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PUBLIC NOTICE

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CITY OF WHITING

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

June 2, 2025

The Whiting City Council met in regular session on Monday, June 2, 2025, at 7:00 PM, with Mayor Barnett calling the meeting to order in the Council Chambers. Roll call was made with council members Teel, Morton and Davis present. Absent were Hagestrom and Bell. Also present were Ryan Heissel, city maintenance, William Keenan, Whiting Police, Jason Blatchford with Blatchford Electric and Robert Shilling. Motion by Teel and seconded by Morton to approve the agenda. Roll call vote: Ayes: all. Motion carried.

Motion by Davis and seconded by Morton to approve the consent agenda which included: minutes as presented for May 5 and 14, 2025, bills as presented, May 2025 financial report. Roll call vote: Ayes: all. Motion carried.

Jason Blatchford gave a short presentation on upgrading of the electrical panel at the water plant. He also spoke with council about a three phase generator and switch install for this. At this time no other bids were received. Motion by Teel and seconded by Morton to approve bid and pay for electrical panel replacement. Generator was tabled at this time. Roll call vote: Ayes: all. Motion carried.

Motion by Teel and seconded by Morton to approve street closures from Community Club for 4th of July Activities. Roll call vote: Ayes: all. Motion carried.

Motion by Morton and seconded by Teel to allow the street closure of the 700 Block of Blair street for a street dance with alcohol sales Sponsored by the Splash Pad Committee and Buddy's Tavern pending all insurance and license approvals for July 3, 2025. Roll call vote: Ayes: all. Motion carried.

Motion by Morton and seconded by Davis to allow the coffee group from the old café to use the community center in the mornings for coffee time. Roll call vote: Ayes: all. Motion carried.

Motion by Davis and seconded by Morton to increase the rental fees for community center to \$100 effective July 1 on all future rentals. Those who have already booked will be at old rate. Roll call vote: Ayes: all. Motion carried.

Motion by Davis and seconded by Teel to set fee for use of Community Center for Children of the Corn event at \$100. Roll call vote: Ayes: all. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on tree removal bids. Motion by Davis and seconded by Morton to have Kick Ash Tree Service remove 6 trees in town and remove the stumps on 4 in park. Roll call vote: Ayes: all. Motion carried.

After short discussion Motion by Teel and seconded by Morton to appoint Terri Kratz to the council to fill open seat due to the resignation of Braiden Hagestrom. Roll call vote: Ayes: all. Motion carried.

Motion by Davis and seconded by Teel to approve wages as outlined for city employees for FY 26. (The library employees are set by library board and those have not been brought to city yet.) Roll call vote: Ayes: all. Motion carried.

Request was made for purchase of some rock for filling of holes on gravel areas in town. This was not approved at this time.

Motion by Morton and seconded by Davis to approve clerk paying accounts payable received by June 30th for FY 25. Roll call vote: Ayes: all. Motion carried.

Clerk and Ryan gave updates on sewer and water.

Allen's Septic, soccer final.....	149.00
AT&T, police internet.....	41.27
Aqua-Chem, chemicals.....	1288.45
Cardmember Services, IMFOA Conf. hotel.....	216.69
Sherry Comstock, cleaning.....	300.00
Dale Cooper, mileage.....	24.12
Counsel/Visual Edge IT, printer contract.....	68.97
Crary Huff Law, Court fees/dog complaint.....	630.00
Dakota Supply Group service call storm.....	1125.00
Paul Frahm, cemetery mowing May.....	1800.00
Robert Haack, lib. Mowing.....	100.00
IMWCA, workers comp premium.....	4919.00
Ingram Library Services, library.....	330.72
IPERS, retirement.....	1495.21
Iowa OneCall, locate notices.....	40.50
John Deere Financial, tractor supplies.....	89.02
Lansink Tree Service, tree removal/storm cleanup.....	15240.00
Marie Bruns-LeClair, mileage.....	32.16
Longlines, phone/internet.....	395.43
Menards, supplies.....	1171.20
Midwest Tape LLC, library.....	73.47
Onawa Sentinel April minutes/budget.....	205.11
Sam's Club MC/SYNCB, library purchases.....	815.87
Sloan State Bank, collection fees.....	22.00
USPS, box rent.....	84.00
Wex Bank, fuel.....	253.36
EFTPS Federal/FICA tax.....	2246.80

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm.

G. Rory Barnett, Mayor  
Marie Bruns-LeClair, Clerk

Published in the Onawa Sentinel June 12, 2025.

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT MONONA COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF  
THE ESTATE OF  
JOHN C. JONES,  
Deceased.

CASE NO. ESPR013506  
NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF  
APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR,  
AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of John C. Jones deceased, who died on or about December 14, 2024:

You are hereby notified that on the 8 th day of May, 2025, the Last Will and Testament of John C. Jones, deceased, bearing date of February 16, 2005, was admitted to probate in the above-named court and that Robert Jones was appointed executor of the estate. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.

Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Dated: May 28, 2025

Robert Jones, Executor of Estate  
724 Bertram Street  
Whiting, IA 51063

Matt Minnihan, ICIS PIN No: AT0005365  
Attorney for the Executor  
Minnihan Law Firm  
Address: 906 9th Street, Onawa, IA 51040  
Date of second publication: June 12, 2025  
Published in the Onawa Sentinel June 5 and June 12, 2025.

