

**PROCEEDINGS:  
IDA COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY  
AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
FEB. 20 MINUTES**

**MINUTES  
IDA COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY  
AND COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION  
FEB. 20, 2024**

**ARTHUR FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
Mayor Gary Chase called the regular February 2024 meeting of the Ida County Public Safety and Communications Commission to order at 6:52 p.m. with the following members present:

Mayor Gary Chase; Mayor Gary Wanberg; Mayor Kathy Breyfogle; Mayor Charlie Pierce; Supervisors Ray Drey and Devlun Whiteing. Also, present Sheriff Wade Harriman and guest Don Kalin.

Supervisor Devlun Whiteing made a motion to approve the agenda. Second by Mayor Gary Wanberg. Motion carried.

Mayor Kathy Breyfogle made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Second by Mayor Charlie Pierce. Motion carried. Sheriff Wade Harriman gave a brief update on recent happenings in the Sheriff's Office. He told the commission that a jury trial that was sched-

uled to begin on Feb. 20 ended with a plea of guilty. The case was a shooting incident from Battle Creek, Iowa that occurred in March 2022.

The sheriff then spoke briefly about a traffic stop on Feb. 18 that ended with the arrest of a Battle Creek, Iowa man on several charges of narcotic violations.

There was nothing to report under communications or jail.

In the personnel phase of the meeting, Sheriff Harriman stated that deputy sheriff evaluations would be completed next week. He also spoke briefly about assigning a deputy sheriff to an investigator position.

There was no unfinished business to report on.

Under new business, Sheriff Harriman highlighted that the Board of Supervisors agreed to pay for two (2) deputy sheriff positions out of their unified law levy. The total cost for these two (2) positions is \$218,000 in FY 2025. Due to this, each city will see a reduction in costs when compared to their costs in FY 2024.

The three (3) position committee assigned by the Public Safety Commission to research and develop a long-term plan for cost sharing for each entity in the unified system will begin in March.

The period to have a recommendation to the commission is between June and August. The three individuals on the committee are Mayors Nathan Weill and Gary Chase, and Supervisor Devlun Whiteing. Sheriff Wade Harriman will also be on the committee as a non-voting member.

The next regular meeting of the Ida County Public Safety and Communications Commission will be held on April 16, 2024 at 7 p.m. at the Battle Creek Community Center.

Mayor Charlie Pierce made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second by Supervisor Devlun Whiteing. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

WADE A. HARRIMAN  
IDA COUNTY SHERIFF

Published in Ida County Courier  
February 28, 2024

**PROCEEDINGS:  
IDA COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY  
AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
FEB. 1 MINUTES**

**MINUTES  
IDA COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY  
AND COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION  
FEB. 1, 2024**

**IDA COUNTY COURTHOUSE**  
Mayor Gary Chase called the February meeting of the Ida County Public Safety and Communications Commission to order at 6 p.m. The following members were present: Mayor Gary Chase; Mayor Gary Wanberg; Mayor Nathan Weill; Mayor Kathy Breyfogle. Supervisors Ray Drey; Creston Schubert and Devlun Whiteing. Also, present Sheriff Wade Harriman.

Guests present were Gregor Ernst and Reynold McLead.

Mayor Gary Wanberg made a motion to approve the agenda. Second by Supervisor Devlun Whiteing. Motion carried.

Supervisor Creston Schubert made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting (November 2023) second by Mayor Kathy Breyfogle. Motion carried.

Sheriff Wade Harriman then gave the Sheriff's report. He advised the commission that his office logged a total of 566-hours on patrol in the month of December 2023 and 558.5-hours on patrol in January 2024.

Sheriff Harriman also told the commission members that his office made a total of 15-arrests in December 2023 and 13-arrests in January 2024. He then spoke briefly about a few of the arrests specifically.

Those arrests included a Dec. 10, 2023 arrest of an Ida Grove, Iowa woman on charges of possession with the intent to deliver methamphetamine; possession of marijuana and unlawful possession of prescription drugs.

Also, a Jan. 25, 2024 arrest of a

man from Arkansas on charges of possession with the intent to deliver marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

The Sheriff also told the commission that his office booked a total of 16-inmates into the county jail in December 2023 and 16-inmates into the county jail in January 2024. In addition, deputies issued a total of 76-citations in December 2023 and 57-citations in January 2024. There was nothing to report under communications.

