

# FAIRBURY PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
7:00 p.m.

Member Rogge made the statement regarding the Open Meetings Act as required by statute.

1. Member Phil Rogge called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked for roll call. Other members present were: Brian Schmidt, Kelly Davis and Tim Polson.

2. Next, was the motion to convene.

Member Polson made the motion to convene. Member Schmidt seconded the motion. By roll call, the vote was 4 - "yes" (Schmidt, Rogge, Davis and Polson) / 0 - "nay". The motion passed.

3. Next, was the approval of the January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021, minutes. Discussion, taking of any necessary or desired action.

Member Polson made the motion to approve the minutes of the January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021, meeting. Member Schmidt seconded the motion. By roll call, the vote was 4 - "yes" (Rogge, Schmidt, Davis and Polson) / 0 - "nay". The motion passed.

4. Next, was discussion and recommendation regarding removal of trees and vegetation in the downtown bump outs around the courthouse square. Discussion, taking of any necessary or desired action.

Bedlan referred the commission to the information in the packet regarding this request and stated that she invited the tree board to the meeting for some history on the bump outs. Member Davis stated that he made the request for this item to be on the agenda because the grounds keeper for heartland bank would like to remove the existing tree in front of their entrance. The branches are hanging low, they don't like having to maintain the tree and the leaves blow into their lobby. He noted that throughout the rest of town trees that are on the terrace are required to be maintained and allowed to be cutdown by the adjacent property owners however, in the downtown district this is not the case. Member Rogge questioned if the trees in the downtown district have outlived their time? He stated that they were mentioned in the downtown surveys and that they are recommended for downtown districts however, he thinks that the Downtown Revitalization plan should address these plantings and their potential replacements. Ken Nance with the Tree Board was present and spoke to the commission about the history of the plantings. He stated that unfortunately when the plantings were installed there was no arrangement made for maintenance of them. At the time the master gardeners club was told they were to take care of them and they did for a while but there are not near as many members now and they don't have the time to maintain them anymore. Nance stated that the trees are nearing their maximum height and that their live expectancy is roughly 50 years so they have approximately 20+ more years of life. When asked what would be a low maintenance shrubbery for that area Nance stated that every planting takes some amount of maintenance. Administrator Renn questioned if the Downtown Revitalization Plan may address removing the bump outs. Bedlan stated that those recommendations are based on the steering committee and townhall input. Davis mentioned that the bump outs have other design flaws as well, like being difficult to plow snow around. Council Member Doug Brown was present and commented that he does agree that the trees do hide the entire right side of the bank and he can understand why the

back would want to get rid of it. Bedlan stated that most of the tree board members that she spoke with wondered what the tree would be replaced with if removed. Several commission members mentioned a few ideas of suggested replacements like Jeffmen and/or hanging plants. Mayor Brown was present and stated that he too is concerned about what the trees would be replaced with. He believes that there are already too many bare spots in the community and he would also like to see what the Downtown Revitalization Plan can come up with. Polson made the motion for this to be moved to the Downtown Revitalization Steering committee for recommendation. Member Schmidt seconded the motion. By roll call, the vote was 4 - "yes" (Rogge, Schmidt, Davis and Polson) / 0 - "nay". The motion passed.

5. Discussion and recommendation regarding a request to add a crosswalk and signage to 8<sup>th</sup> and H Street designating it as a school crossing. Discussion, taking of any necessary or desired action

Member Davis stated that he had some concerned residents who wanted him to look into a school crossing at 8<sup>th</sup> and H. They noticed that there are two on E at 9<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> so they would like it to be similar on H Street. Rogge stated that the existing school safe route was established in conjunction with the school and the Jeff Co. On the Move group so that school kids are routed to the crossing at the highway. Instead of crossing south of the light. He is concerned that if we are to put one on 8 and H then we may need to consider putting one on I and J also. Instead, he suggest that we may want to consider taking the crossing at 9<sup>th</sup> and E out so as not to confuse the traffic flow. Schmidt agreed that the traffic patterns have been established and kids are following them and he doesn't want to confuse it. Members also mentioned that sidewalks are not scooped on the safe route and that is an issue for the kids. It was noted that removing the 9<sup>th</sup> and E street crossing may be a better idea however, the city should discuss it with the school first. The commission tabled this item until staff can review with the school. No action was taken at this time.

6. Discussion and recommendation regarding 2021 Waterpark Season Schedule and Fees. Discussion, taking of any necessary or desired action

Administrator Renn stated the proposed a pool opening date is May 29<sup>th</sup> and proposed closing August 15<sup>th</sup>. Staff has also proposed 2 schedules that may flocculate due to COVID-19 constraints. Regular schedule is proposed to be 1-8 Sunday – Thursday and 1-9 Friday - Saturday. COVID-19 restricted hours are proposed to be Sunday – Thursday 1-6 and 2 sessions on Friday and Saturday 1-4:30 and 5:30-9. They are also proposing two free swim days on June 7 and Aug 2 along with a close early date on July 4 due to staffing issues. The commission liked the breakdown and appreciated the information. Member Schmidt made the motion to recommend council approval of the proposed pool schedule. Member Polson seconded the motion. By roll call, the vote was 4 - "yes" (Rogge, Schmidt, Davis and Polson) / 0 - "nay". The motion passed

7. Discussion and recommendation regarding City Wide Clean Up. Discussion, taking of any necessary or desired action.

Development Services Director Bedlan explained that the changes to clean up week went well last year and that the only significant changes suggested this year are removing the mattress pickup site, reducing the number of clean up days down to 3 and allowing residents to dump for free during Free Dump Days the following week instead of during the City Wide Clean Up. She explained that these modifications should allow the Street and Sanitation department to reduce the necessary staff it takes to host clean up week and still provide adequate services to the public. She also noted that Jansen sanitation contract specifies that they get the same City Wide Clean up service that Fairbury does so this year they will also have to make arrangements for pickup like Fairbury residents do. Member Schmidt made the motion to recommend council approval of the proposed City Wide Clean Up. Member Polson seconded the motion. By roll call, the vote was 4 - "yes" (Rogge, Schmidt, Davis and Polson) / 0 - "nay". The motion passed

8. Discussion and recommendation regarding Free Dump Days. Discussion, taking of any necessary or desired action.

Development Service director Bedlan explained the change to allow Fairbury Sanitation businesses and residential customers to take 1 ton to the transfer station for free during Free Dump Days. Member Polson made the motion to recommend council approval of the proposed Free Dump Days. Member

Schmidt seconded the motion. By roll call, the vote was 4 - "yes" (Rogge, Schmidt, Davis and Polson) / 0 - "nay". The motion passed

9. Next, were public comments on non-agenda items

With no comments from the public on non-agenda items member Davis made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Schmidt seconded the motion. By roll call, the vote was 4 - "yes" (Rogge, Davis, Polson, and Schmidt) / 0 - "nay". The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.