

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF WHITTEMORE, IOWA
*Monday, June 2, 2008 – 5:30 P.M.***

The Council of the City of Whittemore, Iowa, met in regular session on Monday, June 2, 2008 at 5:30 P.M. in the Chambers of City Hall with Mayor Elbert presiding. Members present included Simonson, Fraser, Setzer and Muller. Absent: Brownell. Others in attendance for all or a portion of the meeting were Richard Hopper, Andi Thompson and Mike Elbert.

Mayor Elbert and the Council opened the meeting expressing positive comments regarding this year's carnival, which was held on May 26 and 27. Everyone wished to thank all the volunteers who assisted in any way to help make the annual event a success. Community officials also complimented and thanked members of Seely-Walsh Post 425 of the American Legion for the presentation and completion of another fine, traditional Memorial Day service.

The Public Hearing to amend the current budget of the City of Whittemore for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008 was opened.

Richard Hopper of the engineering firm Jacobson-Westergard & Associates was present to update the Mayor and Council on progress and other issues related to the water treatment plant project. The bid-letting date has tentatively been set for Monday, July 14. Overall completion date and intermediate completion dates will be included with the bid proposal.

Resolution No. 2008-04, a Resolution approving signature authorization for Alternate Signators for the Community Development Block Grant as it pertains to the Water Treatment Plant Project was introduced. Per said resolution, in the event that the Chief Elected Official (CEO) is unable to sign project related correspondence, the following individual is designated "alternate signator" for the City of Whittemore, Iowa, (effective April 1, 2008): Linda K. Farrell, City Clerk. Motion was made by Muller and seconded by Setzer to approve Resolution No. 2008-04. Vote was all AYES; motion carried.

The Clerk was directed to transfer monies from the Electric fund and the Gas fund to the General fund and the Water fund, per 2007-2008 fiscal year budget estimates.

There being no corrections or additions, the minutes of the May 6, 2008 regular Council meeting were approved as published in the May 15, 2008 edition of the *Whittemore Independent*.

The Clerk-Treasurer's Reports for the month of May, 2008 were reviewed. Following are Receipts and Transfers for the month: General \$11580.75; Electric \$29954.80; Gas \$66968.10; Water \$6113.97; Sewer Rental \$3338.94; Solid Waste \$4595.46; Payroll \$17286.29; Equipment \$1518.82; Special Account \$45.54; Trees Savings \$0.38; Playground Fund \$0.14; Project Share \$5.00; Community Center Savings \$225.00; Road Use Tax \$3264.36; Customer Deposit \$500.00; Special Assessment \$none; Library Improvement Savings \$500.00; Library Renovations Savings \$45.89; Library Regular \$5502.20; Library Renovations Checking \$none; Community Enhancement \$200.00. Motion was made by Setzer and seconded by Muller to accept the May, 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 - \$48124.41
Total (all) Employee Wages – 11022.26
Total (all) Contract Labor – 154.00
Q-West, telephone bills – 211.52
Treasurer, State of Iowa, sales taxes – 2620.00
A T & T, long-distance calling – 107.44
Advanta Corp., supplies for Library County meeting held in Whittemore – 40.42

Janan Gillis, cleaning at Library - 80.00
 Taste of Home Cooking, 2 year subscription - 20.00
 Bro Business, toner and copies at Library - 70.01
 Center Point Large Print, books - 77.88
 North Central Library Service Area, lodging and other fees related to PLA meeting in Minneapolis - 316.83
 Supplies N' More, flag for Library, flag for Heritage Square and office supplies at City Hall - 75.35
 Thomas Bouregy, books - 138.50
 Baker & Taylor, books - 220.36
 Stundahls Cleaning Service, cleaning at Community Center - 100.00
 KRHC-Hospital, Hepatitis B immunization for EMT Craig Brownell - 126.00
 A-1 Portables, portable toilets for Whittemore Fun Days - 230.00
 Simon Simonson Roofing, tear off and shingle Swimming Pool Bathhouse roof - 2030.00
 NIACOG, 11th monthly installment for Housing Rehab Grant - 385.00
 Continental Research Corp, tools - 125.13
 Arnold Motor Supply, parts for air compressor - 33.95
 K's Industrial Supply, yellow, white and blue street marking paint - 303.44
 BARCO Municipal Products, rain jackets and boots - 176.32
 Northwest Communications, monthly website hosting fee - 25.00
 Smith Wellness Center, lifeguard training certification renewals (2) - 80.00
 Brown Supply Co, pool supplies - 327.00
 Bomgaars, pool supplies and fasteners for new street lights - 161.64
 Farm & Home Services, 2008-09 business insurance package - 35,497.00
 Bryan Meyer, reimbursement for mileage IAMU meeting - 105.70
 T & R Electric, partial payment for three phase padmount - 3,000.00
 Hydrite Chemical, chemicals - 356.48
 L & G Inc, assist with tile repair on Railroad Street - 396.00
 Hach, water testing fee - 183.49
 Mangold Environmental Testing, water testing fee - 72.00
 Knoer Industrial Supply, lift station cleaner - 798.90
 Stuart Simonson, reimbursement for chemicals and fertilizer - 49.11
 Kurt's Lawn Care, lawn care for Pool, Noah's Park, etc. - 443.00
 Jen Wiederin, refund of customer deposit - 50.00
 Lloyd's Auto Electric, repair garbage truck - 134.39
 Elbert Chevrolet, May statement includes repairs to dump truck and garbage truck - 1,819.36
 Schmitt Hardware, May statement (includes partial payment on City Hall furnace) - 1,444.64
 Tom Eischen Sales, sharpen chain saw blade, grass seed - 283.94
 K-Mart, pool supplies and inkjets for Light Plant computer - 89.02
 ATC Cable, internet service at Library and City Hall - 59.13
 Printing Services Inc., City Hall office supplies - 46.49
 Whittemore Independent, May publications - 348.82
 Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, OQ testing, Safety Training quarterly mtg. assessment - 353.63
 Border States, electric distribution materials - 218.54
 SHARE Corp, (liquid) long-term weed killer - 1,893.95
 Iowa Utilities Board, 4th quarter assessment for electric and gas - 171.00

Motion was made by Fraser 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 presented for Council consideration:

Adolph "Ernie" Kurtz: Replace existing canvas shed with a new steel shed (12x20) with overhead garage door on same/existing foundation in rear yard at 513 Third Street. Also, replace one window on east side of house with same sized-unit.

