

BOARD OF TRUSTEE MINUTES – REGULAR SESSION – May 24, 2021

The Board of Trustees met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. on May 24, 2021, in the City Hall Council Chambers. Chairperson Adam Voigts called the meeting to order and on roll call the following members were present: Lesley Forbush (via Zoom), Deb Richardson, Adam Voigts, and Lori Smith. Absent: Mike Rozga.

The consent agenda consisting of the following was approved on a motion by Richardson and seconded by Smith. Question was called for and on voice vote the Chairperson declared the motion carried unanimously.

- Claims list for May 24, 2021.
- Minutes from May 10 and 12, 2021.
- Approval of April Financial Report.

Finance/HR Director Chris Longer stated she could provide the Board with a summarized financial report at future meetings.

Chairperson Voigts opened the Public Hearing on the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimate of cost for the Downtown Underground Conversion Project and called for any objections to their approval. Kelly Shaw, 101 Phillip Place, spoke in opposition to the approval of the construction and materials contracts. No other comments were offered, and the Public Hearing was closed.

Al Powers, P&E Engineering, explained the project plans and his estimate of costs. He noted prices have recently increased due to economic conditions. General Manager Chris Des Planques stated the project was to be paid out of fund balance reserves with no borrowing or rate impact.

Resolution 2021-019 approving the proposed plans, specifications, form of contract and estimate of cost for the Downtown Underground Conversion Project was introduced on a motion by Richardson and seconded by Smith. On roll call, the vote was AYES: Richardson, Voigts, and Smith. NAYS: None. Board Member Forbush was unable to vote due to technical difficulties. Whereupon the Chairperson declared the motion passed.

General Manager Des Planques then discussed financing of the project if it were to move forward, noting that an electric rate increase would be necessary because the bid came in over budget. He recommended not awarding the contracts.

Mr. Powers laid out other options for the Board to discuss. The Board Members stated that while they are in support of the Streetscape Project, they will not consider awarding the contracts at this time and instead will modify IMU's plans, in a way that isn't likely to negatively impact the project as a whole, in order to be fiscally responsible.

There was no action taken on the resolution awarding construction contract nor the resolution awarding materials contract.

Electric Superintendent Mike Metcalf reported the Electric Department has been on working on new construction projects. Aaron Rasko has completed their apprenticeship and is now a journeyman.

It was moved by Smith and seconded by Richardson to authorize Warren Water to serve an IMU customer at 8369 110th Avenue. Question was called for and on voice vote the Chairperson declared the motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Richardson and seconded by Smith to authorize Warren Water to serve an IMU customer at 14130 118th Avenue. Question was called for and on voice vote the Chairperson declared the motion carried unanimously.

Water Superintendent Lou Elbert explained the scope of the Southeast Streetscape Water Main Extension Project, stating it will be done in conjunction with Phase 9 of the Streetscape Project. The project will include 8" mains, replace taps and provide better fire protection.

Smith moved and Richardson seconded to approve Resolution 2021-020 approving an Engineering Services Agreement with Veenstra & Kimm for the Southeast Streetscape Water Main Extension Project. On roll call, the vote was AYES: Forbush, Richardson, Voigts, and Smith. NAYS: None. Whereupon the Chairperson declared the motion carried unanimously.

Water Superintendent Elbert reported to the Board the North 8th Street project will begin around June 21st.

The Telecommunications Department continues to work on installations, reported Superintendent Kurt Ripperger.

The Public Hearing on a resolution to consider the authorization of the sale of real property, commonly known as 2110 Country Club, by Indianola Municipal Utilities was opened by Chairperson Voigts. No comments were offered.

General Manager Des Planques stated neither the City of Indianola nor IMU had any interest or future plans for the property and recommends approval of the sale.

Resolution 2021-021, making final determination on the potential sale of real property and authorizing the execution of a purchase agreement by and between Indianola Municipal Utilities and Kevin D. Halterman was introduced on a motion by Richardson. Smith seconded the motion. On roll call, the vote was AYES: Forbush, Richardson, Voigts, and Smith. NAYS: None. Whereupon the Chairperson declared the motion carried unanimously.

In discussion on participation in an assistance program, General Manager Des Planques said it is a similar agreement to LIHEAP but this program is administered by the Iowa Finance Authority. Participation will continue until funding runs out. Smith moved to approve participation in the Iowa Rent and Utility Assistance Program. Richardson seconded the motion. On roll call, the vote was AYES: Forbush, Richardson, Voigts, and Smith. NAYS: None. Whereupon the Chairperson declared the motion carried unanimously.

In combined informational items, General Manager Des Planques stated he attended MEAN meetings where finances were discussed.

In other business, Board Member Smith asked that staff present a year-in-review on the software conversion project and highlight the lessons learned.

Meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm on a motion by Smith and seconded by Richardson.

Adam Voigts, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Jackie Raffety, Deputy Clerk