

## **City of McCallsburg**

The City Council of McCallsburg met on Monday, March 3rd, 2008 at 7 pm, in the McCallsburg City Hall for the regular monthly meeting. Mayor Loney called the meeting to order. Councilpersons Scott Anderson, Bill Lytle, David Muth, Ken Tiarks and Jeff Wells were present. There was also one resident, and two representatives from the Zearing Public Library, a Sheriff, and the city's realtor in attendance.

Mayor Loney added one item to the agenda under new business. All items for Budget Hearing were removed. Budget Hearing will be March 13, 2008. Tiarks motioned and Lytle seconded to approve the agenda with Mayor Loney's addition, removal of budget hearing items, minutes of the February 4th meeting, the February 26<sup>th</sup> Workshop minutes and financial reports. All ayes.

### **Revenue for February 2008**

General Income - \$3,374.59  
Water Utility Income - \$2,766.39  
Sewer Utility Income - \$2,091.86  
Solid Waste Revenue - \$2,010.48  
Sales Tax and Late Fees - \$182.89  
Employee Benefits - \$0.78  
Fees - \$50.00  
Late Fees - \$24.34  
Insurance – Inc - \$1,591.82  
TIF Revenue - \$343.70  
TOTAL INCOME: \$12,436.85

### **Claims Paid for February 2008**

Trash Man - \$1,633.17  
Central Iowa Water - \$1,130.07  
Iowa Telecom - \$99.22  
Alliant - \$672.26  
The Nevada Journal - \$107.67  
Treasurer, State of Iowa - \$202.00  
Sonia Dodd - \$800.52  
Staples - \$80.77  
Story County Treasurer - \$384.00  
The Bookkeepers - \$50.00  
Scott's Sales - \$250.00  
Ahlers & Cooney - \$3,020.20  
LGI - \$19.60  
IA League of Cities - \$50.00  
State Bank - \$2,927.33  
Colo-Nesco after Prom - \$100.00  
Fire Pro's Plus - \$25.25  
Hach Company - \$346.30  
Joel Reischauer - \$55.00  
Ryerson's - \$32.54  
TOTAL EXPENSES: \$11,985.90

Sheriff Randy Garner updated the council on the Sheriff's Department. He told the council the Citizens Academy would begin on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008. The Sheriff's Department had a warrant search in the town of McCallsburg the previous weekend without incident. Mayor Loney informed the council that the DNR is doing a wastewater overhaul. This means cities can no longer dump sewage in fields any more. The mayor suggested the city consider putting in a new sewer line to accommodate the change. The mayor also informed the council that he would be attending the IWPCA meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss lagoons and ammonia testing changes.

The Zearing Public Library had the Board's President and Head Librarian as representatives to discuss the library financing. The library hours for McCallsburg were clarified. Currently the library in McCallsburg is open from 10-2 (4hrs) and in the summer from 9-2 (5hrs) during the week. Starting July 1<sup>st</sup> the McCallsburg Library hours will be cut to 10-1 (3hrs) and in the summer 9-1 (4hrs) during the week. The Zearing Library Board was unaware of the amount they had been given for the FY 2007-2008. The council informed the representatives that they received \$4,680 for the FY 2007-2008. The Zearing Library representatives explained their budget for the FY 2008-2009 and showed a breakdown of the costs; planning and materials are not currently charged to the McCallsburg Library. It was explained to the council that letters stating Zearing's council had cut the library's funding by 30%. These letters were on the front counter and may have been picked up by McCallsburg residents who visited their library. This may have led to some confusion concerning McCallsburg's funding. Councilman Anderson requested a copy of that letter. The clerk was informed to send a letter to the Zearing Public Library from now on stating what the council had approved for funding. It was repeated that the McCallsburg Library hours would not change until July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008. It was agreed to post a reminder in the June newsletter about the new library hours. The Mayor and Council thanked board president and head librarian for their appearance. The clerk was instructed to pay the Library Board a lump sum of the budgeted amount on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

The council received only one sealed bid for the city's mowing this year. The bid came from A&M Mowing. The total bid was the same amount as last year. \$35/hr for the areas in blue, \$42/hr for nuisance mowing and \$310 for areas marked in orange. Councilman Anderson made a motion to approve the bid with Lytle seconded. Roll call: Anderson, Lytle, Muth, Tiarks, Wells all ayes. Motion passed. Mayor Loney will call Jim Gibson to notify him.

Debra Johnson the city's real estate agent for the Owen D. Fincham lots made an appearance. She asked the council if they had considered her earlier proposal of planting a line of trees as a barrier between the subdivision and the pump station. The council said they had thought about that idea and thought it might be good to plant a row of pines and a second row of quick growing trees until the pines could mature. Johnson suggested when the time came the council should consider getting the trees from the State Nursery where there would be little or no cost to the city. Johnson also informed the council that she has advertised the lots every week and also by posting them on two different web sites. Johnson also suggested that the council should consider taking away the discount they currently offer and instead give full three year tax abatements because buyers seem to understand tax abatements better. Johnson says the two biggest complaints she gets from potential buyers is that McCallsburg has no grocery store, and the price of gas to commute. Councilman Muth mentioned the school/daycare was a positive for the community but haven't yet been able to draw in young families. Johnson asked the council if there were ever any issues with standing water in the subdivision. The council stated there were no problems and that any rain or water from snow melt drains quickly. Mayor Loney asked Johnson if any developers were interested in the lots. Johnson said most developers prefer to work with larger cities. It was stated that the tax base would be approximately 28% in 2009 and that maybe the new rate would help. The council told Johnson they would speak to the city attorney about changes that can be made. The council will vote on changes at the March 13<sup>th</sup> Budget Hearing.

Mayor Loney placed the results of the Central Iowa Water testing in the March newsletter. Loney suggests that if any residents continue to have problems with their water to collect a sample in a quart glass container and inform him. Loney will take the sample to be tested. Councilman Wells wondered if the problems could be from the chlorine levels which are never consistent. Councilman Lytle stated that the complaints came after the city's water supplier switched from Marshalltown to Newton.

Councilman Anderson suggested each council member come up with a list of wants for city improvements to use future TIF money on. Those lists will be reviewed and discussed at the April council meeting.

The Clerk was instructed to contact the company that was used to the city's kybo last years to see what the new rates may be. If the rates are the same the clerk is to tell them to bring out the kybo the same date as last year. If the rates have increased the clerk is to call around to collect rate quotes and to bring those number to the March 13<sup>th</sup> Budget Hearing.

It was agreed that Councilman Tiarks would add the Application for the Youth Volunteer Award to the city's website so all residents have the opportunity to nominate an youth for the award.

The clerk was informed that the city had taken advantage of the Small Town Sign Replacement Program last year and would not need to apply this year. However, new sign are needed for first, second and third streets. Mayor Loney said he would attend to those in the spring.

Mayor Loney has received complaints about Parcel #45 having the street blocked with parked cars. The Sheriff was called and told the resident to move the vehicles which they did. The council agreed to review the property in the council's spring walk-thru. Should a similar complaint be received the council wants to inform the sheriff to give a ticket for a municipal infraction.

The next regular council meeting will be held Monday April 7th, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Lytle made a motion to adjourn. Muth seconded. All ayes.

Wallace W. Loney, Mayor

ATTEST: Sonia Dodd, City Clerk

Disclaimer: City Minutes are not official under approved by council.