

# Sigourney Council Discusses Problems With Dumpsters in Yards

**By Casey Jarmes | The News-Review**

SIGOURNEY – During the March 19 meeting of the Sigourney City Council, Mayor Jimmy Morlan brought up the problem of residents keeping dumpsters in their yards. He explained that, although businesses are allowed to have dumpsters, city ordinances do not allow private citizens to keep dumpsters in their yards. Despite this, according to Code Enforcer Doug Glandon, there are 58 homes in town with dumpsters in their yards. Morlan stated that these ordinances exist because of problems with smell, health issues, and animals getting into dumpsters. He also stated that he thinks it looks bad when there are dumpsters peoples' driveways. Morlan stated that he'd spoken to a woman who has a dumpster because she believes city garbage bags are too expensive, which confused him, because the Cox dumpsters cost \$15 per month to rent and \$50 each time they are emptied, which he thinks is more expensive. Morlan noted that one resident has a trailer in his yard where he allows his neighbor to leave garbage bags, which they then take to the dump in Richland every few weeks, stating that these trailers smell bad and are also against city ordinances. Councilman Randy Schultz stated things were out of hand and that he had received multiple complaints about dumpsters in town, that dumpsters are being left in city easements and alleyways, and that the lids of these dumpsters get blown open, resulting in garbage getting everywhere. He stated the city needed to start issuing fines for these violations. The council sent the issue back to the Street and Sanitation committee to

discuss next steps.

Also at the Wednesday meeting, the council discussed sending out a survey to residents asking how they felt about carrying out major repairs at the city pool. Councilwoman Connie McLaughlin explained that the pool is heavily deteriorated and that a quote from French Reneker stated it would cost \$1,500,000 to repair. McLaughlin and Councilwoman Stephani Lentz stated they were unsure if the residents would support such a big project, which would likely be funded through grants and fundraising, and brought up the idea of sending a survey with water bills to poll if the residents' would support this, or if they would prefer something else instead. Councilman Adam Clark noted that not all residents receive water bills and that a lot of them will likely throw the survey out without reading it, asking how the city could reach more people. Councilman Ed Conrad stated he was in favor of sending a survey, but that the council needed to be careful when making decisions based on a survey, because only people with really strong opinions would respond to the survey. Discussion was tabled to give the council time to put together the survey.

Councilman Gary Iosbaker stated that, during a visit from IEDA representatives, the representatives recommended that Barnwired apply for an Emergency Catalyst Grant to complete work on the upper story apartments, stating that they would likely be approved. Iosbaker stated that IEDA requires that the city be the applicant for the funds and act as a flow through for the money. Iosbaker stated that he doesn't know how much the city would have to con-

tribute and that he didn't think the amount would be zero dollars, although the city contribution would likely be much smaller than previous projects. McLaughlin stated that it was hard to approve something if they didn't know the money involved. Conrad stated he was fine with approving being a go-between, but not approving giving any money yet. The council approved supporting Barnwired owners so they can go forward with the application, but not pledging any financial contribution at this time.

The council approved spending up to \$2,700 to purchase three trash bins to be placed at Legion Park and the Town Square Park, to deal with the problem of water bottles and wrappers being left in the park. The council approved allowing high school students to create a sign for the soccer and flag football fields. The council approved paying Kerr Construction \$11,650 to add walls to an old park shelter at the city shop so it can be used for storage. The council approved paying \$4,250 to Kerr Construction to replace the roof over the garage at the city shop, which is leaking. The council approved paying the second half of the money for repairing the hail damage at the sewer lagoons, which totals \$28,962.50, contingent on the work being completed.

Iosbaker stated he had met with Representative Helena Hayes and explained to her some of the struggles rural cities and counties are facing under tighter state budgets. He stated that Hayes had told him she lacked experience with city budgets and that he had invited her to come to an educational meeting on April 2, at 2 p.m., to receive an overview of the city budget.



Pekin Students Skylar Clubb, Natalie Hamilton, Michelle Jacobs, Brinley Phillips and Brogan Spray performed with the SEISC Honor Choir on March 11

# KEOKUK COUNTY RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL MINUTES (MARCH 19, 2025)

**By Mary Williams, Secretary**

The Keokuk County Retired School Personnel met on Wednesday, March 19, at Hope Lutheran Church in Sigourney. Seventeen members were present. President Sandy Steinke called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M. Guest Speaker for the program was Chip Fritz, Building Trades Instructor at the Career Academy at Sigourney High School.

Chip taught at English Valley High School for 28 years. During that time he worked with students in the Building Trades. They completed building 18 houses in the North English area. Chip has worked with students in Sigourney now for two school years. During that time he and the students have resided a house, finished a garage, built a new bathroom, built a shed, and are hoping to start on building a new house this year. The program for students that Chip is working with is focused on carpentry. Students receive credits from Indian Hills Com-

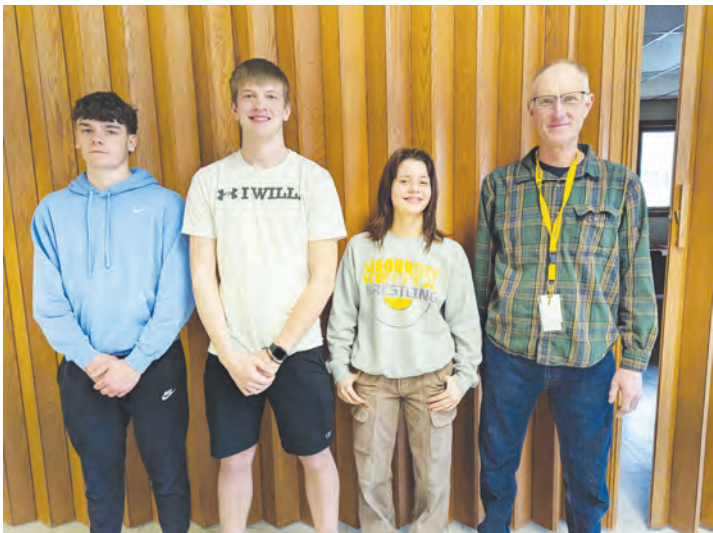
munity College for their work with Mr. Fritz.

Following the program, Sandy Steinke called the Business Meeting to order. Mary Williams read the minutes of the October meeting. Linda Fritchen moved and Linda Lee seconded to approve the minutes as read. Minutes were approved. Linda Crouse gave the Treasurer's Report. Currently there is \$1,402.08 in checking and \$470.74 in the Scholarship Fund. Sandy thanked the cooks for the wonderful treats they provided. Vicki Griner gave the Membership Report. Vicki will be contacting new retirees from the

county school districts this year about joining KCRSP. June Rice reported that she has a goal for our group to reach a total of 4,000 or more volunteer hours this year. She would like to have more than 16 members turn in their volunteer hours too.

Under Old Business, Linda Crouse reported that Paul Strid would be the speaker for our September meeting. Under New Business, it was moved by Julie Tremmel and seconded by Vicki Griner that KCRSP donate \$30.00 to the Sigourney Public Li-

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