

City of LeClaire, Iowa
City Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 5, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, 325 Wisconsin St, LeClaire, IA

Mayor: _____ Blair: _____ Bloom: _____ Gravert: _____ Long: _____ Salvador: _____
Bockenstedt: _____ Laserfiche: _____ Publication: _____

Mayor Gerard called the City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 325 Wisconsin Street. Present: Mayor Dennis Gerard, Council Members Amy Blair, Bill Bloom, Sara Gravert, Barry Long, and Ryan Salvador, City Administrator Dennis Bockenstedt, City Clerk Tracy Northcutt, Police Chief Shane Themas, Fire Chief Shane Bleeker, Public Works Director Mark Dale, Parks & Rec Director Greg Ludwig, and Library Director Melita Tunnicliff and City Engineer Leo Foley. Absent: None. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Resolution 23-172

Moved by Long, seconded by Blair, approving the September 5, 2023, Consent Agenda, as presented. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Resolution 23-173

Moved by Long, seconded by Bloom, approving all the Council Meeting Minutes of August 21, 2023, as presented. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Public Appearances

Mayor Gerard introduced the topic of the Silver Creek Greenway Trails and indicated that Council and Staff have been investigating options for trails based on input from residents from a survey as part of the Parks Master Plan. Mayor invited members of the audience to come to the podium, speak into the microphone and state their name and address. The following people presented in opposition to the Silver Creek Greenway Trail as it had been presented at the August 7, 2023, Committee of the Whole Meeting: Vanessa Anderson, 13 Wild West Ct, Michael Foster, 8 Buffalo Ct, Teresa & Ryan Bales, 620 Holland, Erin Hamilton, 3 Wild West Ct, Jennifer Sanders, 7 Wild West Ct, Kelsey Bruce, 602 N 5th St, Bill Gillespie, 402 Ferry St, Travis Mausser, 601 N 5th St, Nick Harris, 609 N 5th St, Mike McCracken, 9 Wild West Ct, George Shelley, 11 Wild West Ct, John Galanits, 515 Reynolds, Maureen Basala, 610 N 5th St, Meredith Fabrizius, 609 N 4th St, Jamie Mullen, 12 Frontier Ct. A letter of opposition from Daniel & Susan Bussell, 302 N 5th St was submitted. Mayor Gerard thanked everyone for the respectful comments, invited them to return to other meetings and indicated that the Council is clear on the opposition to the trail.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Gerard announced the opening of Fareway Stores and thanked the community for the grassroots efforts, Koby Pritchard from Fareway, Steve Geifman from GRT QC Property, Council and Staff for the coordinated efforts to bring Fareway to LeClaire. Mayor encouraged folks to support the business.

Council Reports

Resolution 23-174

Moved by Blair, seconded by Long, approving the Park & Recreation Commission reappointment of Tim Lovell for a Full 3-year term to expire August 2026, as presented. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Resolution 23-175

Moved by Blair, seconded by Gravert, approving a proposal from Confluence, Cedar Rapids, IA, for the Huckleberry & Veterans Memorial Park Master Plan in an amount not to exceed \$49,700.00 and reimbursable costs, as presented. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Resolution 23-176

Moved by Blair, seconded by Salvador, calling for and establishing another date for 2023-2024 Budget Amendment 1 for September 18, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in order to provide the accurate publication notification, as presented. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Resolution 23-177

Moved by Gravert, seconded by Blair, acknowledging the receipt of the Planning & Zoning Commission's recommendation 23-11, recommending the approval of River Roots Site Development Plan at 112 Ferry St, as presented. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Public Hearing – River Roots Site Development

Mayor Gerard called a Public Hearing to order at 6:42p.m. for the purpose of receiving public comment on the proposed River Roots Site Development Plan at 112 Ferry St. Roll call was made with Council Members Blair, Bloom, Gravert, Long and Salvador present. Absent: None. No written comments were submitted by the public. Rodney Collier, 214 N Cody Road, gave an overview of the project and explained the challenges associated with obtaining the required sewer service for the project. Moved by Long, seconded by Blair to close the public hearing at 6:47 p.m. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Resolution 23-178

Moved by Gravert, seconded by Bloom, approving the River Roots Site Development Plan at 112 Ferry St, as presented. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Resolution 23-179

Moved by Gravert, seconded by Salvador, authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the Iowa Department of Transportation’s Federal-Aid Agreement for a Surface Transportation Block Grant Program project for Hot Mix Asphalt on US67/Cody Road from Ewing to Chestnut Streets, as presented. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Public Hearing – Veterans Memorial Park Ball Field Improvements

Mayor Gerard called a Public Hearing to order at 6:48 p.m. for the purpose of receiving public comment on the proposed Veterans Memorial Park Ball Field Improvements. Roll call was made with Council Members Blair, Bloom, Gravert, Long and Salvador present. Absent: None. No written or verbal comments were submitted by the public. Moved by Long, seconded by Blair to close the public hearing at 6:49 p.m. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Resolution 23-180

Moved by Gravert, seconded by Long, approving the plans and specifications, proposed for of contract and estimate of cost for the Veterans Memorial Park Ball Field Improvements and authorizing the taking of bids thereon, as presented. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Resolution 23-181

Moved by Gravert, seconded by Blair, approving Pay Estimate 1 to Bill Bruce Builders, Inc. in the amount of \$9,500.00 for the City Center Plaza Project, as presented. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Resolution 23-182

Moved by Gravert, seconded by Bloom, approving Change Order 1 and Pay Estimate 1 to Eastern Iowa Excavating & Concrete for the 2023 PCC Panel Replacement Project in the amount of \$11,578.00 and \$59,627.37 respectively, as presented. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Adjournment

Moved by Long, seconded by Blair, to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Dennis Gerard, Mayor

Attest:

Tracy A. Northcutt, City Clerk

9-3-23

To Whom it may concern:

We (Daniel and Susan Bussell) are writing this letter to oppose the trail the city of LeClaire is proposing to build from Hollyhock Park down along Silver creek.

As 24 year home owners in this area, we believe the proposed path would cause safety concerns for all of us who live in the area. Having lived across from Hollyhock park we can verify that since the playground has been updated there is quite a bit more traffic in the area and many people violating the dog park rules. We have personally witnessed several families leaving the park due to dogs being off leash and no one enforcing the law. There have been no police routes added since this change and people are not following the rules. Therefore it is pretty easy to assume that there will be no patrols of said path and ample opportunity for illegal acts to be occurring with the increased accessibility to the public.

Also because of the added activity in the area I am confident of many trespassers wanting to go off trail and entering our land illegally, thus standing a chance of injury on my property that I would have to defend myself against liability for.

One of the main reasons we purchased this land was because of the closeness to nature. We have enjoyed having many families of Deer sleeping in our front yard, a family of fox frolicing by our fire pit and several species of birds living in the trees along with all of the squirrels. We have tried keeping the habitat natural to foster these animals and This path would regrettably displace these animals who have sought refuge from cars and people. I know when we spoke with Dennis, his desire was to bring the enjoyment of the wildlife to the rest of LeClaire; however an increase in people means a decrease in wildlife, if this path goes through we will be poor stewards of the land and the animals.

In conclusion, I hope that this adds some more insight into the project of the path and its pitfalls it will cause to the home owners and mostly the animals and wildlife in the area. There is already currently access to all the parks in LeClaire and the additional foot traffic would be better placed on sidewalks next to existing roads for citizens to travel along.


