

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
CITY COUNCIL OF WHITTEMORE, IOWA  
*Monday, March 3, 2008 – 5:30 P.M.***

The Council of the City of Whittemore, Iowa, met in regular session on Monday, March 3, 2008 at 5:30 P.M. in the Chambers of City Hall with Mayor Elbert presiding. Members present included Simonson, Fraser, Setzer, Brownell and Muller. Absent: none. Others in attendance for all or a portion of the meeting were Richard Hopper, Anthony Fehr, Brian Goodman, Rod Johnson, Laurie Dahlhauser, Andi Thompson and Mike Elbert.

At 5:30 P.M. Mayor Elbert opened the Public Hearing for the proposed 2008-2009 Fiscal Year Budget.

Mayor Elbert then announced that word has been received from the Iowa Department of Economic Development Corp. that our request for Community Development Block Grant funding for a new water treatment plant has been approved. An Awards Ceremony is scheduled to be held in Storm Lake on Thursday, March 6, at which time the monetary value of the grant will be released.

Anthony Fehr was in attendance to talk with the Mayor and Council about laundry-related damage he and his wife have experienced due to the City's recent water problems. Brian Goodman and Rod Johnson were also present to discuss the issue. Supt. Elbert reported both softeners at the Water Plant are currently in working order and that hard water is no longer a problem; the aggressive water seems to have settled somewhat and the discolored water occurs on a less frequent basis. Mr. Fehr and others with stained clothes are urged to try one of the many products for sale on the retail market for such laundry problems as they have experienced. The Council asked city personnel to check into possibly obtaining samples of a product called "RoVer Rust Remover" sold by the Hach Co. Upon further discussion and consideration the Council denied Mr. Fehr's request for financial reimbursement for loss of the clothing and for additional water he feels he has used to flush his service lines prior to using water inside his home.

Next, the Council heard from Richard Hopper an engineer with Jacobson-Westergard & Associates Inc. of Estherville. He reported his firm is well into designing the new water treatment plant, and he handed out specs of aeration, filtration, softening options and building blueprints being considered. He noted it is now standard for a dehumidification system to be incorporated into the construction of a water plant. The Superintendent and Council suggested several changes to the building specs, etc. and the engineer will make the revisions as noted. The project will move forward as directed by the Iowa Department of Economic Development and the grant administrator, Simmering-Cory, Inc. of Clear Lake.

Laurie Dahlhauser was present to discuss plans for the 2008 season at the Whittemore Swimming Pool. She reported being in the process of lining up lifeguards for certification and recertification and several applications for employment have been submitted for the Council's consideration. It was again stated that the Council feels an older adult needs to continue to co-manage the facility and Laurie reported there is someone possibly interested in applying for said co-manager's position. The Pool staff and members of the American Legion Auxiliary are again planning to co-host a Ribeye Steak Sandwich fundraiser at noon on Memorial Day (Monday, May 26). Further details will be announced closer to the event. The Council thanked Laurie for her continued interest in the organization and operation of the recreational facility.

Brian Goodman requested confirmation of an additional \$2,500 to be included in the FY 2008-09 budget for use by the Whittemore Fire Department and Ambulance Service for a new building. The Clerk and Council indicated the additional funds have been included in the new budget, along with the acceptance of a proposal that utilities be paid by the City if and when the building becomes a reality.

There being no corrections or additions, the minutes of the February 4, 2008 regular Council meeting were approved as published in the February 14, 2008 edition of the *Whittemore Independent*.

The Clerk-Treasurer's Financial Reports for the month of February, 2008 were reviewed. Following are Receipts and Transfers for the month: General \$5873.86; Electric \$39688.24; Gas \$92417.33; Water

