

**May 12, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL:** Mayor Pro-tem McFarland called the regular meeting of the Anthon City Council to order on May 12, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. Council members present were Tony McFarland, Connie Westphal, Ross Baldwin, Ruth Groth and Paul Lansink. Also present: Nikki Kelsheimer, Allyson Dirksen, Amy Buck, Deputy Brooks, Darwin & Sharon Hamann, Jeremy Boatman, Becky Verschoor, Mark Poese, Eric Lundell, Alan Petersen, Julia Adams, Dan Brant and Jeff Collins. Absent: Lisa Petersen

**AGENDA:** Motion by Groth, seconded by Westphal, to approve the meeting agenda. Carried 5-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Becky Verschoor was present to discuss the time capsule that the class of 1988 helped bury at the city park, when buried it was to be opened in 50 years, with Kids Day celebrating 75 years she thought it might be a good idea to do it now. Council stated they would like to keep it at the 50 years to be opened. Connie Westphal shared concerns she has heard about the curbs on Main Street, and what we can do. The city is looking for alternatives to help with the high sidewalks. Citizen concerns also about the gravel trucks speeding through town. Jeremy Boatman also asked about his sidewalk at the Jerky Co.

**POLICE REPORT:** Sgt Brooks was present with the monthly Police report.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Motion by Westphal, seconded by Baldwin, to approve the consent agenda, which includes minutes from April 14th regular meeting, financial reports as filed, building permits for Samantha Poese, Aaron Kollbaum & Jeff Hill, Liquor license renewal for the Fireside Steakhouse and an updated house mover application and permit. Passed with a record vote as follows: ayes – Baldwin, McFarland, Westphal, Lansink, Groth; nays - none.

**PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:** Motion by Groth, seconded by Baldwin, to approve the list of bills as presented. Carried 5-0.

**LEGAL:** Allyson Dirksen, attorney, update on the 500 E Main property, foreclosure is continuing and it will be set for sale soon.

**MARK POESE:** Mark is concerned about the property at 206 W Main St. It is vacant and has been for a while and is unlivable. Many things have been stolen out of it, all utilities are shut off, and he's hoping the City can do something about it. Neighbors have also had to put traps out for rats. Tabled for now but City will monitor the situation.

**DARWIN HAMANN:** Darwin was present to discuss future expansion for the city. He has land that he would like the City to annex. He wants to partner with the City for streets, sewer, water and electric. Attorney Dirkson will look into the timeline for annexing land into the city. Hoping for possibly 10 new homes to be built on the land. Council Committee of Tony McFarland and Ross Baldwin was formed and will work with the family to get the project started.

**JEREMY BOATMAN:** Jeremy was present to discuss his future need for a liquor license. He has started the process with the State and submitted his paperwork to the City that is needed. Westphal made a motion to approve his license pending we have all paperwork and all requirements are met. Groth seconded. Passed with a record vote as follows: ayes – Baldwin, McFarland, Westphal, Lansink, Groth; nays - none.

**INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT:** Alan Petersen was present to discuss his plans for solar power on his property. He has filled out all his paperwork and he would be paying for the special meter that is needed, and he's just wondering if we can reduce the monthly fee. More research will be done by the City and we will revisit the issue in the future.

**CD RENEWALS:** Motion by Westphal, seconded by McFarland, to renew the three CD's at a 7 month term for each. Passed with a record vote as follows: ayes – Baldwin, McFarland, Westphal, Lansink, Groth; nays - none.

**ELECTRICAL UNDERGROUND PROJECT:** Dep Clerk Buck shared that the warranty is ending on 6/30/25 from the contractor. McFarland will reach out to Mayor Petersen and have her do a review for any problems and report back at the next meeting.

**ANNUAL EXAMINATION FOR FY 23 & FY 24:** Groth is concerned with how long it is taking to get our audits finished. Clerk has reached out several times to the auditor, and only response is 'he's working on it'. Clerk has sent out requests for FY27, 28 & 29, and will be contacting more than our current auditor.

