

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
CITY COUNCIL OF WHITTEMORE, IOWA  
Tuesday, May 6, 2008 – 5:30 P.M.**

The Council of the City of Whittemore, Iowa, met in regular session on Tuesday, May 6, 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. Others in attendance included Andi Thompson and Mike Elbert.

Mayor Elbert opened the meeting by personally thanking all those involved with the procuring and installation of the new street lamps along Broad Street. The work is another progressive sign of the community's intent to return the downtown business district to vintage America.

There being no corrections or additions, the minutes of the April 8, 2008 regular Council meeting were approved as published in the April 17, 2008 edition of the *Whittemore Independent*.

The Clerk-Treasurer's Financial Reports for the month of April, 2008 were reviewed. Following are the Receipts and Transfers for the month: General \$21020.52; Electric \$27148.14; Gas \$73966.45; Water \$5738.89; Sewer Rental \$2996.34; Solid Waste \$4222.67; Payroll \$13212.16; Equipment \$2597.62; Special Account \$45.54; Trees Savings Account \$0.40; Playground Savings \$0.14; Project Share \$5.00; Community Center Savings Account \$80.00; Road Use Tax \$3262.01; Customer Deposit \$-150.00; Special Assessment \$none; Library Improvement Savings \$none; Library Renovations Savings \$304.37; Library Regular \$198.25; Library Renovations Savings \$none; Community Enhancement \$200.00. Motion was made by Brownell and seconded by Setzer to accept the April, 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 – \$69811.61  
Total (all) Employee Wages – 8170.72  
Total (all) Contract Labor – 35.00  
Iowa DNR, testing fee (M. Lenz) – 30.00  
A T & T, long distance calling – 122.29  
Advanta, renewal of (1) anti-virus computer program, office supplies at Library – 80.94  
Treasurer, State of Iowa, use taxes – 238.00  
Treasurer, State of Iowa, sales taxes – 3293.00  
Janan Gillis, cleaning at Library - 80.00  
Sandy Long, reimbursement for books purchased and meeting mileage - 16.51  
Judy Erdman, reimbursement for books purchased and meeting expenses - 94.95  
Joy Metzger, reimbursement for meeting expenses - 28.81  
Randy Mueller, (March) snow removal service - 48.00  
Demco, supplies - 102.90  
Bro Business, toner and copies at Library - 58.78  
Gale, books - 90.48  
Baker & Taylor, books - 339.35  
Hutzell's Inc., Little League t-shirts - 479.25  
PepsiAmericas, pop for machines at Noah's Park and Swimming Pool - 822.12  
Mid-American Research Chemical, metered insecticide and aerosol dispensers - 241.94  
Stundahl's Cleaning, April cleaning at Community Center - 100.00  
Pool Tech, first-half 2008 chemicals at Swimming Pool - 2,236.51  
Universal, Inc., street marking paints - 430.32  
ATC Cablevision, monthly Internet at City Hall - 39.95  
Northwest Communications, monthly website hosting fee - 25.00  
Whittemore Independent, April minutes published - 198.66  
NIACOG, 10<sup>th</sup> monthly installment for Housing Rehab grant - 385.00  
Algona Appliance, new refrigerator in Firemen's Meeting Room at City Hall - 519.99

K's Industrial Supply, cleaning wipes for use in Light Plant - 122.26  
 Continental Research Corp., engine cleaner for use in Light Plant - 161.61  
 Border States Electric, med lamps, guard risers (distribution) - 291.95  
 Resale Power Group of Iowa, power purchased - 18,046.57  
 Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, "Chlorine & Lab Safety" continuing education  
 (Mike Elbert and Mark Lenz) - 30.00  
 Mangold Environmental Testing, routine testing fees - 86.00  
 Cargill Inc., coarse salt at Water Plant - 3,252.53  
 A I Processors, UPS charges for wastewater samples - 6.17  
 Knoer Industrial Supply, sewer cleaner/root kill - 1,095.00  
 Shamrock Recycling, recycling fees - 655.20  
 City of Spencer, landfill fees - 735.29  
 Arnold Motor Supply, repair materials and oil filters (Garbage Truck, Case  
 Loader and Street Sweeper) - 197.67  
 Bitz Small Engine, cement saw and trash pump repairs - 65.10  
 Horizons' Unlimited, monthly recyclables processing fee (\$64.20) and  
 Swimming Pool fundraiser t-shirt order (\$153.90) - 218.10  
 Bomgaars, "Shop" scraper, water plant faucet, 4-50 watt bulbs - 41.13  
 Supplies N'More, *Incorporated* city business forms for office use in City Hall - 133.01  
 Elbert Chevrolet Inc., April statement - 46.19  
 L & G Inc., backhoe and dirt work to assist with repair of water shut-off leak (\$618.75), assistance with  
 tree trimming & removal (\$1,000.00) - 1,618.75  
 Data Technologies Inc., Accounts Receivable computer program & training, program updates - 3,263.98  
 Schmitt Hardware, April statement - 67.56  
 Qwest, telephone bills - 211.52  
 City of Whittemore, utility bills - 3,273.14  
 City of Whittemore, \$186.54 total petty cash expenses as: Little League (Rolfe) meeting registration fee  
 \$5.00; Computer training session meal for tech \$6.20; Kleenex at City Hall \$2.88; Water/wastewater  
 testing meals (M. Lenz) \$19.34; Postage at Library \$66.78; Wastewater samples postage \$4.34; Stamps  
 (utility bills, 10<sup>th</sup> of the month bills, delinquent notices, etc.) \$82.00

Motion was made by Setzer and seconded by Fraser 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:

Edgar Meyer: Install a new rollup garage door; add cement to make a sloped (north end) approach to building. All work to be completed at 202 210 Street.

