

The City of Eldridge, Iowa met as a Committee of the Whole at the Eldridge Community Center at 6:30 p.m., May 19, 2021. Roll call vote showed Mayor Martin O'Boyle, council members Bruce Cheek, Frank King, Brian Dockery, Bernie Peeters and Adrian Blackwell. Also present were Mark Ridolfi, Nick Hansel, Tracy Harris, Beth Campbell, Sue Cheek, Angie King, Dean Ferguson, Cheryl Lunardi, Heather Khoury, Tabbitha Kramer, Matt Poole, Trisha Poole, Tara Case, Scott Campbell, Nikki Dillon, Joe Sisler, Lisa Kotter, and Denise Benson

Agenda – Motion by Blackwell to approve the agenda, second by King. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

Rules of Protocol during public comment When you are called upon state your name and address, be brief with your comments, there may be a time limit is there are a lot of people who want to speak, and all others will have a chance to speak before you will get another turn.

Public Comment – Nick Hansel is concerned at what he is reading in our local paper regarding how police officers are valued that the council needs to support our police officers. Tracy Harris commented she is sad to see what is going on with our council and we need to have a good meeting and a calm meeting. Trisha Poole said she is learning a lot more what is going on with our city since attending meetings and supports our police. Chief interim Sisler spoke to the Mayor and Council that he is ashamed of what took place on Monday night and apologized. Said we all need to work together he just wants to do his job in protecting the community and moving in a positive direction. Blackwell commended Sisler for apologizing he respected that. Dockery is very supportive of Public Safety. Cheek said Sisler is doing a great job and commends him for that. King said police work is very hard and supports the police. The Mayor also stated he is very supportive of the Police Department.

Discuss a Plan to Search and Select our New Police Chief for Eldridge. Dockery feels we need to advertise and take applications from outside and inside. He says we need to set up qualifications and parameters. Peeters agrees. Cheek said once the City hits 8,000 people we will have to create a Civil Service System. He said we need a honest person who is a teacher, as a former police officer he said no other job is like a police officer's job. Blackwell commented we have to look at internal applications.

Discuss Compensation of City Administrator. Kotter was supposed to get a raise at her 6-month favorable review. The review has not taken place yet, so no compensation has been paid. The Personnel Committee has met with department heads twice and had discussion. Cheek said the main problem is the departments heads don't know who is in charge. The department heads need to be told they report to Kotter and Kotter reports to Mayor and Council. Dockery said there is no need to air dirty laundry. Kotter asked why her review is solely based on department heads and why haven't others been spoken to as far as the Utility Board, Park Board and people outside of the City. She asked for this to be at a closed session during the June 7th council meeting. King said that Wessel and Hamilton were compensated when they took on other duties at the Park and feels Kotter is doing her job as the administrator and should be made whole back to her 6 months. Blackwell is in favor of the back pay also. Dockery suggested that a resolution be written for the June 7th agenda for the full \$3,000 and retro back to September. He told the council then they will have three options to vote on. Either the full amount, a partial amount or nothing.

Resume the Personnel Committee's Performance Review of the City Administrator. Kotter asked for this item to be in a closed session on the June 7th Council meeting for the whole council to talk about and not just take what department heads are saying. She would like all 5-council member to discuss and talk to board members from the various boards. She said yes employees should have a voice but not to base her review solely on them. The item will be placed for closed session per Kotter's request on the June 7th agenda.

Motion by Dockery to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m., second by King. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.