\$7221.02; Sewer Rental \$4199.81; Solid Waste \$4638.58; Payroll \$16644.47; Equipment \$3430.90; Special Account \$45.54; Trees Savings Account \$0.43; Playground Fund \$0.15; Project Share \$5.00; Community Center Savings \$80.00; Road Use Tax \$3455.95; Customer Deposit \$none; Special Assessment \$none; Library Improvement Savings \$1619.66; Library Renovations Savings \$4.71; Library Regular \$62.76; Library Renovations Savings \$none; Community Enhancement \$200.00. Supt. Elbert reported we may have to contact Midwest Concrete Cutting, Inc. in Algona to accomplish the work of removing the cement bases where the now dismantled engines once sat in the Light Plant. The area has been cleaned up and the (dismantling) work has been completed by Mike Vitzthum and Dan Degner. Motion was then made by Muller and seconded by Setzer to accept the February, 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 – \$87645.29  
Total (all) Employee Wages – 10346.67  
Total (all) Contract Labor – 199.50  
Advanta, renewal of anti-virus program for one computer at City Hall and website management  
continuing ed registration fee – 139.99  
Q-West, telephone services – 288.80  
MaxYield Cooperative, February statement – 1464.37  
A T & T, long distance calling – 122.78  
Treasurer, State of Iowa, sales taxes – 1984.00  
Mike Vitzthum, dismantling and disposal of two out-of-service engines at the Light Plant – 500.00  
Dan Degner, dismantling and disposal of two out-of-service engines at the Light Plant – 500.00  
Judy Erdman, mileage to meeting in West Bend - 5.60  
Joy Metzger, mileage to meeting in Bancroft - 13.30  
Gary Erdman, reimbursement for "Exit" bulbs purchased at Menard's - 44.17  
K-Mart, telephone and storage boxes - 75.97  
North Central Library Service Area, movie license fee (\$25.00) and meeting registration fees  
(Joy and Judy) - 275.00  
Follett Software Co., annual maintenance and support fees - 640.00  
Smart Apple Media, books - 161.60  
Janan Gillis, cleaning - 80.00  
Sandy Long, reimbursement for purchases of books and Christmas ornaments - 46.06  
Randy Mueller, January snow removal at Library - 62.00  
Office Depot, supplies - 179.89  
Ladies Home Journal, 2 yr. subscription renewal - 16.97  
Baker & Taylor, books - 472.23  
Center Point Large Print Books, books - 38.94  
MidAmerica Books, books - 194.15  
Palo Alto County Extension Office, Pesticide Study Session (B. Meyer) - 5.00  
Iowa Department of Public Health, annual Swimming Pool registration fee - 35.00  
Knoer Industrial Supply, 2 drums Oxie Clean acid pool cleaner - 1,633.50  
Stundahl's Cleaning Service, February cleaning at Community Center - 100.00  
Whittemore Independent, February publications - 243.79  
Northwest Communications, monthly website hosting fee - 25.00  
ATC Cablevision Co., monthly internet service fee at City Hall - 39.95  
NIACOG, (8<sup>th</sup>) monthly installment for Housing Rehab grant - 385.00  
Border States Electric, industrial batteries and replacement batteries (Light Plant) - 223.34  
Energy Economics Inc., remanufactured Rockwell meter at A I Processors - 1,555.10  
Resale Power Group of Iowa, power purchased – 25651.95  
Hydrite Chemical Co., chemicals at Water Plant - 286.08  
Hach Co., chemicals for water testing at Water Plant - 93.46  
Water Solutions Unlimited, Dan Helm iron/manganese testing - 713.10  
Mangold Environmental Testing Inc., water testing - 15.00

Jacobson-Westergard & Associates, Engineering services for preparation of new water plant Project Viability Report (\$2573.50); Engineering services through 1-31-08 for work on preliminary design to size new water plant equipment & building (\$3441.50) - 6,015.00  
 Horizons Unlimited, monthly recyclables processing fee - 64.20  
 Shamrock Recycling, Inc., recyclables fee - 655.20  
 Agri-Services of Northern Iowa, tire repair on Garbage truck - 44.00  
 Elbert Chevrolet Inc., February statement includes service call/change tire on Grader (\$89.49); new battery for dump truck (\$138.10); change rear left dual on Garbage truck (\$32.50); replace plugs and charge battery in Mike's pickup (\$160.27); service on 2003 pickup (\$33.80) - 454.16  
 Supplies N'More, packing tape (Light Plant) and supplies at Library - 15.45  
 Iowa Utilities Board, FY 2008 estimated remainder assessment (3<sup>rd</sup> quarter) - 171.00  
 I.A.M.U., NCISA (quarterly) Safety Dues - 338.63  
 Printing Services Inc., office supplies at City Hall - 129.85  
 Schmitt Hardware, February statement - 182.53  
 L & G Inc., haul snow (\$808.75); open storm sewers (\$315.00); remove ice near Water Plant to dump softener salt (\$35.00) - 1,158.75  
 City of Whittemore, utilities – 5031.20  
 City of Whittemore, \$308.11 total petty cash expenses as: postage at Library \$81.50; postage to send W-2 information to Social Security Administration \$1.31; Water samples postage \$4.96; Wastewater samples postage \$4.34; stamps (utility bills, 10<sup>th</sup> of the month bills, delinquent notices, etc.) \$216.00

The Clerk was asked to contact Jacobson-Westergard & Associates regarding the \$3441.50 portion of their bill which could possibly now be considered an expense paid for by the grant funding. Motion was then made by Simonson and seconded by Brownell to pay the above-listed claims for payment. Vote was all AYES; motion carried.

Upon motions by Fraser and Muller and by unanimous vote of the Council, the following application for a Builder's Permits was approved:

Ron Askland: Replace roof on house at 701 Fourth Street.

The following applications for employment at the Swimming Pool during the summer of 2008 were received: Laurie Dahlhauser, Co-Manager; Nathan Dahlhauser, Lifeguard; Madison Dahlhauser, Lifeguard; Alex Lenz, Lifeguard/Manager. All were ordered to be placed on file for future reference.

The delinquent accounts were reviewed.

Council discussed the natural gas pricing information. The February 2008 natural gas price is \$1.23 per 100 cu. ft. for residential/commercial customers. The industrial rate for February 2008 is \$10.84 per MCF.

Having no new information to consider pertaining to the Resale Power Group of Iowa's correspondence regarding proposed a 2008 electric rate increase, the issue was tabled until the next regular meeting.