Arthur Elbert: Replace existing sidewalks on the west and north side of house on property at 703 Fourth Street.

Peter Cook: Replace existing chain link fence with a wooden, 5-foot privacy fence. All work to be completed at 310 Kossuth Street.

Bill Elbert: Reshingle roof of house at 206 Broad Street.

Upon motions by Simonson and Muller and by unanimous vote of the Council, the above-listed building permit applications were approved.

There were no applications for employment.

The delinquent utility accounts were reviewed and disconnects were ordered.

The Council discussed progress being made on the new water treatment plant project. It is anticipated a special meeting will need to be held yet this month in order to proceed in a timely manner with business

that should be completed before the next regular meeting in June. The Clerk will keep the Council informed as to when such a meeting will need to be called.

Motion was then made by Simonson and seconded by Muller to name Monday, June 9, 2008 at 12:00 noon in the Chambers of City Hall as the date, time and place for a Public Hearing to be held to review an application by the City of Whittemore for a State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to assist with financing and construction of said new water treatment plant. Vote was all AYES; motion carried.

Motion was made by Fraser and seconded by Setzer to approve the annual (electronic) renewal application for a Class "C" Beer Permit and Sunday Sales Privilege by Whittemore Cenex. Roll was called and vote was as follows, AYES: Simonson, Fraser, Setzer, Brownell and Muller. NAYS: none. Motion carried.

The Council again discussed and reviewed health insurance plan options for full-time employees, as presented by Sue Frideres of Farm & Home Services, during the April 8, 2008 regular meeting. Motion was made by Brownell and seconded by Fraser to renew the existing health and dental insurance plans that are currently in place with Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield. Vote was all AYES; motion carried.

The Council reviewed, too, the costs associated with renewal of the City's 2008-09 Business Insurance Package with EMC Insurance through Sue Frideres of Farm & Home Services. Total package cost for this year's renewal will be \$35,497.00, which is a decrease of \$681.00 from the 2007-08 premium. Taking into consideration the coverage provided by the policy, motion was made by Fraser and seconded by Brownell to accept the proposed 2008-09 Business Insurance Package by EMC Insurance. Vote was: AYES – 5, NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

At this time the Council assessed the current electric service rates and charges. The Clerk informed the Council that the Resale Power Group of Iowa has not yet enacted their recently proposed electric rate increase, but that action by RPGI will be forthcoming in the near future. (Whittemore is currently a member of this power group.) With the added costs of transportation and increases in electric rates in general on the horizon, motion was made by Brownell and seconded by Muller to increase residential rates 3% and commercial rates 1%. Vote was all AYES; motion carried. No adjustments were made with the monthly meter charge. The Clerk was instructed to prepare and have ready for passage during next regular meeting, an Ordinance reflecting said increases in the electric service rates.

The date, time and place of the next regular meeting was announced. It will be held on Monday, June 2, 2008 beginning at 5:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

What to do with the retired street light fixtures was questioned. Supt. Elbert thought there were approximately 14 usable arms with lamps and bulbs. They are mercury vapor fixtures with high-pressure sodium bulbs. The Council suggested advertising them "for sale" in the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities monthly magazine; Supt. Elbert to determine the value and sale price.

The three sink holes at the tennis/basketball courts were discussed. The holes first appeared last fall and seem to be "in line" with each other. Those who have looked over the situation suspect there may be some sort of old tile (from the now-demolished school) running underneath the courts causing the problems. Supt. Elbert will investigate, starting with the sink-hole located outside the court fence in an attempt to determine what's going on. At this point the Mayor and Council hope to resolve the sink-hole issue before any further decision is made regarding repair of the tennis/basketball courts. The courts have been closed since last September and will remain closed to all activities until further notice.

Councilman Brownell wishes to inform the public that A I Processors is currently having a dispute with United Parcel Service and that any outgoing mailing of packages, etc. from Whittemore, via UPS, has been temporarily suspended. Also, Mr. Brownell, speaking on behalf of the Whittemore Fire Department, extended a thank you to the Mayor and Council for the purchase of a new refrigerator in their meeting room, acknowledging the understanding that if a new station is built, the appliance will stay in City Hall.

Councilman Simonson stated that Farmers State Bank is using a new carrier and that she was very complimentary to the Mayor, Council, businesses and citizens of Whittemore, noting especially how nice and neat the properties appear throughout the community.

Supt. Elbert reported on the following:

- The Swimming Pool has been cleaned and will soon be filled for the upcoming swim season.
- An electric padmount has been ordered for use at MaxYield Cooperative (per mandate by the Iowa Utilities Board) and it should be arriving yet this week.
- A survey of the town finds a few abandoned and/or junked vehicles. A letter will be sent to the owners asking their cooperation in removing said vehicles. Other individually named nuisances will also be addressed by a letter to be sent to the property owners.
- The City continues to seek a service or someone to cut out and remove the concrete foundations that supported the old generators at the Light Plant.

It was announced that Bill Lindley of Clayton Energy Corp. plans to be in Whittemore sometime yet this month for an *informal meeting* with Council members (who are able to attend) to discuss natural gas prices and other issues regarding the energy industry as a whole.

The upcoming meetings schedule was reviewed.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Elbert declared the May 6, 2008 regular meeting adjourned at 6:20 P.M.

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