Jeff Fehr: Remove wooden deck from west and south side of house.

Schmitt Hardware: Replace rear/south wooden door with a new steel door. All work to be completed at 401 Broad Street.

Terry Christensen: Reshingle roof of house and garage on property at 522 Fifth Street.

Wayne Wagner: Reshingle roof of garage on property at 610 Kossuth Street.

City of Whittemore: Reshingle roof of Swimming Pool Bathhouse at 113 Fifth Street.

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

An application from Patrick D. Elbert for part-time summer employment was presented. The application was placed on file for future reference.

The delinquent accounts were reviewed and disconnects were ordered. Utility patrons who are not currently on the gas budget should give serious consideration to joining the monthly plan, as the outlook is dismal for obtaining low prices for natural gas for the 2008-09 heating season and beyond. (Contact City Hall if interested in learning more about the Gas Budget Plan.) Clayton Energy Corp. and the City of Whittemore continue to make every effort possible to secure the cheapest prices possible, but the energy situation as a whole continues to trade where oil trades.

Upon motions by Muller and Fraser and a unanimous vote of the Council, one cigarette permit renewal application was approved, that being by MaxYield Cooperative for "Whittemore Cenex". The annual renewal fee is \$75.00, payable to the City of Whittemore.

Mayor Elbert reappointed Councilman Simonson as Whittemore (and Fenton) representative(s) to the Kossuth County Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors, with Councilman Setzer to serve as his alternate. The reappointments were made for a term of one year. Councilman Simonson stated this would be his final year of service on said board as he has served on the committee since its inception.

At this time ORDINANCE NO. 164 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY CODE OF WHITTEMORE, IOWA AS IT PERTAINS TO TITLE VII, "ELECTRIC UTILITY", SECTION 7-1-1 "RATES" was considered. During the May 6, 2008 regular meeting the Council moved to increase residential electric rates by 3% and Commercial electric rates by 1%.

Upon review of information from the Resale Power Group of Iowa pertaining to the forecast for significant increases in electric costs projected to occur in 2009 and 2010, motion was made by Simonson and seconded by Muller to approve the initial passage of ORDINANCE NO. 164. Roll was called and vote was as follows, AYES: Simonson, Fraser, Setzer and Muller. NAYS: none. ABSENT: Brownell. Motion carried.

It was moved by Setzer and seconded by Fraser to waive the second and third readings of ORDINANCE NO. 164. Vote was all AYES; motion carried.

Motion was then made by Muller and seconded by Simonson to pass final consideration of ORDINANCE NO. 164. Roll was called and vote was as follows, AYES: Simonson, Fraser, Setzer and Muller. NAYS: none. ABSENT: Brownell. Whereupon Mayor Elbert declared ORDINANCE NO. 164 duly adopted. The new ordinance will become effective upon publication, and the new rates will appear on utility bills due on or before July 20, 2008.

The Mayor and Council want to make everyone aware that energy costs are increasing and adjustments will need to be made in order to keep up with the financial burdens that are being placed upon everyone. Whittemore is not the only community experiencing this crisis and globalization of energy is the way of the future. The Clerk to contact Kris Stubbs of the Resale Power Group of Iowa to attend a Council meeting to aid in a technical review of the City's electric rates, charges, etc.

The date and time for the next regular Council meeting was scheduled for Monday, July 7, 2008, beginning at 5:30 P.M. in the Chambers of City Hall.

It was announced the weekly "Thursday Morning Coffee and Farmers Market" at Time Square, sponsored by Friends of the Betterment Committee, will begin on June 5. This event is open to the public and everyone is invited to attend!

Councilperson Muller reported she has received a complaint about junk being kept on the property and in the alley at 514 First Street. Councilperson Fraser reported Swimming Pool Manager Laurie Dahlhauser stated the facility is ready to open and that the cleaning of the water, etc. is being handled by the lifeguards.

The Clerk was instructed to send several letters to persons regarding their unkempt properties, requesting they mow and clean up as soon as possible. Should the city be required to mow lawn on an abandoned or private property, the following fees schedule was set: first time mowing \$50.00. Additional cuttings to be charged (to the property owner) at \$100.00 each.

The upcoming meetings schedule was reviewed. The City of Whittemore will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, June 9, 2008 to review an application for a State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and to make available to the public, the contents of a preliminary engineering report entitled, "Water Treatment Plant Improvements".

Due to the absence of Councilman Brownell, the Mayor and Council chose not to enter into Closed Session during this meeting to set salaries for city employees for the fiscal year 2008-09. Instead, a special meeting is scheduled to be held on Monday, June 9 beginning at 5:30 P.M. to discuss and review the annual salary issue.

The Public Hearing to amend the current budget of the City of Whittemore for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2008 was closed at 6:50 P.M. There being no taxpayers present to be heard for or against said budget, Resolution No. 2008-03 was introduced, a resolution amending the current budget for fiscal year 2007-08. Motion was made by Simonson and seconded by Fraser to approve Resolution No. 2008-03. Vote was all AYES; motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Elbert declared the June 2, 2008 regular meeting adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

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

