

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
CITY COUNCIL OF WHITTEMORE, IOWA  
*Wednesday, April 4, 2007 – 5:30 P.M.***

The Council of the City of Whittemore, Iowa, met in regular session on Wednesday, April 4, 2007 at 5:30 P.M. in the Chambers of City Hall with Mayor Elbert presiding. Members present included Simonson, Dahlhauser, Setzer, Brownell and Muller. Absent: none. Others in attendance for all or a portion of the meeting were Jay Bargman, Sue Frideres and Mike Elbert.

Real estate agent Jay Bargman was present to clarify details and specifications of the Duane Mogler property at 814 Broad Street, which will be for sale sometime in the future.

The Council then met with Sue Frideres of Farm & Home Insurance Services regarding employee health and dental insurance coverage. Cost of the employee's current plan will increase 3% over last year's premium. The Council will discuss with full-time employees options that might be available and the issue will again be an agenda item in May, 2007.

There being no corrections or additions, the minutes of the March 7, 2007 regular Council meeting were approved as published in the March 13, 2007 edition of the *Whittemore Independent*.

The Clerk-Treasurer's Financial Reports for the month of March, 2007 were reviewed. Following are the Receipts and Transfers for the month: General \$5426.90; Electric \$34272.49; Gas \$93962.01; Water \$9491.83; Sewer Rental \$3459.89; Solid Waste \$4020.08; Payroll \$17558.30; Equipment \$1709.44; Special Account \$45.54; Trees Savings Account \$0.62; Playground Fund \$0.15; Project Share \$5.00; Community Center Savings Account \$17.10; Road Use Tax \$4603.33; Customer Deposit \$250.00; Special Assessment \$none; Library Improvement Savings \$39.64; Library Renovations Savings \$101.51; Library Regular \$34.25; Library Renovations Checking \$none; Community Enhancement \$200.00. Motion was made by Muller and seconded by Brownell to accept the March, 2007 Clerk-Treasurer's Financial Reports. Vote was all AYES; motion carried.

The following claims were presented for payment:

Clayton Energy Corp., reservation charges, service fee and natural gas purchased - \$74838.30

Total (all) Employee Wages – 10647.07

Total (all) Contract Labor – 164.50

Mayor & Council Members Salaries (1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2007) – 623.85

March ACH service fee to Farmers State Bank – 5.00

Treasurer, State of Iowa, sales taxes – 2560.00

Qwest, telephone bills – 245.74

Kurt's Lawn Care, 2007 lawn treatment program at Pool, Noah's Park, Time Square II, "Welcome" signs and City Maintenance Shed – 369.66

Janan Gillis, cleaning – 80.00

K-Mart, videos – 144.91

Randy Mueller, February and March snow removal at Library – 100.00

Hallmark, 1 year/6 issues subscription renewal – 14.94

Country Home, 2 yr. subscription renewal – 21.97

Country Living, subscription renewal – 39.87

Audio Editions, audio books – 27.25

Thomas Bouregy Co., books – 138.50

Baker & Taylor, books – 415.39

Iowa Lakes Community College, EMT continuing ed – 60.00

Allyn Boelman, CPR training for Firefighters – 90.00

Stundahl's Cleaning, March cleaning of Community Center

Iowa Parks & Recreation, CPO continuing ed (B. Meyer) – 90.00

Smith Wellness Center, Lifeguard Training Review (Lenz, Simonson and Dahlhauser) – 200.00

