

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
CITY COUNCIL OF WHITTEMORE, IOWA  
*Monday, February 4, 2008 – 5:30 P.M.***

The Council of the City of Whittemore, Iowa, met in regular session on Monday, February 4, 2008 at 5:30 P.M. in the Chambers of City Hall with Mayor Elbert presiding. Present were Simonson, Fraser, Setzer, Brownell and Muller. Absent: none. Others in attendance for all or a portion of the meeting included Brian Goodman, Steve Kollasch, Andi Thompson and Mike Elbert.

There being no corrections or additions, the minutes of the Monday, January 7, 2008 regular Council, which were published in the January 17, 2008 edition of the *Whittemore Independent*, and the minutes of the Thursday, January 17, 2008 Special Council meeting, which were published in the January 24, 2008 edition of the *Whittemore Independent*, were both approved as published.

The Council met with Brian Goodman and Steve Kollasch regarding the condition of the city's water. Mayor Elbert and Supt. Elbert reiterated events leading up to the current condition of the water, and they also reported on findings and recommendations by Richard Hopper of Jacobson-Westergard & Associates and Jeff Harger of Vessco, Inc. which were discussed during the Special Council meeting held on Thursday, January 17 at 12:00 noon. Supt. Elbert explained the existing water plant's softeners are up and running again and that the degree of soft water leaving the plant has returned to being only 2 g/gal. (grains of hardness per gallon).

Repeating as Mr. Harger stated on January 17, there are NO HEALTH RISKS with the water that is being put into the mains from the (existing) Whittemore Water Plant. The brown or orange colored water is something we will all have to deal with until a new plant is built. Again, solutions to this problem are also being investigated. Mr. Harger suggested residents contact a local hardware store to install a cartridge filtering system inside individual homes to assist in eliminating the discolor from the water.

The Mayor again announced that the City has applied for federal funding to assist in financing of said new facility; the decisions regarding awards of CDBG funding will be announced in March.

Per Council decision, Supt. Elbert was asked to contact Jeff Harger of Vessco regarding the possible acquisition of a used iron removal filter/system that could be installed in our plant until such a time that a new plant can be put into service. If nothing is available through Vessco, it was suggested the City advertise in municipal publications seeking same product.

Councilperson Fraser presented general softener information and water statistics she felt would be helpful for discussion and that aid in a logical decision making process regarding equipment used in construction of a new Whittemore Water Plant.

The Council thanked Mr. Goodman and Mr. Kollasch for taking the time to attend this meeting.

