

**Algona City Council  
Council Meeting  
January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022**



Mayor Hill called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. He initiated the flag salute. Roll call was taken. Council members Gordon Cook, Lynda Osborn, Troy Linnell, and William Thomas were present. Council Member Linnell moved to excuse Council Member Dawkins and Council Member Thomas seconded the motion. Mayor Hill took a vote and received a unanimous vote in favor of the excusal. Staff members James Schrimpscher – Police Chief and Jessica Griess – City Clerk were present.

**Swearing In-**

- A. Swearing in of Council Member Gordon Cook and Council Member Lynda Osborn by City Clerk Jessica Griess.

**Appointment of Mayor Pro Tem-**

- A. Council Member Thomas nominated Council Member Linnell. Council Member Osborn nominated Council Member Cook. Council Member Cook declined the offer and seconded the nomination for Council Member Linnell. Mayor Hill took a vote and all were in favor of appointing Council Member Linnell to Mayor Pro Tem.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Council Member Thomas moved to approve the agenda and Council Member Linnell seconded it. The Mayor asked for a vote from the council and received a unanimous response in favor to approve the agenda.

**CONSENT AGENDA** – Council Member Osborn moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Council Member Thomas seconded it. Mayor Hill asked for a vote from the council and received a unanimous response in favor to approve the consent agenda.

**REPORTS –**

**Councilmember Cook-** Thank you for the warm welcome. Thank you to Public Works for working during the snowstorm.

**Councilmember Osborn-** If it was a week later, Council Member Dawkins would've been able to join us. He will be home next week.

**Councilmember Linnell-** None.

**Councilmember Thomas-** Ordinance 1199-21 was passed 3-1 at the December 13<sup>th</sup> council meeting. After that myself and every household received a letter from the mayor's office on why the Mayor was vetoing the ordinance. The Council relies on staff recommendations on items presented at council meetings. I requested more information for this ordinance when it first came to council and received none. It was my understanding that this would change minor wording in the ordinance. The Mayor outlined a number of issues, the first being the lack of clarity of what was presented. I agree that there wasn't clarification given. The next was lack of discussion during the council meetings leading the Mayor to believe undocumented meetings were being held. I agree with the lack of discussion during meetings due to things being unclear. As for the undocumented meetings, I have no knowledge of any such meetings happening. The next is lack

of records around this ordinance and I agree. Number four listed a related ordinance that was not given to the council prior and I agree. The fifth point is about an environmental review in 2014 and related public hearing but this time around the same process wasn't followed and I agree with that. Number sixth the rushed nature of the ordinance did not allow the adequate time to be addressed by the council and making the council quasi-judicial. I am unaware of any response by the council making this quasi-judicial. The next is about the council making decisions based off accurate information and agree with the Mayor's concern. Without clear information on the 2015 ordinance, this could have been unburdened costs on the City. Critical areas are already defined in chapter 16 and I couldn't find any information on that. I was very surprised that this item was not on the agenda. We need the collaboration of the council and the staff to setup the agenda. This is not a Mayor's meeting. This is a Council meeting. Moving forward we would like to see that the Mayor's concerns are met with adequate information. I received an email from a concerned citizen and they believe we were never in compliance with the state requirements. I would like to have a more robust discussion on this. Welcome Council Member Cook and I hope this is the most fireworks you see at meetings. I'd like to thank Public Works and Police for being out in the snow working hard.

**City Clerk** – Thank you for everyone's patience since we were home due to the snow. We worked hard last week catching up on shut-offs and getting utility bills out.