Hy-Vee Floral Shop, green plant for Ed Elbert funeral – 46.45  
 Thompson Drainage, storm sewer jetting – 214.00  
 Bomgaars, “Shop” materials – 34.94  
 Knoer Industrial Supply, Snow/Ice melt chemical – 240.60  
 Northwest Communications, website hosting fee – 20.00  
 Jill Goodman, used computer purchase for Light Plant office – 350.00  
 Border States Electric, equipment lock, band cluster, rechargeable lantern (all electric distribution) – 774.62  
 Kossuth Regional Health Center, random drug and alcohol testing – 125.00  
 Utility Equipment Co., water tool – 18.91  
 Maguire Iron Inc., #4 of 12 payments on water tower riser stand repair – 1977.50  
 Share Corp., citra sol (odorant) chemical at Sewer Plant – 729.66  
 Horizon’s Unlimited, recyclables processing fee – 64.20  
 Shamrock Recycling, recycling fees – 567.83  
 Buscher Bros., seal rings, vinyl tubes – 9.50  
 City of Spencer, landfill fees – 629.02  
 Arnold Motor Supply, switch – 13.09  
 Mid-Land Equipment/CNH Capital, hydra-valve on Case Loader – 178.26  
 West Bend International, loader repair materials – 202.33  
 Elbert Chevrolet, March statement – 449.34  
 ATC Cablevision, monthly Internet service at City Hall and Light Plant – 79.65  
 MaxYield Cooperative, March statement – 1224.47  
 L & G Inc., snow removal, storm sewer cleaning, street repair/materials – 2019.50  
 Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, Electric and Natural Gas annual dues – 1877.00  
 Bro Business, copies at City Hall – 62.24  
 Schmitt Hardware, March statement – 134.37  
 Northland Computer, wipe/repair computer at City Hall – 1365.50  
 Printing Services Inc., new Minute book, printer, office supplies – 344.00  
 Supplies N’More, March office supplies including disbursement forms – 120.99  
 Whittemore Independent, March publications  
 Mid-American Research Chemical, weed killer chemical – 303.24  
 City of Whittemore, utilities – 6693.77  
 City of Whittemore - \$261.79 total petty cash expenses as: Cleaning at City Hall \$20.00; Kleenex at City Hall \$1.07; Light Plant generating expense \$18.34; Library postage \$85.39; Water samples postage \$2.55; Wastewater samples postage \$7.44; Equipment wash jobs \$10.00; Stamps \$117.00.

Councilman Brownell stated he would like to see bids taken for the cleaning of city-owned properties; the Clerk to write up a job description for each site. Motion was then made by Simonson and seconded by Muller to approve the above-listed claims for payment. Vote was all AYES; motion carried.

The following applications for “Builder’s Permits” were submitted for Council consideration:

Adolph “Ernie” Kurtz: Apply new gutters to home on property at 513 Third Street.

Jim Olsen: Apply a storm door to existing entryway on north side of house at 202 Palo Alto Street.

Jim Muller: Replace fiberglass roof on patio at 108 Palo Alto Street.

Motion was made by Dahlhauser and seconded by Setzer to approve the above-listed applications for Builder’s Permits. Vote was all AYES; motion carried.

There are were two applications for employment with the City of Whittemore; Amanda Sidles for (return) lifeguarding at the Swimming Pool and Janie Eischen for Co-Manager (with Jessica Sweers) at the Swimming Pool. Motion was made by Muller and seconded by Brownell to hire Janie Eischen as Co-Manager of the Whittemore Swimming Pool during the summer of 2007. Vote was all AYES; motion carried.

The delinquent accounts were reviewed.

The Council read a congratulatory letter from Kent Miller, Vice President of Pricing and Storage for Northern Natural Gas. The City's bid for 20 years of FDD storage capacity has been approved and terms of the agreement will begin in 2008.

An annual spring agenda item, "Abandoned/Junked Vehicles, Unkempt Properties and Other Nuisances" was addressed. The Mayor and Council directed Supt. Elbert to comprise a list of abandoned/junked vehicles and other nuisances; the Clerk was asked to send letters to noted individuals requesting removal of said vehicles and nuisances from properties within the city limits.

Motion was made by Muller and seconded by Brownell to adopt Resolution No. 2007-04; a Resolution Approving an Application for Tax Abatement under the City of Whittemore's "Urban Revitalization Plan". Roll was called and vote was as follows, AYES: Simonson, Dahlhauser, Setzer, Brownell and Muller. NAYS: none. Whereupon Mayor Elbert declared Resolution No. 2007-04 duly adopted.

Consideration was given to hosting a second annual "E-Waste & Brown Goods Collection and Recycling Day" in Whittemore on May 18, 2007. According to Mike Flannegan of Shamrock Recycling in Emmetsburg, the 2006 collection day was a huge success and he encourages the Council to operate in the same manner in 2007. Cost of disposing said goods would be 80 cents per pound; microwaves are a flat-fee of \$10.00. Cash only/no checks. Cost to the City of Whittemore remains at \$175.00. Site would again be at the corner of Seventh and Broad Street, near the recycling bin. Motion was made by Setzer and seconded by Dahlhauser to host the second annual "E-Waste & Brown Goods Collection and Recycling Day" in Whittemore on Friday, May 18. Vote was all AYES; motion carried. This event is open to the public (business and residential) and everyone is encouraged to take advantage of this once-a-year cleaning opportunity.