At time ORDINANCE NO. 163 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE CITY OF WHITTEMORE, IOWA, TITLE III, CHAPTER 4, SECTION 2 PERTAINING TO THE COLLECTION OF SOLID WASTE and MONTHLY RATES FOR SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL SERVICES was considered. Having calculated the increases put into effect by Shamrock Recycling Inc. and applicable to the City of Whittemore, the Council determined that the new "All Premises (residential, rural, business and apartment units)" rate should be \$12.69 per month. Also added to this Ordinance is the following statement: "Current Commercial/Business recycling charges shall apply to individual businesses who indicate they wish to participate in the once-a-month Commercial Collection (Recycling) Program."

There was a motion by Simonson, a second by Fraser, to approve said ORDINANCE NO. 163 as proposed. Vote was all AYES; motion carried.

It was moved by Setzer and seconded by Brownell to waive the second and third readings of ORDINANCE NO. 163. Roll call vote was as follows, AYES: Simonson, Fraser, Setzer, Brownell and Muller. NAYS: none. Motion carried.

Motion was then made by Brownell and seconded by Fraser to pass final consideration of ORDINANCE NO. 163. Roll call vote was as follows, AYES: Simonson, Fraser, Setzer, Brownell and Muller. NAYS: none. Whereupon Mayor Elbert declared ORDINANCE NO. 163 duly adopted. The new ordinance will become effective upon publication, and the new rates will appear on utility bills due on or before April 20, 2008.

The Council reviewed information from Kossuth County Economic Development Corporation regarding a grant funding request. Each year KCEDC sponsors many studies, surveys, informational programs, and special projects that are not covered by their budget but which are essential to the continued growth of individual communities and the county as a whole. As the "County Wide Breakfast" is held annually at St. Michael's Parish Center here in Whittemore, motion was made by Brownell and seconded by Setzer that the City of Whittemore contribute \$500 to KCEDC to be earmarked as funds contributed to help pay for the County-Wide Breakfast "Speaker Fee". Vote was all AYES; motion carried.

Clerk Farrell reported City Hall has been in contact with representatives of the Rolfe Recreation League and that plans are underway for the 2008 Little League season. Local sign-up will be held in the very near future and program details will be released as soon as they are finalized. There is always a need for coaches and players (who are currently in K thru 6<sup>th</sup> Grade); anyone interested should contact City Hall at 515-884-2265.

Councilman Simonson reported on the 2008 Trees Program. Tentatively he plans to plant several trees in the parking along Prairie Street near the Housing units. Councilman Brownell stated he would like to see some form of (tree) shelter belt planted along the west side of Seventh Street, in the alley or closer to the farm ground owned by Elmer Steier. The Clerk was asked to check into programs that might be available to supply free trees for such a shelter belt.

Due to the Annual Meeting of the Whittemore Gun Club being set for the first Monday in April, the date, time and place of the next regular Council meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, 2008 at 5:30 P.M. in the Chambers of City Hall.

Councilman Simonson reported the new fixtures for street lights in the downtown business area are finished and should be available shortly. They will need to be stored until such a time that they can be installed. He also stated several Whittemore entities submitted requests to the Kossuth Community Foundation for 2008 (casino) grant monies. Local projects this year include: application for new banquet tables at the Community Center; application for monies to make the north entrance of the Community Center handicap accessible; application for repair and painting of soffits at the Library; application for funds to purchase a new cot for the Whittemore Ambulance.

There being no taxpayers present to be heard for or against said budget, at 7:10 P.M. Mayor Elbert closed the Public Hearing on Proposed 2008-2009 Fiscal Year Budget. Motion was made by Fraser and seconded by Muller to approve Resolution No. 2008-02, a Resolution adopting said 2008-09 budget in the amount of \$1,485,200 "Total Revenues and Other Sources" and \$1,360,400 "Total Expenditures/Transfers Out", with an estimated total tax levy per \$1,000 valuation on regular property at \$10.42662 and an estimated tax levy per \$1,000 valuation on agricultural land at \$3.00375. Roll was called and the vote was as follows, AYES: Simonson, Fraser, Setzer, Brownell and Muller. NAYS: none. Whereupon Mayor Elbert declared Resolution No. 2008-02 duly adopted.

Councilman Setzer requested an itemized list of major purchases and expenses the City of Whittemore has funded over the past ten years.

Councilman Brownell requested Supt. Elbert contact Jon Harger to follow-up on recommendations suggested by Dan Helm, a Water Quality Consultant with Water Solutions Unlimited, Inc. after his testing and consultation of the Whittemore Water Plant on February 14.

Supt. Elbert stated City personnel will be turning off the Christmas lights that outline the downtown business district when weather permits. Per Council request, Supt. Elbert will contact knowledgeable personnel for a cost estimate to replace the switchboard, wiring, etc. at the Light Plant.

With regard to video taping of the local Council meetings, the Clerk provided responses gathered from "ClerkNet" (a League of Iowa internet network for Iowa city clerks). Clerk Farrell reported ATC Cablevision Co. of Ayrshire is looking into the feasibility and cost of being able to provide this service.

The upcoming meetings schedule was reviewed.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Elbert declared the March 3, 2008 regular meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

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