

City of Dover Meeting Minutes June 2020

June 4, 2020

The Dover Board of Appeals (City Council) opened at 6:00 PM for a variance request hearing by Rick Boyum, 245 Pearl Street South of Dover. The meeting(s) are capped for 10 persons to be in the City Hall at any one time, an invitation to the residents to join the meeting by telephone conference was extended.

Present were Mayor Roger Ihrke, Council Members Dave Iseminger, Jaime Putzier, Cameron Johnson and Kevin Connor; absent- none. City Clerk/Treasurer Gary Pedersen and Water Superintendent Marvin Ihrke were also present. Others in attendance were: Jill Veerkamp-St. Charles Press and Rick and Renae Boyum. No persons joined the hearing on the phone/teleconference setup.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ihrke and he discussed the purpose of the hearing.

Clerk Gary Pedersen then presented the “staff report” and gave the details of the request. Mr. Boyum would like to construct an accessory structure 16ft X 20ft in size in the rear corner of his lot and 5 feet from the side yard property line instead of the 10 feet required by the ordinance.

Mr. Boyum then had a chance to talk about his request and said through the Clerks presentation and his submittal all the information was in. The Council asked a couple of questions about the height of the structure, how close to the spruce tree the building would be if the variance were not allowed (up against it), and it was noted that input from two neighbors including the one directly involved submitted letters in support of the variance.

Motion by member Iseminger and seconded by member Johnson to approve the Variance request to reduce the side yard set-back from 10 feet to 5 feet because:

- The current land owner did not plant the spruce trees;
- Without the tree- it would open up the space and he would lose his privacy; and
- The neighbors that provided comment and most importantly the neighbor owning the property next to the proposed site said he had no concerns over the request.
- The motion carried unanimous thus granting the Variance.

The Board of Adjustment Adjourned at 6:28 PM.

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Dover City Council was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Ihrke.

Present were Mayor Roger Ihrke, Council Members Dave Iseminger, Jaime Putzier, Cameron Johnson and Kevin Connor; absent- none. City Clerk/Treasurer Gary Pedersen and Water Superintendent Marvin Ihrke were also present. Others in attendance were: Jill Veerkamp-St. Charles Press, James Nigon (during his presentation only), Vicki and Chris Arendt (during their presentation only) and City Engineer Mark Welch on the phone tele-conference for his report.

Motion by member Johnson and seconded by member Iseminger to approve the agenda as presented with moving City Insurance Agent Jim Nigon to first on the agenda, motion carried.

Mr. Nigon's report. Last year the City seen a 2-3% reduction in rates, this year there is about a 16% increase, the League of MN Cities is trying to build up the reserve account according to Nigon. Mr. Nigon went through the renewal item by item on the major items for property and owned equipment. The handouts for the Council showed all the information in detail.

City Engineer Mark Welch joined by phone to update the Council, on the water tower maintenance, the tower work was completed and the tower was being filled with water on this night. The only item left to complete was for Central Tank to haul away the sand they used for sand-blasting on the project. The City held back \$2000 from payment until the sand has been held away as contracted.

Mr. Welch updated on the City Main Street project, also near complete, the grass seed with straw bedding were put down today. There was a \$5,000 add on to the project changing the elevation of the street on the part that was blacktopped last fall to help with water drainage and elevation with the new sidewalks on the east side. Mr. Welch thought the project looked very good and should handle water drainage much better in the future compared to the past, two of the property owners along main street thought the first rain went very good as how the water drained away.

Motion by member Johnson and seconded by member Connor to approve the May meeting minutes as presented, motion carried.

Motion by member Iseminger and seconded by member Putzier to approve the financial statements and bills to be paid as presented, motion carried.

Vicki and Chris Arendt from the Eyota Ambulance. Chris stated that he has worked hard to create a professional ambulance service in Eyota. He wants to have a paid crew, so he needs an income source other than user charges. He estimates that each run costs between \$800 to a \$1000 and income from Medicare and insurance carriers only average about \$400 per run. They would like to charge the City of Dover, at a rate of \$82.72 per household (58 households in Dover in the Eyota area). Asking Dover for about \$5000 a year. Last year, the Eyota Ambulance wrote off about \$60,000 because of Medicare rates and users with no insurance. The City will begin to work on our next budget in September and wrap up in December with final approvals, we will work on the request during that process. Also, the City is interested in what the St. Charles Ambulance will be doing in the future as they serve the majority of the City about 248 households.

Motion by member Iseminger and seconded by member Connor to change the August Council meeting to Tuesday night August 4th, motion carried.

Clerk Report Items:

The Mayor and Clerk met with two of the three bars, at their request, to go over the State regulations for re-opening and how the city would be involved. The City gave them copies of a handout explaining the do's and don'ts for them to open. They need to follow the state guidelines.

Motion by Mayor Ihrke and seconded by member Connor to close the fitness center in the City Hall/Community Center until October 1st, 2020, motion carried. Reminder, all 2020 paid memberships will carry through 2021.

Motion by Mayor Ihrke and seconded by member Johnson to keep the Community Center including the gym closed until October 1st and re-evaluate at the September Council meeting, motion carried. The Council recognizes the fact that we do not have staff available to sanitize the areas, equipment or restrooms. It has been recommended by the State that outside events are preferred during this time of the pandemic.

The park restroom, playgrounds, tennis/basketball courts (outside) and ball field will be open for use and the residents should only use them as comfortable in doing so- doing their own sanitizing and applying social distancing as required by the State guidelines.

The Clerk's office will also remain locked and meet with residents by appointment only until further notice.

Motion by member Iseminger and seconded by member Johnson to **not** require swing-away posts for mailboxes in the City as M & M requested, Mr. Iseminger went on to say that it was the agreement that M & M would be required to fix the boxes they hit during the winter with the plows or snow. It is the understanding however, that replacements may be based on “standard boxes” and not the fancier ones that have been put up by some residents. The motion carried.

Motion by member Johnson and seconded by member Connor to cancel all City July 3rd events except for the fireworks in 2020, motion carried. It should also be noted that gatherings for the fireworks is strongly recommended to not exceed what the State is allowing at the time of the event.

Council Member Reports:

Member Iseminger asked for a “no outlet” sign to be placed between 6th St SE and 5th Ave SE.

Member Johnson asked about chickens in the R-1 (residential) zoned areas, they are not allowed and a letter needs to be sent to a resident in that case.

Motion by member Johnson and seconded by member Iseminger to adjourn at about 8:55 PM.

Gary Pedersen- Dover City Clerk