**SANITARY SERVICES CONTRACT:** Eric Lundell, Sanitary Services, was present with a proposal for renewing the garbage contract. Because the cost of business continues to increase he asked the council to consider a new rate of \$17.35 for a one year contract, effective July 1, 2025. Westphal made a motion to approve the rate increase, Lansink seconded. Passed with a record vote as follows: ayes – Baldwin, McFarland, Westphal, Lansink, Groth; nays - none

**FEMA STATUS UPDATE:** Dep Clerk Buck updated the council that everything has been submitted. Some work has already been completed and paid out. We've received some funds from FEMA and more should be coming soon. All work needs to be completed by December 2025.

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Public Works Superintendant Collins had estimates to finish projects due to the 2024 flood. McFarland made a motion to approve doing the Lift station pumps for \$30k and fixing the scoreboard at the ballfield for \$7600 right now and holding the other projects until later this summer and into the fall. Lansink seconded. Passed with a record vote as follows: ayes – Baldwin, McFarland, Westphal, Lansink, Groth; nays - none

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Public Works Superintendant Collins shared estimates on repairing streets around the city. He has estimates for a chip seal overlay and for an asphalt overlay (2"). Council would like more quotes on the chip seal. Collins will get those and report back at next meeting.

**NUISANCE ABATEMENT:** Clerk shared the Noise Ordinance Policy and asked about the enforcement. Clerk has sent several letters in the last few months and we are still getting complaints for the same properties. McFarland will meet with the recipients of the letters before we have to resort to a municipal infraction against them.

**AMEND 24/25 BUDGET:** Motion by Westphal, seconded by Lansink, to hold a public hearing on June 9, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall to consider an amendment to the 2024/2025 budget. Carried 5-0. The Clerk was directed to publish the required Notice of Public Hearing and Amendment of Current City Budget as required by law.

**COUNCIL/STAFF COMMENTS:** Council had a question about watering lawns. Residents wanting to save on their sewer charges, need to get a separate meter for their lawn watering. PWS Collins advised that the intersection at E Bridge & N 2<sup>nd</sup> will begin around May 29<sup>th</sup>. Speed bumps will be removed for the Kids Day parade. Talked about uses for the \$10k MRHD grant that we received in December. Several city trees are needing taken down, Collins has gotten a quote for removal of one, and will continue to monitor several other trees. Clerk shared that the office will be closed the afternoon of Weds May 21<sup>st</sup> for election training. Office will also be closed Friday May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mosquito spraying will begin week of May 19<sup>th</sup> and run through first part of September. Hydrant flushing is this week. Also, a few residents have complained about speeding through town. Clerk will check with the State and the County about getting some speed monitoring signs.

**CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO IOWA CODE 21.5(1)(c):** Motion by Lansink, second by McFarland to go into closed session pursuant to Iowa Code 21.5(1)(c) at 7:19 pm. Carried 5-0. Motion by Westphal, second by Lansink to resume open session. Carried 5-0. Open session resumed at 7:44 pm.

April Receipts: General-\$49613.89; RUT-\$6376.83; EMP BENEFITS-\$1151.74; LOST-\$8991.02; Debt Service-\$9853.68; 2024 FEMA Flood -\$35715.40; Water-\$16964.22; Water Sinking-\$11153.33; Sewer-\$9181.52; Electric-\$66293.70; Elec Underground Sinking-\$11902.08. Total: \$227197.41: Expenses: General-\$55326.90; RUT-\$8975.70; 2024 FEMA Flood - \$47827.36; Water-\$33129.28; Sewer-\$12547.41; Electric-\$76450.04. Total: \$234256.69.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by McFarland, seconded by Baldwin, to adjourn. Carried 5-0. Mayor Pro-tem McFarland proclaimed the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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Lisa M Petersen, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Nikki Kelsheimer, City Clerk