



City Council
March 28, 2023
Regular Session

Call to order

Mayor Chris Hoffman called the March 28, 2023, Regular Session of the North Liberty City Council to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 1 Quail Creek Circle. Councilors present: Ashley Bermel, RaQuishia Harrington, Erek Sittig, Brent Smith and Brian Wayson; absent: none.

Others present: Ryan Heiar, Tracey Mulcahey, Grant Lientz, Ryan Rusnak, Kevin Trom, and other interested parties.

Approval of the Agenda

Harrington moved; Smith seconded to approve the agenda. The vote was all ayes. Agenda approved.

Consent Agenda

Harrington moved, Bermel seconded to approve the Consent Agenda including the City Council Minutes, Regular Session, March 14, 2023; the attached list of claims; and the Liquor License Application for Quail Creek Golf Course. The vote was all ayes. Consent Agenda approved.

Public Comment

No public comments were offered.

City Engineer Report

City Engineer Trom reported that the Heritage Streambank Erosion Project contractor is done with everything except seeding. The City Hall Project contractor poured the second-floor slab last week. It has been too wet to work on the stormwater under the future parking lot. The contractor will be starting on the sanitary sewer and water main connections. Main Street will be closed when the work happens. The contractor will be proposing the plan next week. The contractor mobilized for the Library Project. Demolition began today. Bids are due April 4 for the Ranshaw Paved Shoulders Project. The project is to be substantially complete by June 30. The Penn Meadows Park North Parking Lot Project 50% complete plans have been submitted. Staff review is scheduled for next week. The West Penn Street Project kickoff meeting was last week. The first submittal will be May 5. Construction will begin in 2024.

City Administrator Report

City Administrator Heiar reported that the Centennial Park Next Stage program was not awarded Destination Iowa funds. Staff is meeting with Shive-Hattery to talk about phasing the project. Last Friday, staff introduced the project to community members. The project is projected to have fundraising of at least \$1 million. A press release will be sent out tomorrow regarding the project.

At the April 11 City Council meeting, a group will be present to gauge city interest in UTV and ATV use in the city.

Mayor Report

Mayor Hoffman proclaimed April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Mayor Hoffman proclaimed March 31, 2023 as Trans Day of Visibility. He thanked Councilor Wayson for running Council meetings in his absence.

Council Reports

Councilor Sittig reported on Trans Day of Visibility celebrations on Friday in Iowa City. He attended the South District Market grand opening in Iowa City. He would encourage a similar development North Liberty. Councilor Bermel attended the Building North Liberty's Next Stage Event. She encouraged visiting the website for the project. She reported that a City Slate event, the Bunny Clue Trail, is this upcoming weekend.

Facility Naming Policy

Harrington moved, Smith seconded to approve Resolution Number 2023-25, A Resolution approving the Policy for Naming of City Facilities. After discussion, an amendment was introduced. Smith moved, Harrington seconded to approve the amendments suggested by Councilor Wayson and Councilor Sittig. The vote on the amendment was: ayes – Bermel, Smith, Harrington, Sittig, Wayson; nays – none. Motion carried. After discussion, the vote on the resolution, as amended, was ayes – Wayson, Smith, Sittig, Harrington, Bermel; nays – none. Motion carried.

Big O Foundation

Amy Bartachek, Big O Foundation, spoke regarding how mental health awareness initiatives help community wide. The Big O Foundation is requesting to rename the Babe Ruth Field to Owen Skelley Field. Reid Manternach spoke regarding the relationships constructed through baseball including his relationship with Owen Skelley. Tate Brunk spoke regarding his relationship with Owen and requested the renaming of the field. Uby Martinez, Liberty High School baseball coach, spoke regarding reaching students and adults who have mental health needs. He promotes using this facility to raise awareness for mental health issues. On May 13 and 14, the Owen Skelley Classic Event will be held at Penn Meadows Park. Joe Skelley offered additional information on the requested partnership in the use of the field and the renaming of the field to create mental health awareness. He requested that the City consider partnering with the foundation. Michelle Schnicker, who facilitates grief classes, stated that she understands the effects of grief from suicide and drawing awareness for mental health issues. Kyle Sherman, Diamond Dreams, is helping to set up the tournaments with the foundation. He stated that Diamond Dreams is in full support of the field renaming.

Council discussed the request. Smith moved, Bermel seconded to officially name Babe Ruth Field as Owen Skelley Field and to work with the Owen Skelley Foundation to draft an agreement. After discussion, the vote was: ayes – Smith, Harrington, Bermel, Wayson; nays – Sittig. Motion carried

Council recessed at 7:34 p.m. Council reconvened at 7:42 p.m.

FY 24 Budget

Heiar presented information on the proposed updated budget for FY 24. Council discussed the proposal. The revised budget hearing will be held at the next Council meeting.

North Side Community Park Project

At 7:59 p.m., Mayor Hoffman opened the public hearing regarding the proposed park project. Lientz provided information on the process. The public hearing was closed at 8:01 p.m.

