

Proclamations

Olmstead Week, Lulu Cain w/ Des Moines Founders Club. Week of events celebrating park system

Seven million dollars from Polk County/Prairie Meadows

“Happy they can fix those potholes, I hope”

Mask mandate info: COVID community transmission rate remains high. Mask requirements remain for city council meetings. “Moderate” COVID restrictions still apply. Cownie states he has seen many people he knows die recently of COVID.

Reads the rules, as per usual

MEETING BEGINS

Takes role

Item 2: Approving the agenda

Item 4I added, 29 amended, item 32 withdrawn, 32B and 32D withdrawn

36-49; 37 continued to March 7, 38B has been added, 39 continued to March 7, 40 continued to March 7

Item 3: Approving consent agenda

Item 4C, Gatto abstains

Item 5, Cownie votes no

Item 12 Boesen, Voss, Indira speak; Westergard votes no

Item 30, Indira asks to speak

7-0 passed

Item 36

To correct the vacation of a portion of southeast 3rd street right-of-way

No comments

7-0

Item 37

Continuance of hearing n vacation of a portion of Birdland Park and conveyance to DM Metro Wastewater Reclamation Authority (to March 7th)

Item 38

Land use designation to move from public to mixed to allow a gas station / convenience store (Caseys)

Christiansen Development guy present - no questions for him

No call for public comment until Indira told them to

Natalie Harwood: Caseys PAC donated, Christiansen development to multiple people

Shifting away from fossil fuels

Frank: asked city legal to clarify and the opinion that there is no legal or apparent conflict of interest

Adam Callanan: "suddenly its a discussion" campaign contributions are still a moral issue even if legal

7-0 vote

Item 39

Continuing hearing on request to move Oaks on Fleur from low density to medium density to allow 14 row houses; continued to March 7

Josh moves to continue til March 21

7-0 vote

Item 40

ABC Partners LP for approval of proposed 2nd amendment to Airport Business Park, to reconfigure lots, reduce requirement for 10 foot bike path to 5 foot sidewalk, allow fertilizer product use

Josh moves to continue to March 7

7-0 vote

Item 41

Trinity Land Holdings LC to allow 1-story commercial building and parking in the southern portion in lieu of 2 story commercial building

Parties and interests: Justin Strong, representing applicant

New vet, building across the street wants to expand (Reardon Vet Hospital)

Called for public comment, none

Indira moves, Joe seconds

7-0 carries

Item 42

9th and Locust Street Parking Garage and Skywalk

1.165 million bid from Neumann Brothers Inc (Michael Simpson, President)

Public comment

Carol Maher from Ward 3: 47% over engineering estimate, no applicants from Disadvantaged Enterprise. Garage was at 16% occupancy in 2021, 2023 expected to bring in 900kish while expenses are over a million

Josh moves lol, connie seconds

7-0

Indira asks not to turn off mic because it is a disability issue and equitability issue, people not in the room can't hear or know what is going on

Some back and forth between Indira and Frank re: accessibility vs. "time limits"

Frank disregards, "OK lets move on"

Item 43

Observatory Road Reconstruction 469I from InRoads LLC (Joseph Mannatt president)

Frank reminds everyone what is germane

Natalie: Manatt donates to Connie, people should recuse. Next bid was 100k higher, should be looking into labor practices and lower costs can be a red flag of labor

Denver: uplifting what Natalie said; 1,000 in donations from Manatt

Connie: NOT GERMANE whispered

6-1 (Indira voted no)

Item 44

Neal Smith Trail Rehabilitation - Euclid Ave to Taylor Creek bridge

820k from OMG Midwest Inc dab Des Moines Asphalt & Paving (Kevin Bragg, president)

Carol Maher: this project includes 4,000 in fog sealant application which is great because it makes the bridge safer in winter. Cheap and great, and should encourage use and clearing snow on trails

Natalie: contractor is great, environmental and labor is good. This is an example of a good contractor

Indira: do we clear snow on trails usually? (Yes) How often do we use fog sealant? (Would have to check, newer thing)

7-0

Item 45:

No bids received

Item 46

Animal Control Facility Bid Package No 1: Structural Steel and Erection: Receive and fields

Joe moves, Connie seconds

Frank: "I ask everyone to bid on this... vote"

7-0

5:32, that takes us back to consent items that have been pulled

Item 12 (*contains lengthy paraphrased portions of conversation about the item*)

Directing City Staff to remove the proposed realignment of east leg of Clark street

Indira asks to open to public comment, Frank says council speaks first and then vote to open to public

Connie: some people asked her to discuss it; constituents have concerns that we are changing what we already discussed

Voss: supports original plan as well, had public support and River Bend neighborhood association, and businesses in the district. Easier for vehicles to get onto 2nd ave. Will vote against Item 12

Indira: wants more clarification. Traffic estimates from city staff is that there isn't a high necessity. Asking to knock down bus station, half of Planned Parenthood warehouse. Not understanding the necessity. Wants clarification on the left turn lanes. Wouldn't have a problem with adding turn lanes but skipping realignment.

City engineer Steve Neighbor: realignment allows to add left turn lanes on 2nd ave; without realignment, don't have room. 33 crashes in 5 years at that intersection, some could be correctable with the changes

Gatto: is that a lot?

Steve: crashes per million, its right around average

Middle tier safety concern

Indira: how much have we discussed with PP

Steve: just started, could be options to them (rebuilding one building or relocating)

Indira: conversation with owner of bus depot building but not tenant

Steve: correct.