During the jail portion of the meeting, Sheriff Harriman discussed an incident of assault on a jail staff member that occurred on Jan. 12, 2024. An inmate who was being placed into the restraint chair due to self-harm spit in the eye of a jailer. The jailer was sent to Horn Memorial for medical treatment as per the policy of the Ida County jail.

Under personnel, the Sheriff stated that all jailers and communication center operators had their annual evaluations completed.

Deputy Blake Beller is set to return from military deployment in April or May and Deputy Brandon Bollmeyer will be attending the 16-week Iowa Law Enforcement Academy beginning in April.

Sheriff Harriman updated the commission on the collective bargaining negotiations that were held on Jan. 25, 2024. Under the terms of the agreed upon one (1) year contract, employees will receive the following:

Deputy Sheriff Classification will receive a 4.5% wage increase effective July 1, 2024 and an additional 5% wage increase effective January 1, 2025.

All other job classifications will receive a 5% wage increase effective July 1, 2024. In addition, employees will receive .75/hour in shift

differential. Shift differential is paid to employees who work the hours between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m.

There was no unfinished business to report on.

Under new business, Sheriff Harriman told the commission that his office will once again be instructing the DARE program this school year. This will be the 25th year the Sheriff's Office has taught the program to all the 5th grade students in Ida County.

Sheriff Harriman then spent a considerable amount of time discussing his FY 2025 budget request.

Other than salary and benefit increases, Sheriff Harriman only increased four (4) line items in the budget. Those increased totaled \$30,000 in discretionary spending.

Following considerable discussion the commission did decide to exercise its powers under article V of the 28E agreement to appoint a three (3) person committee to research and bring back to the full commission a change in how the annual budget is appropriated to its member agencies.

Appointed to the committee was Mayor Nathan Weill; Mayor Gary Chase and Supervisor Devlun Whiteing. Also appointed to the committee as a non-voting member was Sheriff Wade Harriman.

Next meeting was set for February 2024 at 7 p.m. at the Arthur Fire Department.

Supervisor Creston Schubert made a motion to adjourn. Second by Mayor Gary Wanberg. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Wade Harriman  
Ida County Sheriff

Published in Ida County Courier  
on February 28, 2024

**PROCEEDINGS:  
IDA GROVE CITY COUNCIL • FEB. 20 MINUTES**

**City of Ida Grove  
Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2024  
5:30 p.m.  
Temporary City Hall  
311 Barnes Street**

**1. Call to Order:** Mayor Pro Tem, Gregor Ernst, called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. **2. Roll Call:** Present: Gregor Ernst, Jeff Miesner, Jason Schable, Reynold McLead. Councilman Jared Bogue arrived at 5:35 p.m. and Mayor Nathan Weiti arrived at 5:47 p.m. Guests in attendance were Public Works Foreman Gerrod Sholty, Sheriff Wade Harriman, Dale Edsen and Brian Lundell. **3. Approval of Agenda:** Motion by McLead, second by Schable to approve. Motion carried 4-0. **4. Planning & Zoning Commission Public Hearing for Rezoning Applications:** Motion by McLead, second by Ernst to open the public hearing for the request to rezone 11 lots on Industrial Drive from single family residential to suburban. The City Council is acting as Planning & Zoning Commission per Ordinance 600. Motion carried 4-0. Public hearing began at 5:32 p.m. Bogue arrived. Sweeden reported Roger Frank provided a property survey regarding a parcel of land he owns at the westernmost undeveloped portion of W. 5th Street. The property pins are located in the middle of W. 5th Street, indicating the south 30' belongs to Roger and the north 30' belongs to City. Lundell asked council to provide an overview of the rezoning request. Ernst stated a rezoning request has been submitted to the City by current land owners, Nolan Warnke and Dan Remer. Warnke & Remer initially purchased the lots for residential purposes, but are now requesting to have the lots re-zoned from R-1 to Suburban for the purpose of selling the lots for farming. Prior discussions were held that the City does not currently have the funding availability to pave the existing gravel road. Sholty asked about the utilities in place such as water & sewer lines, fire hydrant and manhole. Ernst responded that the council is not considering vacating the street at this point. Discussion was held regarding access to the City's lift station via the permanent waterway. McLead confirmed prior paving discussions included concrete paving only and the City did not explore the option of pouring asphalt. McLead stated that in his opinion after extensive research and considering his background with planning and zoning, approving the rezoning request would be a loss to the city; the city doesn't have a lot of available land for expansion with utilities currently in place. McLead also noted to be mindful of the amount of money the city has