**Police Chief Schrimpscher**- To start on the City Administration side, the reason you don't see the vetoed ordinance tonight because of the city attorney's advice, the council must make a formal request. The new year, we will start doing an agenda setting meeting with the department heads and Mayor. If it isn't discussed in that meeting it will not go to council. Council Member Linnell requested that council members be a part of these meetings since it is a council meeting. Chief discussed the need for it to be done early for staff to have time to prepare the materials. Council Member Linnell asked who makes the final decision and Chief reiterated that it has to be discussed at the agenda setting meeting. It's to prevent last minute items sneaking into the agenda without adequate time for review. The second thing we will do is and this is at the Mayor's request, we will set the workshop agendas during council meetings on the record. This will also give it a chance to be discussed and be more transparent. For the police side, we had a DV situation that resulted in an officer involved shooting. A thank you to the other valley agencies that assisted. They did not hesitate to come when our officer requested it. Unfortunately, it ended in the death of the suspect, but did save the hostages. Just goes to show that any situation can turn from bad to worse even in our small town. Since all the agencies in south valley assisted so to remain transparent and fair, north county agencies are taking on the officer involved shooting investigation and we are still handling the crime itself which has been closed by the prosecutor due to the death of the accused. Thank you to council for allowing us to get body cameras. It has lent a hand in the investigation. Very proud of the officers that responded. They remained professional and calm. Thank you to Public Works for coming in with the snow. There were a few changes to their CBA and will come back to you at the next council meeting. This is also the year for uniform union to do negotiations. We've added a couple extra layers to utility billing and they're working to streamlining the process. A couple employees have been hit with COVID and that's why the community center is temporarily closed. Council Member Cook asked how the officer is doing involved in the situation is doing and Chief explained that none of officers were involved in the shooting itself, but one was shot at and has been supplied the resources to deal with it. The family involved in the situation have been provided the help for shelter while the scene was still under investigation by the Algona Pacific Domestic Violence Task Force.

**Mayor Hill**- I welcome Council Member Thomas criticism. Our officers were extremely professional and recognized by agencies in the area. They did excellent in their work. Jessica took on a mess and we owe so much to her for addressing the management issues from the audit. She is responsible for 90% of the fixes and she is not the problem, she's the fixer. As far as the veto, at the meeting I said I would have to veto it because the council didn't have all the

information. It was a hurried decision. My input matters. I'm in the thick of what's going on in the city and know what's going on. This was mainly driven by a contractor. I had spoken to our attorneys and they stand by the need to do a study which wasn't done. I would appreciate any discussion on the topic whether you disagree with me or not. The last thing, the agenda setting meeting isn't cast in stone. That's the Chief's determination. Council is welcome, but Monday is really the only day it would work. We do have a finance committee that can go over stuff like that. It should help a lot. The audit results are all public record. I've requested an audit for many years and it never happened. I brought in numbered receipts to track the city transactions. We're going to need to follow through with the improvements and not let it go for five years. It would've been nice to have that money in the bank.

#### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –**

- A. Maria Taylor, 58 11<sup>th</sup> Ave N – Told police about domestic violence in her house and received no help from the police. Is anyone going to do anything about the flooding and wetlands at my house and the neighbors? Received two tickets from police for easement issues when it isn't an issue. It's my property. The flooding is causing major issues.
- B. Ken O'Keefe, 725 Main St – Those new houses on 8<sup>th</sup> Ave n are full of issues. You can't see around the cars pulling off of 8<sup>th</sup> Ave N. I've almost been T-boned multiple times at that intersection. I have a long trailer that I can't turn around without going down 8<sup>th</sup> Ave N. The red zone needs to be extended down Algona Blvd. The parking on 8<sup>th</sup> Ave is horrendous.

#### **Discussion –**

- A. TIB Consultant Agreement  
This is the first review of the Transportation Improvement Board Agreement. 90% of the project is covered by TIB for improving our streets. It was requested to discuss at our finance committee meeting.
- B. 1244-22, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Algona, Washington, Approving and authorizing execution of an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with King County for Conservation Futures – Funded Open Space Acquisition.  
This is the first review of ILA with King County. It would allow the City to move forward with acquiring two properties with the funds from the Futures Grant.
- C. Tara's Contract for 2022  
Council Member Linnell moved to waive the three touch rule and Council Member Thomas seconded the motion. The Mayor took a vote and passed unanimously. Council Member Thomas moved to authorize the Mayor signing the contract and Council Member Linnell seconded the motion. Mayor Hill took a vote and received a unanimous response in favor.

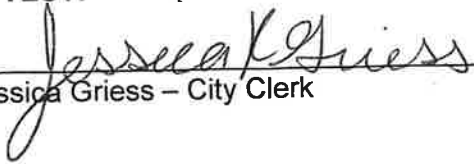
#### **Ordinances & Resolution –**

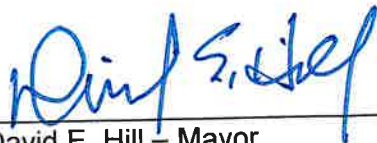
#### **Next Workshop –**

Council Member Thomas would like a workshop to discuss the Growth Management Act issue and 8<sup>th</sup> Ave N parking as well as the roundabout study.

**Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jessica Griess – City Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David E. Hill – Mayor