Monona County Board Of Supervisors Meeting

May 27, 2025

The Monona County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 27, in the boardroom of the courthouse in Onawa, Monona County, Iowa with Chairman Fox presiding. Other Supervisors present were Tom Brouillette and Vince Phillips, who left the meeting at 11:45 a.m. Also present was Auditor Peggy A. Rolph.

The Supervisors voted to approve the agenda.

Abby Riesberg, Treasurer was present for approval of an additional camera in the Motor Vehicle window. The Supervisors voted to deny Treasurer Riesberg request of an additional camera in the Motor Vehicle window facing the hallway, since there are already cameras in the courthouse for security purposes.

Present, along with the Supervisors and Auditor, for the Elected Official / Director Meeting, were Abby Riesberg, Treasurer; Jim Wigton, IT Director; Sandy Bubke, Zoning/Environmental Health; Kelly Parsley, Recorder; Charles Bechtold, Secondary Roads Engineer; and Wray Wright. Absent were Haley Bryan, County Attorney; Kevin Ewing, Sheriff; Tim Peters, Assessor; Patrick Prorok, EMA Director; Josh Schaben; Conservation Director; and Mark Witzel, Veteran Affairs Director. Activities were discussed and information was shared.

Secondary Roads Engineer Charles Bechtold was present for Secondary Roads business.

The Supervisors adopted Resolution No. SR 25-15: hiring Darin Jacobson to fill the Full-time Operator III position at a Start rate of \$24.01 per hour (90% of \$26.68), with wages and benefits in accordance with the current Union Contract and County Policies. Permanent seniority will begin accruing upon successful completion of a background check, pre-employment physical and drug screening.

The Supervisors voted to approve six-month wage adjustment for Jeffrey Pithan. Jeffery will be going from \$23.01 per hour to \$24.28 per hour per Union Contract.

Discussion items were dust control, FEMA, pavement program and gravel roads. No action was taken.

Peggy Rolph, Auditor was present to open quotes for election trailer, the prior election trailer was totaled by the hailstorm in June 2024. Marx Trailer quote was \$9,985 for a 101 x 20 H&H enclosed cargo trailer with tandem 3,500# axles, production lead time is approximately six weeks. County Trailers quote was \$11,369.44 for an Arrow model 820TA 8.5x20 Alpha Series with 3,500# spring tandem axles. OC Trailers & RV's, Inc. quote was \$9,075 for a 102" wide x 20' American Hauler Arrow trailer with tandem 3,500# spring axles. The Bids will be reviewed, no action taken.

Heath Hansen, Audubon County Supervisor; Austin Ettleman, Nebowa Christian Camp Director and Charlie Persinger, Monona County Economic Development were present to discuss Blue Lake. Mr. Hansen would like to see three things from the DNR first would be a plan for the lake, second is a timeline for the plan, and third why are other parks getting results. The Supervisors voiced their concerns on the economic impact on Monona County. Discussion followed with no action taken.

The Supervisors voted to approve the minutes of May 20, 2025 as read and claims submitted.

Supervisor Phillips attended the Siouxland Regional Transportation Planning and Western Iowa Community Improvement Regional Housing Trust Fund (WICIRHTF) meetings and shared the information presented.

The Supervisors acknowledged the receipt of withdrawal of resignation letter from Jim Wigton, IT Director and the receipt of Certification of Tax Levy for Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Funds.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Gov. Reynolds Signs Law Cutting Unemployment Taxes For Iowa Businesses

Iowa Public Radio is reporting that Iowa businesses will get an estimated \$1.2 billion tax cut over the next five years under a new law signed Thursday, June 5, by Gov. Kim Reynolds.

Reynolds said cutting unemployment insurance taxes was one of her top priorities for this legislative session.

The Governor said the state's unemployment trust fund is the 9th largest in the country, even though Iowa is 32nd in population, and the state has needlessly over-collected unemployment taxes from businesses.

"I truly do believe that it will make a difference in making us more competitive as a state, and for employers across the state to give back to their community, their business or their employees," Reynolds said.

The new law — which takes effect July 1 — lowers the top unemployment tax rate from 9% to 5.4%, decreases the number of tax tables, and cuts the amount of wages that are taxed by about half. That is expected to reduce payments into the unemployment trust fund by nearly \$1.2 billion over the next five years, according to the nonpartisan Legislative Services Agency (LSA).

The new law states that employers should use any savings from the tax cuts to pay for employee salaries or benefits, or to use as an alternative to unemployment benefits during periods of seasonal unemployment. But it doesn't require businesses to use the savings for those purposes.

Democrats in the Iowa Legislature opposed the bill.

"While Iowa families struggle and Iowa's economy ranks dead last, Gov. Reynolds and Republican lawmakers are handing out a \$1 billion tax break to big corporations, paid for by raiding funds meant for laid-off workers," Rep. Dan Gosa, D-Davenport, said in a statement Thursday.

"In 2022, Iowa Republicans slashed unemployment from 26 weeks to 16," he said. "Now they're handing out tax breaks to corporations that lay off workers and ship jobs overseas. Iowa workers shouldn't be footing the bill for corporate tax breaks."

Reynolds said under the new law, the unemployment trust fund will still be sustainable for the long term.

As of March 1, 2025, Iowa's Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund balance stood at \$1.89 billion. In 2024, according to the LSA, the state paid out \$316 million in unemployment benefits. LSA estimated that with the unemployment tax cuts, the trust fund balance will be \$1.78 billion in 2030 if unemployment trends remain constant.