spent to date putting in water and sewer for these parcels. Mayor Weiti arrived. McLead also shared that during his research it was found there is a platted park within the area requested to be rezoned. McLead suggested looking at planning avenues to determine how to better use the space for housing development instead of un-developing; wants to ensure long-term planning is considered prior to making a decision. Additionally, rezoning the parcels for farming use goes against the comprehensive plan which calls for housing development and greenspace/parks. Bogue questioned the correspondence provided by Remer which requests consideration of a conditional use permit rather than rezoning. It was noted that a conditional use permit for farming would not be allowed unless the city code was changed. Additionally, a special use permit can only be granted by Board of Adjustment. Discussion continued regarding paving the existing gravel road with Bogue noting he feels it is unlikely the city would pave it. It was then noted there are several gravel streets within the city limits; gravel streets are a useable and viable option that does not prohibit someone from constructing housing on an unpaved street. Edsen stated he appreciates all the discussion and agrees with McLead; wants what is best for the community. It was agreed there are several options available and additional time is needed for research prior to making a recommendation. Motion by Miesner, second by Bogue to close the hearing at 6:11 p.m. Motion carried 5-0. **5. Recommendation to City Council Regarding Rezoning Applications:** No action taken at this time. **6. Consent Agenda:** Motion by Ernst, second by McLead to approve the consent agenda consisting of the following: clerk's report, claims in the amount of \$120,219.71, financial reports, minutes of the 2/5/2024 & 2/7/2024 meetings, permits and correspondence. Motion carried 5-0. **7. Organizational Chart:** McLead presented the idea of adopting an organizational chart that outlines responsibilities and roles of elected officials and employees. Council were all supportive of the idea. No action taken at this time. **8. City Hall Landscaping:** No changes were made to the landscaping recommendation from public works. Council reviewed the areas requested to be river rock and the areas to be grass seed, instructing Sweeden to move forward with obtaining cost estimates. **9. Second Street Business District Parking Concerns:** Additional 2-hour parking signage has been installed in the downtown business district,

however, City Hall continues to receive complaints. Lundell, as head of the Chamber, noted he has personally spoken to the majority of business owners and some have complied with utilizing Noble Parking Lot, but some have not; he continues to receive parking complaints as well. Sweeden was instructed to discuss enforcement of the 2-hour parking ordinance with Sheriff Harriman. Ernst left the meeting at this time. **10. 3.76 Acres City Owned Property:** Council instructed to obtain a property survey due to farming encroachment along the berm of the Badger Creek. **11. Budget Workshop:** Sweeden presented a detailed explanation of the City's General Fund outlook for FY25, noting a current budgeted deficit of about \$30,000. Council thoroughly discussed and explored options, ultimately deciding to make budget cuts to several departments. Street repair needs were discussed, as well as the need for rate increases to the water department. Sweeden stated the last increase was January 2020, and the City was instructed by financial advisors to implement gradual increases annually for inflation purposes. **12. City Council Member News & Notes:** Harriman provided an update regarding countywide law budget requests. During the Public Safety Commission's February meeting, members of the Ida Grove City Council voiced concern for the rising costs of countywide law to the cities. Specifically, that the City of Ida Grove cannot financially accept the request of \$584,998 for FY25. Ida County Board of Supervisors met and agreed to remove the salaries and benefits of 2 deputies from the budget of \$2,050,529 for countywide law; with the county taking on 100% of the cost for the 2 deputies. This decision reduced the overall asking by \$218,000, making the City of Ida Grove's FY25 budget requirement for public safety \$524,285. Harriman reported the Supervisors understand this is an ongoing issue all the cities in Ida County are having and a separate 3-person committee was formed to further explore options and ways to reduce costs going forward for the long-term. City staff security concerns were also discussed with Harriman. Sweeden reiterated the importance of all council being available and present for a budget public hearing on April 1 at 5 p.m. **13. Adjournment:** Motion by Miesner, second by Bogue to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

Heather Sweeden, City Clerk  
Nathan Weiti, Mayor