

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 4, 2011 MEETING  
OF THE HUMBOLDT CITY COUNCIL**

The Humboldt City Council met in regular session on Monday, April 4, 2011 in the Council Chambers of the Humboldt Municipal Building. Mayor Walter Jensen called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Council Members present: Jorgensen, Sleiter, Boomgarden, Hadar, and Rusher.

Motion by Jorgensen, Second by Boomgarden to approve the agenda as printed. (5) Ayes, motion carried.

Motion by Sleiter, Second by Boomgarden to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2011 work session, and the March 21, 2011 regular Council Meeting. (5) Ayes, motion carried.

Motion by Rusher, Second by Hadar to approve the Treasurer's Monthly Investment Report and the March Treasurer's Report. (5) Ayes, motion carried.

Motion by Boomgarden, Second by Jorgensen to approve the Claims for March 2011. (5) Ayes, motion carried.

This being the time and place for the scheduled Public Hearing to consider the proposed Urban Revitalization Plan for Commercial Tax Abatement Purposes, Mayor Jensen opened the public hearing at 5:32 PM.

Justin Harvey from MIDAS was present to discuss the Plan, which provides for the facilitation of additional commercial enterprise in the City by offering a tax abatement program for commercial property. The Plan being considered establishes specific urban revitalization areas and provides for tax abatement for commercial property located in those areas. The tax exemption will be based on a six-year schedule, with taxes on the improvements abated at 75%, 60%, 45%, 30%, and 15% respectively. The full tax value of the improvements will be collected on the sixth year and thereafter. The areas are designated for a ten-year period, and include the property owned by NEW Cooperative, Inc., which is planning a large expansion project to improve grain handling capabilities.

Representatives from NEW Cooperative were present at the hearing. Mark Walter, NEW Cooperative Grain Manager, asked permission from the Council to proceed with the project prior to the adoption of the Plan, citing time constraints with finishing prior to the fall harvest season.

There were no further comments from the City Administrator, Mayor, or Council, and no written comments or objections were received. There being no more comments or objections from the general public in attendance on the proposed Urban Revitalization Plan for Commercial Tax Abatement Purposes, Mayor Jensen closed the public hearing at 5:41 PM.

Motion by Jorgensen, Second by Boomgarden to allow NEW Cooperative to begin construction on its expansion project prior to the formal adoption of the Plan. (5) Ayes, motion carried.

Steve Reimers and Tonya Harklau addressed the Council on behalf of the Frank Gotch Project Committee. The committee is presently raising funds to erect a statue in honor of Frank Gotch in Bicknell Park, with a goal of collecting \$100,000 for the project. Mr. Reimers reported that \$38,000

has been raised so far. The committee asked that the Council consider two items: the renaming of 9<sup>th</sup> Street North, which runs along the east side of Bicknell Park, to commemorate Frank Gotch; and a contribution from the City of \$20,000. No action was taken on the request.

The Council discussed the possibility of hiring an additional police officer. Currently the police chief duties are being handled per the contract with the sheriff; the police force is therefore one officer short. It was the consensus of the Council to authorize the City Administrator to proceed with hiring a new police officer.

The Council discussed the SAFETEA-LU grant funds awarded for the reconstruction of the Sumner Avenue Hill. \$245,000 was awarded in 2007 to be used during Fiscal Year 2011. One of the conditions of the grant is that Sumner Avenue would be widened from its current 25-foot width to 31 feet. As this widening would result in prohibitive additional costs and other logistical issues, the project has been postponed.

Motion by Jorgensen, Second by Rusher to notify the Iowa Department of Transportation that the City of Humboldt does not intend to use the SAFETEA-LU grant funds awarded in 2007. (5) Ayes, motion carried.

Motion by Sleiter, Second by Boomgarden to approve a Class C Beer Permit, a Class B Wine Permit (Carryout Wine), and Sunday Sales Privilege for Pamida Stores Operating Co., LLC, d/b/a Pamida #3115. (5) Ayes, motion carried

Motion by Boomgarden, Second by Jorgensen to approve a Class B Native Wine Permit for Joy Christensen, d/b/a Scatter Joy. (5) Ayes, motion carried.

Motion by Sleiter, Second by Boomgarden to approve the following proposed Resolution No. 2011-29: "A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO PARTICIPATE IN THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S SMALL TOWN SIGN REPLACEMENT PROGRAM AND TO APPLY TO RECEIVE TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNING MATERIALS FROM THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION."

Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Jorgensen, Sleiter, Boomgarden, Rusher, and Hadar. Motion carried.

Motion by Boomgarden, Second by Jorgensen to approve the following proposed Resolution No. 2011-30: "A RESOLUTION FIXING THE DATE FOR A MEETING ON THE AUTHORIZATION OF A LOAN AGREEMENT AND THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$5,350,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION CAPITAL LOAN NOTES, SERIES 2011, OF THE CITY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF IOWA, AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION THEREOF."

Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Sleiter, Boomgarden, Rusher, Hadar, and Jorgensen. Motion carried.

Motion by Boomgarden, Second by Hadar to approve the following proposed Resolution No. 2011-31: "A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO PUBLISH THE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND LETTING AND SET 5:30 PM, MONDAY, MAY 16, 2011 AS THE TIME AND DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING TO REVIEW BIDS RECEIVED FOR THE HUMBOLDT WATER TREATMENT PLANT RENOVATION PROJECT, PHASE 1."

Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Boomgarden, Rusher, Hadar, Jorgensen, and Sleiter. Motion carried.

Motion by Rusher, Second by Boomgarden to approve the final reading of the following proposed ordinance: “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF HUMBOLDT, IOWA BY AMENDING CHAPTER 105 PERTAINING TO WASTE STORAGE CONTAINERS,” and to direct the City Clerk to publish the aforementioned ordinance as Ordinance No. 2011-02.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Rusher, Hadar, Jorgensen, Sleiter, and Boomgarden. Motion carried.

Other Items Discussed: City Administrator – Reminded residents to slow down and obey the stop sign at the intersection of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street South and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South. Traffic in the area has increased with the Highway 169 detour between Humboldt and Fort Dodge, and he reminded residents that there is a home daycare located near that intersection. City Clerk – Announced that the spring brush cleanup will take place during the week of April 25, and the junk pickup will follow, the week of May 2. Mayor – Urged residents to obey the posted speed limits on Gotch Park Road. Also reminded residents that parking in front yards is prohibited other than on hard surfaces.

Motion by Boomgarden, Second by Sleiter to schedule Monday, April 18, 2011 at 5:30 PM as the date and time for the next regular meeting of the Humboldt City Council and to adjourn this session at 6:18 PM. (5) Ayes, motion carried.

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Walter Jensen, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gloria J. Christensen, City Clerk