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Community Development projects, city brush pile guidelines discussed at Montezuma City Council Meeting

The Montezuma City Council met in regular session on Monday, Apr. 21, at 6 p.m. Mayor Colin Watts presided. Councilmembers Wes Pargeon, Ron Willrich, KyLee Stone, and Ron Hensel were present. Absent was councilmember Curtis Bolen.

Others present were Peggy Watts, Erik Kriegel, and Courtney Sutfin.

A liquor license was approved for The Depot.

The city adopted the FY26 Budget and set a public hearing for Resolution #25-04-02, setting rates for gas service, for Monday, May 5, at 6 p.m.

An application was received for sidewalk repair from Stan and Debra Benson at 707 East Washington Street. The city pays \$10 per linear foot, so the city agreed to reimburse \$1,015.

Montezuma Community Development Director Courtney Sutfin said MCD applied for a PCA Grant for \$12,000 to replace tables and chairs in the Memorial Hall (200 chairs, 24 tables, and carts), and received a grant for \$4,000. Sutfin said MCD would rather purchase the tables and chairs all at once, so she asked the city if MCD could use \$5,500 from a community development account that has been untouched since RAGBRAI. The remaining \$3,000 will be paid for by another MCD account. Council approved her request. The city owns the current tables and chairs, and they are sometimes used for Montezuma Fire Department meals, so the city will see if they would like to use them.

Sutfin asked if the city had any specific requests for her to submit before the IEDA Assessment May 21-23. She said they have boilerplate prompts they bring to every city's assessment, but knows Montezuma has unique needs.

"Our hot topics are housing, jobs, and community events," said Sutfin.

Mayor Watts said he would love to see a solution for the empty Sig Manufacturing buildings, as well as ideas for safe housing at the trailer court and beyond.

Sutfin outlined the assessment timeline. May 21 will be an evening community exercise. May 22 will be interviews with key groups/stakeholders/officials. May 23 at 1 p.m., at the Memorial Hall, will be a presentation of their immediate assessment.

City discussed setting hours and guidelines for use of the city brush pile. The brush pile will be open for use 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on weekdays, and 9 a.m.-12 p.m. on Saturday, and will be allowed for Montezuma residents only. Misuse fines will be issued and the area is under surveillance.

Erik Kriegel said ground work will take place next month for new playground equipment at West City Park. The city will take care of the pea gravel and Quikrete. MCD received a Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance grant for new equipment, and the city received money for benches made from recycled material from South Central Solid Waste Agency.

Brooklyn City Council approves 4% city employee raises

Brooklyn City Council met in regular session, Monday, Apr. 21, at Brooklyn City Hall. Mayor Les Taylor, councilmembers Willy Wonick, Sam DeGeorge, Skip Solem, Bill McClain, Matt Goodrich, city clerk Sheri Sharer, and superintendent of Public Works Brian VanTomme were present.

No public comments were received concerning the proposed FY25-26 City of Brooklyn budget, and the resolution approving and adopting said budget was passed. A public hearing for an amended FY25-26 budget was set for May 19.

Councilmembers considered the FY25-26 wage increase for city employees. A motion was made, and approved for a 4% raise.

Scott Pottorff, representing MMS Consultants, set forth the initial quotes for the Business Alley project. He proposed the sewer service line costs to be the responsibility of the business owners, and the city to cover the pavement cost, which is based on a model adopted in the past. The council reviewed the quotes, and will consider the breakdown of city and business owner cost sharing. At the next meeting of the city council, on May 5, Pottorff will present a final design proposal for approval.

Andy Day shared his recommendations for edits to the City of Brooklyn Employee Handbook, following his review. Day reported it was last updated in 2018, and while there were no major concerns, there were a number of items he said warranted attention. The council will review the recommendations, and notify Sharer when they are ready to have their resolution added to a meeting agenda.

The next meeting of the Brooklyn City Council will be 6 p.m., on Monday, May 5, at Brooklyn City Hall.