Bermel moved, Sittig seconded to approve Resolution Number 2023-24, A Resolution authorizing condemnation of portions of certain real properties for the North Side Community Park Project. After discussion, the vote was: ayes – Wayson, Harrington, Bermel, Smith, Sittig; nays – none. Motion carried.

Solomons Entertainment District

Bermel moved, Sittig seconded to approve Resolution Number 2023-26, A Resolution approving the Developer's Agreement for Solomon's Entertainment District, a resubdivision of Lots 19, 20, 21 and Outlot 'E' of Solomon's Landing Part One, North Liberty, Iowa. The vote was: ayes- Wayson, Harrington, Sittig, Bermel, Smith; nays – none. Motion carried.

Harrington moved, Smith seconded to approve Resolution Number 2023-27, A Resolution approving the Preliminary Plat for Solomons Entertainment District, North Liberty, Iowa. The vote was: ayes – Sittig, Wayson, Harrington, Smith, Bermel; nays – none. Motion carried.

Sittig moved, Harrington seconded to approve Resolution Number 2023-28, A Resolution approving the Final Plat for Solomons Entertainment District, North Liberty, Iowa. The vote was: ayes – Sittig, Smith, Wayson, Bermel, Harrington; nays – none. Motion carried.

Hope Presbyterian Church Stormwater Management Facility Maintenance Agreement

Sittig moved, Bermel seconded to approve Resolution Number 2023-29, A Resolution approving the Storm Water Management Facilities Maintenance Agreement and Easement between the City of North Liberty and Hope Presbyterian Church that establishes the terms and conditions under which stormwater management facilities will be maintained for Hope Presbyterian Church in the City of North Liberty, Iowa. After discussion, the vote was: ayes – Bermel, Sittig, Wayson, Harrington, Smith; nays – none. Motion carried.

Ranshaw Way Paved Shoulders Project

At 8:05 p.m., Mayor Hoffman opened the public hearing regarding proposed plans, specifications and estimate of cost for the Ranshaw Way Paved Shoulders Project. No oral or written comments were received. The public hearing was closed at 8:06 p.m.

Harrington moved, Wayson seconded to approve Resolution Number 2023-30, A Resolution finally approving and confirming plans, specifications, and estimate of cost for the Ranshaw Way

Paved Shoulders Project. The vote was: ayes – Sittig, Harrington, Bermel, Smith, Wayson; nays – none. Motion carried.

2023A Bond Issuance

Smith moved, Harrington seconded to approve Resolution Number 2023-31, A Resolution setting the date for a public hearing on proposal to enter into a General Obligation Loan Agreement and to borrow money thereunder. After discussion, the vote was: ayes – Harrington, Sittig, Wayson, Bermel, Smith; nays – none. Motion carried.

Wayson moved, Sittig seconded to approve Resolution Number 2023-32, A Resolution approving the Engagement Letter between the City of North Liberty and Dorsey & Whitney LLP regarding Bond Counsel Services for the General Obligation Corporate Purpose Bond Sale, Series 2023A. The vote was: ayes – Wayson, Sittig, Bermel, Smith, Harrington; nays – none. Motion carried.

Housing Rehabilitation Project

Wayson moved, Bermel seconded to approve Resolution Number 2023-33, A Resolution approving the Rehabilitation Contract and associated documents between the owner, rehabilitation contractor and the City of North Liberty. After discussion, the vote was: ayes – Bermel, Smith, Harrington, Sittig, Wayson; nays – none. Motion carried.

Sittig moved, Smith seconded to approve Resolution Number 2023-34, A Resolution approving the updated Procurement Policy required by the Community Development Block Grant Program. The vote was: ayes – Smith, Wayson, Sittig, Harrington, Bermel; nays – none. Motion carried.

Depository Resolution

Sittig moved, Wayson seconded to approve Resolution Number 2023-35, A Resolution designating Hills Bank & Trust Company, MidWestOne, Green State Credit Union, First Interstate Bank, Collins Community Credit Union, Two Rivers Bank & Trust, and US Bank as depositories for public funds belonging to the City of North Liberty, Iowa. After discussion, the vote was: ayes – Sittig, Wayson, Smith, Harrington, Bermel; nays – none. Motion carried.

Animal Ordinance Amendment

Sittig moved, Wayson seconded to approve the third consideration and adoption of Ordinance Number 2023-04, An Ordinance amending Chapters 55, 56, and 57 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of North Liberty, Iowa, concerning procedures for impoundment and redemption of impounded animals, compliance requirements for dangerous dogs, and licensure of service animals. The vote was: ayes – Smith, Sittig, Harrington, Wayson, Bermel; nays – none. Motion carried.

Old Business

No old business was offered.

New Business

Mayor Hoffman reported that storm water rates will be discussed later this spring. The session with ICCSD that was planned on April 11 will be deferred until the legislative session is complete. Councilor Wayson reported that Muddy Creek Clean Up is scheduled for April 8 and the new full time firefighting staff started this week.

Adjournment

Harrington moved; Sittig seconded to adjourn at 8:17 p.m. The vote was all ayes. Meeting adjourned.

CITY OF NORTH LIBERTY

By: _____
Chris Hoffman, Mayor

Attest: _____
Tracey Mulcahey, City Clerk