Opening date of the Whittemore Swimming Pool for the summer of 2007 was set for Monday, June 4. Councilperson Dahlhauser reported the new soap and towel dispensers have arrived and installation will be completed in the near future. She also stated Shannon Book has donated more carpet from KOFAB for use at the Swimming Pool.

With regard to the 2007 Summer Little League program, due in part to the declining numbers of players and the uncertainty of the Rolfe Summer League program, the City of Whittemore Little League teams, along with teams from the City of Algona, have joined ranks with the City of Emmetsburg for this year's summer youth softball and baseball season. Also part of the Emmetsburg league are the communities of Ruthven and Graettinger. The \$35.00 per team entry fee has been paid by the Whittemore Betterment Committee and once schedules and other information become available, Whittemore will hold an official sign-up to fill the 2007 team rosters. Coaches will also be recruited to assist with the program. Rose Walker has volunteered her family to be in charge of operating the Whittemore Concession Stand this year for ballgames held at Noah's Park. Council thanks the Walkers for volunteering to serve the community in this capacity and they grant them 100% control in operating the stand this year as they see fit.

Street repairs will be made on a "patch work only" basis this summer, per budget estimates for the 2007-2008 Fiscal Year.

Due to the death of Milton "Bud" Espe, whose five-year term on the Planning & Zoning Commission expired on April 2, 2007, and due to the expiration of the five-year terms of Rick Elbert and Tascha Wykoff on said commission, motion was made by Dahlhauser and seconded by Setzer to appoint Dennis Kollasch to replace Milton Espe and to re-appoint Rick Elbert and Tascha Wykoff to five-year terms on the Whittemore Planning & Zoning Commission. Roll was called and vote was as follows, AYES: Simonson, Dahlhauser, Setzer, Brownell and Muller. NAYS: none. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Dahlhauser and seconded by Setzer to reappoint James Muller to a five year term on the Board of Adjustment; also included in the motion is to appoint Rebecca Lancaster to fill the vacancy

created by the death of Edmund S. Elbert, whose term would have expired on April 1, 2008. Vote was all AYES; motion carried.

After a lengthy discussion it was the Council's decision to again advertise for the open position of permanent part-time (less than 25 hrs. per week) Deputy City Clerk for a period of two weeks (each) in the *Algona Reminder* and the *Palo Alto Reminder* and also on local cable Channel 3 when it begins working properly. Application deadline is May 1.

The next regular meeting was scheduled to be held on Monday, May 7, 2007 beginning at 5:30 P.M. in the Chambers of City Hall.

It was announced that the annual town carnival known as "Whittemore Fun Days" will be held on Memorial Day, Monday, May 28 and Tuesday, May 29. Councilperson Dahlhauser reported that Nancy Simonson of Pitchers would like to help sponsor a Swimming Pool Fundraiser, which they are considering be held over the noon-hour on Monday, May 28. She is proposing having the Kossuth County Cattlemen grill steak sandwiches, and side dishes would also be available. At this time those sponsoring the event will be asking the American Legion if they would allow the fundraiser to be served out of the Legion's hamburger stand, which will be put to use later in the afternoon that same day. Pending permission from the Legion, the Council approved the concept and wished good luck to those planning the event.

Councilman Simonson reported the trees that were ordered last fall from the Kossuth County Conservation Service should be arriving shortly and planting will take place when weather conditions allow.

Councilperson Dahlhauser also requested the City employees check for proper levels/coverage of pea rock on the playground at Noah's Park.

Supt. Elbert discussed the following issues:

- Bill Lindley of Clayton Energy Corp. was in Whittemore this morning and reported he has purchased approximately 10% of the City's natural gas needs for the 2007-2008 heating season at \$8.48 per MCF; currently the price is \$9.15. Clayton Energy hopes to secure a minimum 30% by the end of May. Hurricane forecasts and political and war situations all factor into daily market prices.
- Two trees on the west side of the property at 515 Palo Alto Street are hollow and need to be taken down before a storm causes them to fall; the property owner has committed to planting two new trees to take their place.
- The Iowa Department of Natural Resources will be inspecting the city's water plant within the next 90 days.

The Clerk was instructed to write a letter to Richard Hopper, engineer at Jacobson-Westergard, inviting him to attend a future Council meeting to discuss the results and comments made regarding the City's CDBG application for funding of a new water plant; the application was denied and the city can reapply for funding for said project in November, 2007.

The upcoming meetings schedule was reviewed.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Elbert declared the April 4, 2007 meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

/s/ **Linda K. Farrell**  
City Clerk

