

**NEW SHARON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday February 1, 2023**

**These are draft minutes and have not been approved by
The City Council prior to publication.**

The New Sharon City Council met in regular session on Wednesday February 1, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m. Meeting called to order with Mayor Jeff Long and the following members answering roll call: Larry Applegate, Tom German, Ron Wyatt, Justin Stout, Ben Hansen. Others in attendance were Stacie Cameron, Alisha Briggs, Craig Fawcett, Russ VanRenterghem, Brittany VanderBeek, Kevin Lamberson and Lisa Munn.

1. Roll Call answered by: Applegate, German, Stout, Wyatt, Hansen

2. Consent Agenda:

Motion made by Hansen and seconded by Wyatt to approve the following consent agenda items.

01/18/2023 minutes

02/01/2023 agenda

02/01/2023 distributions pending

AYES: German, Wyatt, Hansen, Stout, Applegate

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

3. Public Comments: None

4. Requests from the Community: None

5. Public Hearings:

A. Motion made by Hansen and seconded by Wyatt to open public hearing for Max Levy FY2024 at 6:01 p.m.

AYES: German, Wyatt, Applegate, Stout, Hansen

NAYES: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

Discussion in regards to new Senate File 181 Potential Changes to Rollback and Taxable Valuation for FY 2023-2024. This could change the valuations and property tax money is passed. We can still proceed with passing Max Levy since this just came out today.

B. Motion made by German and seconded by Stout to close public hearing for Max Levy FY2024 at 6:04 p.m.

AYES: German, Wyatt, Applegate, Stout, Hansen

NAYES: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

6. Resolutions and Motions

A. Motion made by Hansen and seconded by German to approve setting public hearing for building permit for Josh VanderLinden, 406 E. Market, 2 sheds and a wheelchair ramp for Feb. 15 at 6:00 p.m.

AYES: German, Hansen, Applegate, Stout, Wyatt

NAYES: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

- B.** Motion made by Wyatt and seconded by German to approve Resolution 020123 approving Max Levy for FY2024

AYES: Hansen, Applegate, Stout, German, Wyatt

NAYES: none

ABSTENTIONS: None

- C.** Motion made by Stout and seconded by Hansen to set public hearing for budget for FY2024 for March 1st at 6:00 p.m.

AYES: Applegate, German, Hansen, Stout, Wyatt

NAYES: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

- D.** Alicia Briggs was here to share the JACE Race Route and ask for permission to use the city streets for this. The route will remain the same as in the previous years.

- E.** Motion made by Hansen and seconded by Wyatt to approve JACE Race Route for spring festival.

AYES: Wyatt, German, Stout, Applegate, Hansen

NAYES: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

- F.** Craig Fawcett from Digs Rod Shop was here to discuss the car show for spring festival and ask for road closures. Craig stated that he is expecting more cars this year than last year. Last year he had 94 even with the weather. This year he is expecting more. He asked about the availability of food since he thinks this will bring in about 300-400 people. He also asked for a closure of the alley behind the McVey building to park his trailer so it would leave more room for cars. He would like to have a mayor award, fire department award, and a law enforcement award. Craig will do the DOT road closure permit and send it to us for Kevin and a state patrol to sign.

- G.** Motion made by Stout and seconded by Wyatt to approve liquor license for Casey's.

AYES: Stout, German, Hansen, Applegate, Wyatt

NAYES: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

- H.** Discussion in regards to doing automatic renewal for liquor licenses. The council and law enforcement thought it was a better idea to not allow the automatic renewal but still have the council decide to locally endorse all alcohol permits.

- I.** Motion made by Wyatt and seconded by German to not approve automatic renewal for liquor license for Casey's.

AYES: Hansen, Stout, German, Wyatt, Applegate

NAYES: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

- J.** Discussion regarding zoning and forming a planning and zoning commission board- German said we need it to keep our downtown. We will need a board of at least 3 people but could have more as long as an odd number. Looking for interested people for a planning and commission board. This would be a

voluntary board. Must live in the city limits just like council members however no employees or council members can serve on this board. We will post this on our New Sharon News and Updates page and discuss more at the next meeting.

- K.** Discussion was held on employee raises for FY2024. The cost of living this year is 8.7%. Wyatt suggested 8.5% increase including part time. German said it sounds like a lot but we have good employees and we need to keep them. Everything has gone up. Wyatt said yes and we had a hard time hiring our part time employees. Stout said we need to do all full time and part time the same. Council agreed on 8.5% increase for part time and full time employees. The library board makes the decision on their employees and brings it to the council.

7. Ordinances: None

8. Department Reports

A. Water Report- none

B. Sewer Report- none

C. Street Report- none

D. Park Report- city park building cleaned after grinding floor took 3 hours to get all dust out.

E. Police Report- in packets, bid from Proline for steel on two sides of police station just for the budget, will get two more bids before granting contract. Kevin said him, the sheriff department and the mine task force did a search warrant on a residence in town. The Department of corrections has control over the length of sentencing.

F. Mahaska Sheriff Report- Russ said there is still no word of additional deputy. He is part of the SE IA Sheriff Association and Mahaska County hosted this. Russ said the good relationship between town and county law enforcement is something some departments do not have and he is appreciative of our relationship. Wyatt asked about the consulting firm findings for the EMA and Oskaloosa. Russ said that we have the appropriate number of dispatchers, some problems scheduling, could streamline bills better. With the EMA the consulting firm recommended cutting one full time EMA position. By cutting one position there is no way to get all of the training done since they only have 1 ½ people. Monday night at the Oskaloosa council meeting the consulting firm will give their report breakdown. This will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Monday February 6th in the city hall council chambers if anyone would like to attend.

G. Cemetery Report- new software is live on the website with a “how to” directions printed with it. This will be very helpful to look up cemetery plots. It is a read only so we are the only ones to make any changes. Larry said he had one funeral also.

H. City Clerk Report- working on budget, insurance loss control survey visit will be Feb 7th at 12:30. Brittany told the council she is working on a grant for the city park building, new paint, new stove, tables, chairs. She is asking for support letters from the council and citizens to add to this grant. She is also working on a grant from MCFE for tablets and a TV for the council members and city hall so we can put the council packets on it instead of using so much paper and wasting it after the meeting. She would like support letters from the council in favor of this. She presented a letter from Stacie Cameron as an example for them.

I. City Attorney Report – none

J. Fire Department Report- none

K. Library Report- Stacie said that they asked the supervisors for \$15,000 this year, no word yet how much they will receive. She also attended a webinar on Jan 10th with an author who writes graphic novels. The library is weeding out the old books. They are hosting a zoom meeting on the 14th amendment on Feb 21st from noon-1:00 for black history month.

9. Departmental Requests: None

10. City council Information: None

11. Mayor Information: None

12. Adjournment:

There being no further business to discuss, it was moved by German and seconded by Hansen to adjourn at 7.15 p.m. All in favor, Meeting adjourned.

Lisa Munn
Certified Municipal City Clerk

Jeff Long
Mayor