud of Nolan that he was a part of their safety program.

Moved by Kramer, second by Varner to approve the consent agenda which covered the following items: approve minutes from council meeting held February 12, 2013; approve Abstract No. 579 which includes expenditures of \$64,027.48 and salaries of \$30,788.96 and Abstract No. 580 which includes expenditures of \$78,900.71, Deposit Refunds of \$79.28 and salaries of \$31,695.87; receive, accept and place on file minutes from Park and Recreation Board meeting held February 4, 2013, Camanche Library meeting held February 6, 2013, Rose Hill Cemetery meeting held February 11, 2013, Historical Board meeting held February 13, 2013; approve a Resolution Rescinding Resolution #13-02, Adopted by the Camanche City Council on the 13th Day of February 2013 and adopting the following resolution in lieu thereof; enter into city records Abstract of Votes from special election held February 12, 2013; approve salt purchase agreement for 2013. On roll call – all ayes.

Third Street Pavement Widening and Resurfacing – Roth stated this project is one of the STP projects, using federal funds and the DOT solicited the bids for the project.

Moved by Varner, second by Willis to approve a Resolution accepting the low bid of \$185,925.35 from Determann Asphalt LLC for the pavement widening and resurfacing project on Third Street and authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into a contract for the project. On roll call – ayes – Willis, Kramer, Varner. Nays – Kampe.

Kampe stated he voted “no” because of the quality of the Washington Blvd. work. Roth commented that there is a punch list to be completed yet for the project. Langman Construction is aware of the city’s concerns.

Moved by Kampe, second by Varner to approve a Resolution Approving the FYE 2014 Budget. On roll call – ayes – Kramer, Varner and Kampe. Abstain – Willis – he didn’t feel he could vote on the approval since he was not a part of the budget discussion.

Solchenberger was not present at the meeting but sent an email with the project updates.

Roth said at the Park and Recreation meeting Karlee Low would like to see a ribbon cutting ceremony of the Washington Blvd. project to tie in with Party in the Park. He also reported that the 4C withdrew their drug free grant because it was more involved than what they thought.

Roth reported on the 411 Pension/Work Comp issues. The city’s liability insurance is due April 1. If the city just had a medical endorsement on the 411 employees, it would save the city approximately \$22,000 in premiums. IMWCA does not provide work comp insurance to 411 cities – medical endorsement only. Lonergan feels the city should gather the information and present it to the bargaining unit.

Kampe commented that people have approached him regarding new housing areas. He would like the city to take a look at TIF. He would like to have a work session to discuss this. He said the city needs to help developers with infrastructure. Kramer said the city needs to be careful with that because they have turned down other developers. Fahlbeck stated that he and Roth have talked to an individual about senior housing.

Kramer thanked Roth for the property tax comparison that he had in the newsletter. It shows that things have not increased.

Schutte commented that the transition of the fire department taking over the building inspector position will be April 29. They will be moving the files and computer up to the fire department the end of March to ease the transition. Powell will be at the fire station for the month of April.

Schutte stated some residents have concerns that the Camanche Fire Department is providing too much mutual aid to Clinton. For 2013 to date, Camanche has provided mutual aid for 4 fires; 2012 – 7 fires and 5 ambulance; 2011 – 7 fires and 3 ambulance; 2010 – 5 fires and 6 ambulance; 2009 – 5 fires and 5 ambulance; 5 fires and 8 ambulance. In that same time period, Clinton provided mutual aid to 56 calls in Camanche. He said they have a mutual aid agreement with every department in the county. They will only send half of their available volunteers for a mutual aid call. They do everything they can to handle emergencies but there are constant changing procedures and policies. Willis stated you cannot put a price on human life. Les Shadle has confidence in the fire department and ambulance service.

Paul Willis wanted to let the city know there is a big hole to the inside of the curb – as you are turning from 4th Avenue onto Washington Blvd. – turning north.

Gary Hill wanted to inform the city that there are 2 culverts at the intersection of 3rd Street and 7th Avenue. They are giving away and something needs to be done before 3rd Street is fixed. The culverts don't do anything.

Fahlbeck wanted to commend Natalie Conrad, reporter for the Clinton Herald, for her coverage of the schools and city news in Camanche. This will be her last meeting.

At 7:00 PM, being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting to be adjourned until the next regular meeting.

Kenneth A. Fahlbeck, Mayor

Sheryl L. Jindrich
City Clerk/Treasurer