

City Council  
January 4, 2023  
5:30 pm

The Atlantic City Council met in regular session in the Council Chambers at City Hall with Mayor Garrett presiding. Council members present were: Otte, Behrens, Sisco, McCurdy, Hartkopf, Halder and Brink. Absent: None. Also present was Student Representative Edria Brummer.

Motion by McCurdy; second by Hartkopf to approve agenda as posted. All ayes. Motion carried.

Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Brink; second by Sisco to approve consent agenda as follows: Minutes of the December 21, 2022 City Council meeting; November Budget and Clerk's Report; and bills totaling \$80,952.45. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Behrens; second by McCurdy to approve First Whitney Bank & Trust as the City's Official Bank for the City Checking Account for 2023. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by McCurdy; second by Sisco to approve the Atlantic News Telegraph as the City's official newspaper for legal publication in 2023. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Otte; second by Behrens to approve Resolution #01-23 "AMENDING THE CITY OF ATLANTIC PERSONNEL POLICY BY REPEALING AND REPLACING SERIES 200 CODE 203 'DRUG FREE WORKPLACE' WITH NEW CODE NUMBERED AS THE SAME." Ayes: Otte, Behrens, Sisco, McCurdy, Hartkopf, Halder, Brink. Nays: None. Motion carried.

City Administrator Lund reported:

- Legislative Briefing: rural Iowa is under siege right now. Based on remarks, there seems to be a general consensus in the legislature that property taxes need to be cut. In addition, the state taking control of Local Option Sales Tax will be discussed. There are no concrete proposals- no pre-filed bills; however legislators wouldn't be making these bold statement if they didn't have something that was already workable. The business property tax credits legislation is going to cause a huge loss in taxable valuation. Although it will be backfilled, the backfill won't last forever – this could create a lot of problems in the future. While the city has only raised property taxes once during Lund's tenure, he is certain that the city will need to raise the levies for FY2024- emergency, insurance, and probably employee benefits. He added that the city is going to need those resources sooner than we think; in addition, the city has to have something to offer the police union in the fall. He reported that he, Mayor Garrett, Council Members Otte and Sisco, Police Chief Hogue and City Clerk Barrick had attended the legislative coffee the prior evening. His opinion was that the meeting was a good conversation, but not terribly productive. He is recommending that the city go to the Capitol in Des Moines 2-3 times during the session. Atlantic needs to be on an aggressive pro-growth agenda in the next few years.
- January 18<sup>th</sup> Budget Work Session. There will be a brief council meeting on January 18<sup>th</sup>, followed by a budget work session. Council discussed time to meet and the consensus was to begin the January 18<sup>th</sup> meeting at 4:00 p.m.

- Park Director – one of the candidates will be in Atlantic on Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup> for in-person interviews. There is one additional candidate but the in-person interview has not been scheduled yet.

Mayor Garrett also made comments on the Legislative Coffee the prior evening with Senator Shipley and Representative Moore. She had been calling the property tax proposal a property tax cut and was corrected by Representative Moore that it is call property tax reduction. She rhetorically asked what that truly meant- it sounds good, but will it give us good end results – will it cut the services that are in place in communities. She then asked if the citizens wanted it to sound good or do what is best for our communities.

Mayor Garrett further stated that she wanted to make sure that the legislators are comparing apples to apples. She asked if the smaller rural areas could be compared to the construction and building that is going on in the larger cities in Iowa (mostly on the east side of the state). You don't see as much building on the western side of the state because that is where the smaller cities are located.

She then advised that business and residential owners are responsible for making sure their sidewalks are clear of snow, ice, leaves, etc. Garrett advised renters to make sure with their landlord who is responsible for this. She further asked that citizens keep vehicles in driveways or on streets designated in ordinances; this will help us keep the city streets safe and clear.

Mayor Garrett also announced that Cass Choral County Society will hold its postponed concert at the high school on Thursday evening, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30

City Council Reports: Otte - Legislative meeting; Behrens- Fire; Sisco- Public Safety; McCurdy – Landfill; Hartkopf YMCA.

Student Representative Report: new semester, scrapbook, pink out game.

Engineer Report: should have street inventory report done in a couple of weeks.

Motion by Behrens; second by Sisco to adjourn at 6:21 p.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

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Grace N. Garrett, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Barb Barrick, City Clerk