Steve: Without realignment, can't expand

Indira: how necessary do you find this

Steve: its definitely an improvement. Hard to balance cost vs safety issue. Needs to be repaved and will be a sewer line. We are reconstructing anyway, so can we improve safety?

Well-attended public meeting called for interest

Indira: impact on grant?

Steve: grant applies to turn lanes in the corridor in general. Doesn't know/think that removing these specific lanes would impact the grant. Removing this would result in consultant team redesigning, would cost maybe 70k for the redesign

Indira: would it be similar efficacy to do Forest and have that be the big throughway?

Steve: not much through movement. Left turn lane would just address crashes

Indira: if we did Forest instead, would it naturally replace some of the traffic concerns

Connie: there is no other public transport in that space. Would like to look at bigger/better facility. Street hasn't been redone for years, so 'we should be looking toward safety.'

Indira: anyone here to make public comment? (No)

Frank: do we have a motion?

Indira: would like to have conversation with bus station and PP

Joe: do you want to continue 2 weeks

Steve: problem is we want to have dollar amounts

Indira: wants to hear if bus station wants to relocate / would that be advantageous

Steve: but would the compensation be?

Indira: but we are only compensating the owner, so its a separate conversation with the tenant. If we continue for 2 weeks, does that cause issues?

Steve: construction is meant to start 2024, utilities work in 2023. "Two weeks probably wouldn't be the end of the world" but we have already moved back

Frank: so you'd have to negotiate and see what the land use \$s would be

Steve: currently sitting at Spring 2024

Indira: don't want to hear later that bus station business is tanking

Connie: mumbles

Indira: moves to deny changing realignment (continuing with original plan) and hopes that there won't be issues later

Connie and Joe: confused by this

7-0

Item 30

Acceptance of an increase in funds from Drug Control grant money

Indira: don't want to take grant money for police activities, racial bias in implementation. Is not supportive

Joe moves, Connie Seconds

6-1, carries (Indira votes no)

Item 47

Amending Chapter 114

A) proposed code revision to change commercial loading zone to standard loading zone on 10h street between walnut and mulberry

Josh moves

Item 48

Amending sections of ordinances to underground placement of utility transmission. Requires 6 votes

Frank: any comment or a motion?

Joe: I think staff has done a good job of working through. Major cost factor. Moves 48 A, B, and C

Connie seconds

Josh: point of clarification; this doesn't change things for new construction, right?

Yes, option not a requirement

7-0

Item 49: Public Speaking time

A) James Grimm

Have you ever read the Emperors New Clothes? Thanks for allowing me to address his majesty. Linda, you said all you hear from your constituents is "we want more police." Untrue. Video of 3 cops "committing an armed robbery" and none of you have said a word about it. But when someone says a dirty word, you're up in arms. You settle so cops never have to testify. Scott, you said there'd be an investigation as of 2020. Video of people swinging clubs at people who are running away. "What's wrong with you people. Like I said last time you are a bunch of sociopaths

B) Denver Foote

People's Town Hall released a newsletter, and having an event to help our community.

Moved to Des Moines with high hopes of diversity and a brighter future. Brutality at the hands of police officers, marginalized people moved further to the sidelines. Thats why I show up to these meetings. We will work to replace this system of authoritarianism.

C) Abby Banks

Every 2 weeks I sit down and think of what I'll say for my 2 minutes to my elected officials. Will I talk about campaign contributions? It doesn't take a legal expert to conduct a half-assed bidding process. Will I talk about accessibility? No virtual option, "military-grade mall cops." Other topics: hostility to Indira or any other dissenting voice, the blood on your hands. I am not talking to you because you don't listen, but other people do.

D) Adam Callanan

I love this city and want it to be a better place. March 2nd community call, newsletter today. These are just some of the ways we are working. This meeting on the consent agenda, city waived a 40,000 dollar fee, millions of dollars of late tax abatements. Not necessarily bad but can't comment on it. This grace is being granted to people with money/power, but not to community fridges, pet licensing fees, etc. Accessibility issues: COVID still happening but no virtual meetings. Beyond COVID, building is inaccessible. Using elevator requires accompaniment by security. Constant private comments by Frank, which should be on mic.

E) Natalie Harwood

Advocated for food waste ordinance

F) Bridget Peterson

At the beginning of this meeting, Frank spoke about how concerned he is about COVID but we don't have virtual meeting. Indira proves you can win without all that money from developers. I speak for my family, friends, coworkers. Many can't be here at 4:45 on a Monday. But I speak for people who hate you more and more each week.

G) Taylor Webber

GONE

H) Carol Maher

After a full day budget hearing (I was here), Gatto had stated re: parking garage topic, this isn't a new topic. We have encouraged private investment in a structure that the city ended up buying back. At 1 dollar an hour, still less than 25% occupancy and lost 3 mil in FY 22 and looks like 2 mill in FY 23. We have so much supply of parking and no demand. So many parking spaces, but how many for bikes? Why don't we encourage business owners to put up bike racks? Or put up free ones like Omaha.

I) Jolene Prescott

Left

J) Carolyn Uhlenhake Walker

Also a member of Des Moines Citizens task force on sustainability. City of DSM has adopted urban forest master plan. First we need to increase tree plantings to 3800 every year. Need 2 more pruning crews. One city block will have 9x more runoff from rain than a forested block. Best CO2 capture is tree capture. Trees lower air temperature up to 10 degrees. Propose raising budget from 200k to 400k. Goal in the master plan is a million every year.

K) Teresa Montiel
Not present

L) Tony Gardener
Emailed and send he can't attend

Voted to add public comments to record

Indira: would like to look into increasing budget of forestry
Joe: increased to 500k

Moves to adjourn, Indira seconds