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CITY OF MONTEZUMA GAS DEPARTMENT OPERATOR

The City of Montezuma, a growing community of approximately 1,500 people in the heart of Central Iowa, is recruiting a full-time Natural Gas Department Operator.

This position is responsible for assisting in the operation of the Natural Gas transmission and distribution system, as well as the responsibility of activities related to the preparation of utility reports, specifications, plans and construction schedules. Successful applicants must have proven experience in all facets of natural gas distribution and transmission work associated with utility construction and maintenance activities.

Candidate must have the equivalent of a High School Diploma and a desire to learn Natural Gas knowledge of transmission and distribution system operations and construction. Must also be in possession of operator qualifications and hands on qualifications through IAMU or able to obtain within two years of accepting the position. Applicant will need a valid driver's license, to sign a release to obtain a background check, and pass a pre-employment physical and drug screen, if asked. Subject to residency location requirement of twenty-five (25) miles or less between the employee's primary residence and the Utility's Office.

Annual salary is \$44,720 plus benefits including IPERS, insurance, and paid time off. Application and job description online at www.MontezumaIowa.org or pick up application at Montezuma City Hall at 501 East Main Street, Montezuma.

Submit application, resume, and cover letter to:
City of Montezuma, 501 East Main Street, PO Box 314, Montezuma, IA 50171

Interviews of qualified candidates may occur during application time frame, with a decision to be made shortly after application deadline. The City of Montezuma reserves all rights to accept or reject any application.

City of Montezuma is an Equal Opportunity Employer and committed to providing an inclusive work environment.

*This position is covered by the Department of Transportation Regulations on drug/alcohol testing.

— OFFICIAL PUBLICATION —

OFFICIAL POWESHIEK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PROCEEDINGS
April 14, 2025

The Poweshiek County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. Members present Jason Roudabush, Jacki Bolen, and Jeff Tindle.

Moved by Roudabush, second by Bolen, to approve agenda. Three ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Bolen, second by Roudabush, to approve April 10, 2025, board minutes. Three ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Roudabush, second by Bolen, to approve the following certificates of appointment for seasonal campground hosts, Conservation for April 9, 2025, to September 30, 2025:

- Monica Moyer, rate \$200 per week with an additional \$13 per hour for additional duties assigned by the Conservation Board Director
- Richard Moyer, rate \$200 per week with an additional \$13 per hour for additional duties assigned by the Conservation Board Director
- Melissa Current, rate \$100 per week with an additional \$13 per hour for additional duties assigned by the Conservation Board Director

Three ayes. Motion carried.

Dan Nieland, Pow I-80 Director, met with the board to discuss the Rural Innovation Grant Boost for Business Economic Gardening. Nieland has reached out to businesses within Poweshiek County that would qualify for this grant, and he is in the process of helping one business apply for the grant. The grant is up to \$5,000 with a match requirement from the business of at least \$2,500. Nieland is asking the Board of Supervisors for a letter of support for the business to submit with the grant application. This is not an ask for money but merely a letter supporting the business within the county. The auditor will draft a letter of support and place it for approval at the next board meeting.

Lori Gibson and Darcy Swick, Ramsey-Weeks; Joe Vens, First Main Street; and Megan Hirst, ICAP met with the board to provide an overview of the county's property and liability insurance and to present the 2025 renewal documents.

Kristin Fantazia, General Assistance Director, met with the board for a weekly meeting. Bolen advised Fantazia that the Board of Supervisors is looking to restructure the general assistance program as part of the need to find ways to cut expenses due to changes in legislation limiting what the county can generate from property tax dollars to use for services within the county.

Jeff Lorenz, Cost Advisory Services, has to reschedule his appointment from today to Thursday.


The Board of Supervisors are attending the Pow I-80 annual event in Grinnell on Tuesday evening.

Roudabush has an Iowa Workforce meeting on Wednesday.

Moved by Bolen, second by Roudabush, to adjourn at 10:45 a.m.

Melissa Ellander, Poweshiek County Auditor Jeff Tindle, Chairman

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