

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2026  
5:30 P.M. CIVIC CENTER/CITY HALL**

**OFFICER PRESENT:** TODD

**COUNCIL PRESENT:** MAPEL, HARRIS, TOMPKINS, PRIOR, SPARROW

**COUNCIL ABSENT:**

*Meeting called to order by Mayor.*

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Previous minutes, claims and liquor license renewal request from CJ Speedway (Louisa Co Fairgrounds. Motion by Harris to approve consent agenda, second by Prior. Prior-yes, Mapel-yes, Sparrow-yes, Tompkins-yes, Harris-yes. Approved.

**CITIZEN'S CONCERN**-None

**2nd READING TO AMEND WATER DEPOSIT RATES ORDINANCE**- Mayor Todd would like to raise meter deposits due to the cost of the meters and residents moving and leaving unpaid bill. Harris made motion to pass 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and to waive the 3rd, Prior second. Prior-yes, Sparrow-yes, Harris-yes, Tompkins-yes, Mapel-yes. Approved.

**LOADER ATTACHMENT**-Public Works Director would like the city to purchase a Land Plane attachment for the loader. He had used one and thought the city would benefit from purchasing one. The attachment would cost \$3925.00. Harris asked if the city could afford the attachment. Sparrow made the motion to table it until the budget work session next week. Tompkins second the motion to table it. Approved to table it.

**FFA DONATION FOR CATTLE SHOW**-The Alex Edwards Memorial show will be April 26, 2026. The city gave a donation last year for the show. Prior made the motion to give \$750 same as last year to be paid out of Roundy Funds. Mapel second the motion. Prior-yes, Harris-yes, Sparrow-yes, Mapel-yes, Tompkins-yes. Approved.

**LULAC-ARACELI WAGE CURRENT BUDGET**-The City of Columbus Junction has had a contract with Lulac Council 10 to help the city with several things in our community. Araceli Vazquez has helped with many activities in the community. She started a food pantry, food distributions, citizenship classes, taking residents to appointments, job applications, etc. The City's clerks Shari Vonnahme and Jodi Edwards spoke about how valuable she is for our entire community. The city needs to update the contract with Lulac. Mapel made the motion to table this until the council could speak with Michael Reyes, the head of Lulac Council 10. Sparrow agreed we need new contract and to speak with Reyes. Approved to table until city hears from Reyes.

**CHECK VALVES**-The city had some pumps go down in past with the yearly inspection it was discovered some check valves needed replace. Salazar received a quote from Iowa Pump works to replace them which came to \$13,640.00. Salazar felt, with the help from Steve Tomfeld, we could install them to save the money on installation. The city would only pay for the parts, which was \$8500.00. Sparrow made

the motion to approve purchasing the parts and installing them ourselves. Tompkins second the motion. Prior-yes, Harris-yes, Sparrow-yes, Mapel-yes, Tompkins-yes. Approved.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Utilities**-Possible water leak on Locust and 9<sup>th</sup> Street. Vonnahme reported he had spoken with Wemiga Waste about doing a Spring clean-up would cost \$1700.

**Streets & Sidewalks**-Sparrow spoke about making our community a better place is her goal. She asked when it was warmer last week why we didn't patch some of the potholes. She has been reading up on cold patch and how it works. Salazar responded that they had got some cold patch from the county and state and had filled in some. They just received an order of their own last week.

**Public Safety**-Officer Rusbel Calderon reported that the new squad was great. Assistant Chief Stender reported he is working on GTSB stuff to get a new radar for Chief Orr's truck.

**Finance**-Todd, Prior, Sparrow and city clerk will work on budget next week.

**Library Report**-None

**Employee Safety & Health**-None

**Ambulance**-None

**MAYOR'S REPORT**-Exploring ways to get road work done, also having building permits be approved by the council.

***Motion to adjourn by Harris, second by Mapel. Meeting adjourned by Mayor.***

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Mayor

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Attest: City Clerk