The Clerk-Treasurer's Financial Reports for the month of January, 2008 were reviewed. Following are receipts and transfers for the month: General \$4315.02; Electric \$31605.46; Gas \$76095.43; Water \$6209.84; Sewer Rental \$3308.01; Solid Waste \$4258.34; Payroll \$12781.80; Equipment \$1938.42; Special Account \$45.54; Trees Savings Account \$0.46; Playground Savings Account \$0.16; Project Share \$5.00; Community Center Savings Account \$31.36; Road Use Tax \$4381.37; Customer Deposit \$575.00; Special Assessment \$none; Library Improvement Savings \$215.96; Library Renovations Savings \$5.03; Library Regular Account \$91.75; Library Renovations Checking \$none; Community Enhancement \$200.00. Muller reported there seems to be some confusion about the amount of money to be put aside from the Library Improvement Savings Account for the purchase of a Certificate of Deposit; the Library Director to contact the City Clerk regarding this matter. Motion was then made by Brownell and seconded by Muller to accept the January 2008 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 – \$68928.15  
Total (all) Employee Wages – 7824.74  
Total (all) Contract Labor – 122.50  
Treasurer, State of Iowa, sales taxes – 2261.00  
Treasurer, State of Iowa, use taxes – 290.70  
Main Street Checks, deposit slips – 28.10  
PCG Inc., debt recovery services – 150.00  
Sandy Long, reimbursement for supplies purchased for the library (books, decorations, etc.) - 97.32  
Janan Gillis, cleaning at Library - 80.00  
Cooking for 2, magazine subscription renewal (1 year) - 13.00  
Center Point Large Print, books - 38.94  
Thomas Bouregy & Co. Inc., books - 138.50  
Northwest Communications, computer - 623.67  
GALE Learning, books - 133.58  
Printing Services Inc., supplies - 89.96  
Baker & Taylor Inc., books - 285.25  
Bro Business, copier contract/copies - 22.18  
Large Print Overstocks, books - 143.40  
Country, magazine subscription renewal (1 year) - 19.98  
NICK Magazine, subscription renewal (20 issues) - 29.97  
Furniture Outlets USA, oak display case - 310.29  
Randy Mueller, December snow removal - 82.00  
Iowa Library Association, 2008 membership renewals (3) - 110.00  
ATC Cablevision Co., internet service at City Hall - 39.95  
Share Corp., ice melt - 212.75  
Stundahl's Cleaning Service, January cleaning at Community Center - 100.00  
Allyn Boelman, EMT continuing ed/recertification - 60.00  
L & G Inc., January snow removal assistance - 340.00  
Kossuth Co. Auditor, November 6, 2007 election expenses - 500.67  
NIACOG, 7<sup>th</sup> monthly installment (housing rehab) - 385.00  
Mid-American Research Chemical, ice melt - 117.10  
Knoer Industrial Supply, ice melt - 342.00  
Iowa Lakes Community College, EMT continuing ed/recertification - 180.00  
Iowa DOT, four "Engine Brake" signs - 118.12  
R. D. Drenkow & Co., Inc., annual administrative fee.- 370.00  
Resale Power Group of Iowa, power purchased - 25,858.88  
Brown Supply Co., cast iron blind flange; gasket & zinc plated bolt set (Light Plant) - 78.00  
Border States, 120V batteries at Light Plant - 55.98  
Electrical Materials Co., wire, etc. for underground work at MaxYield Coop (Oct. 2007) - 7,725.98  
R. S. Stover, regulator at A I Processors - 1,102.50  
KRHC-Hospital, random drug testing - 50.00  
Vessco Inc., repair parts for Water Plant including stager with motor - 435.56  
A I Processors, UPS postage for water samples - 6.13  
Hydrite Chemical Co., chemicals at Water Plant - 279.44  
Mangold Environmental Testing, testing - 18.00  
Hach Co., chemical testing tools, etc. for Water Plant - 1,314.98  
Shamrock Recycling, Inc., monthly recycling fees - 655.20  
City of Spencer, landfill fees – 654.61  
Jack's OK Tire Service, tire for Grader - 62.50  
Whittemore Independent, January publications (\$208.02) and office supplies (envelopes) - 354.02  
Agri-Services of Northern Iowa, new tire on Garbage truck - 230.55  
Elbert Chevrolet, Inc., replace starter on 1992 pickup; brake & steering repairs on Garbage truck. -  
1,154.06  
Algona Machine & Supply Inc., Grader repair - 150.00

Cook's Scrap Iron & Metal Inc., Case loader repair - 5.53  
Aramark Uniforms Services, rugs, mops and uniforms - 277.11  
Horizon's Unlimited, t-shirts for Swimming Pool fundraiser; recyclables processing fee - 301.90  
Schmitt Hardware, January statement includes furnace repairs at Community Center (\$221.36), stool repairs at City Hall (\$78.00) and assistance with gas regulator issues at A I Processors (\$126.00) - 471.25  
Printing Services Inc., supplies at City Hall (including new calculator) - 139.06  
K-Mart, Library CDs, DVDs & binders and new vacuum at Light Plant (\$59.99) - 226.80  
Bongaars, Christmas decorating, sump pump at Sewer Plant, and "Shop" materials - 183.94  
Q-West, telephone bills - 288.80  
C J Cooper & Associates, Inc., random drug testing processing fee - 30.00  
Max Yield Cooperative, January statement - 1464.37  
City of Whittemore, utilities - 5081.61  
City of Whittemore, \$254.61 total petty cash expenses as: \$20.72 meals for DNR meeting in Mason City (Bryan and Mark); \$79.60 postage at Library; \$5.29 postage for SRF loan application to DNR; \$149.00 stamps (utility bills, 10<sup>th</sup> of the month bills, delinquent notices, etc.)

Motion was made by Fraser and seconded by Brownell to approve the above-listed claims for payment. Vote was all AYES; motion carried.

The following application for a Builder's Permit was submitted for Council consideration:

Roger Hentges: Construct a 5x14 wooden deck on east side of home at 510 Fifth Street.

Upon motions by Muller and Simonson and a unanimous vote of the Council, the application was approved.

The following applications for employment with the City of Whittemore were considered:

Spense R. Simonson: To Co-Manage (with Logan Wood) and Lifeguard at the Swimming Pool.

Logan Wood: To Lifeguard and Manage at the Swimming Pool.

