

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
ZEARING CITY COUNCIL  
CITY HALL, ZEARING, IOWA  
JANUARY 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**

7:01pm Mayor Herr called the meeting to order and roll call was taken: Present: Perisho, Tisdale, Johnson, Pascuzzi, Good.

Motion by Good, Tisdale seconded to approve the agenda. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Tisdale, Johnson seconded to approve 12.9.24 Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Perisho, Pascuzzi seconded to approve the claims totaling \$53,206.37. Motion carried 5-0.

<b>CLAIMS REPORT</b>		
<b>VENDOR</b>	<b>REFERENCE</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
AG SOURCE LABORATORIES	LAB WORK	66.25
ALLIANT ENERGY	ELECTRICITY	3,773.20
AMY WOMELDORFF	MILEAGE	92.46
CHASE VISA		
LIBRARY	BOOKS/DVD/PROGRAM/SUPPLIES	978.86
CITY HALL	OFFICE SUPPLIES/COMPUTER	227.73
PUBLIC WORKS	FUEL	487.29
WATER	POSTAGE/OFFICE SUPPLIES	69.67
SEWER	POSTAGE	57.60
FIRE DEPT.	FUEL	278.41
CENTRAL IOWA TELEVISIONING	LIFT STATION CLEANING	2,970.00
CUMMINS INC.	LIFT STATION SERVICE	959.29
DENTONS DAVIS BROWN PC	LEGAL FEES	574.00
GANNET IOWA LOCALIQ	NOVEMBER PUBLISHING	187.20
HIGHTIDE TECHNOLOGIES	ANNUAL RENEWAL	600.00
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	FED/FICA TAX	1,564.91
IOWA ONE CALL	10 LOCATES	9.00
IOWA REGIONAL UTILITIES	WATER PURCHASE	3,760.00
IPERS COLLECTIONS	IPERS	1,269.63
J&T PLUMBING	TOILET REPAIR AT DAKINS	172.00
JERRY'S SANITATION	SOLID WASTE CONTRACT	6,676.00
KS STATEBANK	GEHL LEASE	3,000
MENARDS – AMES	SUPPLIES	42.38
MINERVA VALLEY TELEPHONE	TELEPHONE/INTERNET	365.88
PLUNKETT'S PEST CONTROL	DECEMBERR SERVICE	229.28
STOREY KENWORTHY/MATT PARROTT	BILLING PAPER	608.03
STORY COUNTY TREASURER	3 <sup>RD</sup> QRT SHERIFF CONTRACT	9,038.04
STORY COUNTY TREASURER	SAND & SALT	1,954.19
TRUCK EQUIPMENT, INC.	PARTS	139.39
US BANK	CITY HALL COPIER CONTRACT	610.89
WELLMARK BC/BS	HEALTH INSURANCE	1,095.10
WILLIAM BLACK	CELL REIMBURSEMENT	50.00
XEROX FINANCIAL SERVICES	LIBRARY COPIER CONTRACT	483.12
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>42,389.80</b>
PAYROLL	12.11.24	3,482.75
PAYROLL	12.20.24	3,541.83
PAYROLL (COUNCIL)	12.31.24	692.60

PAYROLL	1.08.25	3,482.75
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>53,206.37</b>
<b>EXPENSES BY FUND</b>		
GENERAL		34,151.62
ROAD USE TAX		2,167.80
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT		1,095.10
WATER		8,341.99
SEWER		7,449.86
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<b>53,206.37</b>

The Sheriff said although he does not think it has made it this far north, there has been a rash of vehicle thefts/burglaries in Ames/Collins. The culprit(s) have not yet been caught. He cautions people to lock things up and take keys inside. Also, their Citizens Academy is coming up, contact the sheriff's office for more info or to sign up. There was light discussion of fake currency circulating and how to possibly tackle the traffic issues people are noticing.

**Open Forum:**

Judy White-Rose attested to having issues with traffic in town, requested more information about what type of taxes the city owed. Also, if there are any projects planned for the city. Mayor Herr said both topics would be addressed later.

**New Business:**

Lori Bearden reviewed the annual financial report due December 1 with the council. It was completed by January 1 as she had arranged with Ted Nellesen of the Iowa Department of Management. She completed this report to the best of her ability with unverified beginning balances, unreconciled bank statements, and incomplete accounting software and document records.

Perisho motioned to approve the Story County Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution. Tisdale seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, Ayes- Perisho, Tisdale, Johnson, Pascuzzi, and Good. Nays- none.

Good motioned to approve the FY25/26 Law Enforcement Services Contract \$37,055.04. Tisdale seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, Ayes- Perisho, Tisdale, Johnson, Pascuzzi, and Good. Nays- none.

Discussion was had about IRUA 4% increase in water rate. It was agreed to prepare and have the first reading of a resolution to increase water rates by 5% at the February meeting.

Discussion was had on the water tower lot. Mayor Herr has consulted with several attorneys, and the easement does cover whatever we could need without the cost of division of the lot. Good motioned to have the lot surveyed and divided. Tisdale seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken, Ayes- Perisho, Tisdale, Johnson, Pascuzzi, and Good. Nays- none.

Mayor Herr wanted to make it known that there are openings on both the Board of Adjustments and the Heritage Board. And we are going to ask Dave Skinner to post this on the website.

**Old Business:**

Delinquent water bills: We are going to follow Alliant Energy's winter guidelines for turning off utilities. Letters will be going out to notify delinquent accounts that their bills still need to be paid, will continue to increase monthly, and shut off will occur April 1st if accounts are not brought up to a current standing by then.

Nuisance Properties: There have been improvements at previously mentioned properties.

Superintendent's Report: Replaced the bearings on the conveyer, replaced lights in the spreader, working on meters,

Clerk's Report: Attended Local Authority training for Iowa Department of Revenue Alcohol & Tax Compliance. Completed our IPERS audit and IPERS adjustments, prepared for IRS revenue officer meeting, end of year

Mayor's Report: He met with Greg Piklapp and discussed several projects. We started the process of our 3% franchise levy with Alliant Energy. This will take several months to go between lawyers and then have to be read at several meetings before going into effect, if it gets passed. The grant we received from Story County for the shelter house repair is in the amount of \$63,750. It is a matching grant. The bill we sent in was \$85,000, so we will have to come up with \$20,000. This project wont start until after Zearing Days. There is also the clinic remodel to add two to three more exam rooms. We have received one grant and have two more submitted that we are waiting to hear on. Last project we talked about, we want to get going on the derelict building grant again to get rid of the building across the street. We have all the work we did on it last year except the bids, so we just need to get bids and turn it in. There is a match on it too, but we can use our TIFFF money we'll be receiving July 1st to cover our match.

As for our taxes, we owed about \$70,000 in back taxes. This is money the city owed and should have paid in prior quarters. We are now up to date with our all of our taxes, state and federal. We had a meeting today with the IRS in DSM that our attorney attended on our behalf. We do not know the results yet, nor do we know what we will owe for penalties/interest.

The town still needs to be cautious by I think we can come up with the money for these projects and show we can start to do something.

Council Member's Report: Good thinks Marlin needs to be paid for all the hours he's put in as head of Planning and Zoning Board.

Next regular meeting is Monday February 10, 2025 at 7PM at City Hall.

Johnson motioned at 8:17pm to adjourn, Tisdale seconded. Motion passes 5-0.

Martin Herr, Mayor of Zearing, Iowa

Attested:

Amy Womeldorff, Zearing City Clerk