Said applications were ordered to be placed on file for future reference. Councilperson Fraser reported that she has been in contact with Laurie Dahlhauser regarding recertification of lifeguards, etc. and the Council remains in complete agreement that an adult needs to continue to co-manage the facility.

The delinquent accounts were reviewed.

Council discussed the natural gas pricing information. The January 2008 natural gas price of \$1.19 per 100 cu. ft. for residential/commercial customers is one cent lower than the January 2007 price. The industrial rate for January 2008 is \$10.44 per MCF; in 2007 it was \$10.55 per MCF. Due to the extremely cold weather we experienced in late December and early January, the utility bills due on or before February 20, 2008 will probably be the highest yet for this winter's heating season.

The Mayor and Council reviewed the fiscal year 2008-2009 budget estimates, which include itemized expenditures of \$25,000 for repair of the three lift pumps at the Sewer Lagoon Plant and \$5,000 for patch work only as there are no major street repairs planned for FY 2008-09. City revenues were also discussed; motion was made by Muller and seconded by Fraser to levy for a portion of the annual business insurance package costs in fiscal year 2008-2009. Vote was all AYES; motion carried. The Council then set Monday, March 3, 2008 at 5:30 P.M. in the Chambers of City Hall as the date, time and place for a Public Hearing to be held for the proposed 2008-2009 Fiscal Year Budget.

The Council discussed monthly rates for solid waste disposal services. In October 2007 the City entered into a four year contract with Shamrock Recycling Inc. of Emmetsburg (to continue) to collect residential curbside recyclables and also for drop box and commercial pick-up collection of recyclables. The once-a-month residential recyclables pickup is at the rate of \$1.15 per household per month, up 15 cents from the

previous rate of \$1.00 per month per household. The once-a-month commercial collection rate went from \$21.89 per stop to \$23.53 per stop. This (commercial collection) charge is directly passed on to those participating in the Commercial collection process. The cost of the three-times a month collection of recyclables processed through the drop-box on Seventh Street saw the most significant increase. Drop-box servicing went from \$69.46 per dump to \$83.35 per dump.

Upon review of a profit/loss statement of the Solid Waste Fund and after discussion of the issue in general, motion was made by Simonson and seconded by Fraser to have the Clerk formulate an appropriate percentage increase in solid waste fees that would assist in recovering the City's added expenses incurred as a result of the price increase put into effect by Shamrock Recycling, Inc. of Emmetsburg. Vote was all AYES; motion carried. Said rate adjustment ordinance to be prepared for consideration during the regular Council meeting to be held March 3, 2008.

At this time no action was taken regarding an electric rate price increase passed on by the Resale Power Group of Iowa to Whittemore Municipal Utilities; the issue to remain an agenda item until resolved by the Council.

The Council then heard improvement proposals related to city-owned properties. Councilman Simonson spoke of his intention to introduce to the Betterment Committee two projects related to one city-owned facility, namely the Whittemore Community Center. These two projects would be: #1 - replacement of the cement near the north door entrance; and #2 - purchase of all new banquet tables. Councilperson Fraser also reported she is investigating the possible purchase and installation of an extruded aluminum (with bronze anodized finish and tempered glass) shelter to be used as a permanent windbreak station/bus stop west of the Community Center.

Councilman Brownell, speaking as manager of the A I Processors plant in Whittemore, thanked the city employees for their help in getting the new gas regulator up and working in a quick and efficient manner.

Councilman Setzer spoke of problems his neighbor had experienced with fish tanks and loss of a computer hard-drive caused by a January electrical power brown-out and outage. Superintendent Elbert explained that the outage was not the City's fault; the Council feels the resident's household insurance should cover any losses incurred as a result of the failure of electric service.

Supt. Elbert, having met individually with Council members to seek their prior approval of the project, reported on the work progress of removing the old, no-longer-used engines from inside the Light Plant.

The Council was informed of a \$4603 refund to the City of Whittemore from the IAMU Safety Group Insurance Program. This is a reward for low claims, etc. through the city's participation in their insurance program.

Earlier in the meeting Brian Goodman suggested the Council consider videotaping, for playback on local Channel 3, all meetings of the Whittemore City Council. Clerk Farrell was instructed to investigate the feasibility, costs, etc. associated with Mr. Goodman's suggestion.

The upcoming meetings schedule was reviewed.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Elbert declared the February 4, 2008 regular meeting adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

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

