The regular meeting of the Clare City Commission was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers by Mayor Pat Humphrey who led with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Josh Clark, Pat Humphrey, Carolyn (Gus) Murphy and Karla Swanson. Absent: None. Also, present: Ken Hibl, City Manager; Steve Kingsbury, City Treasurer & Finance Director; Fire Chief, Jim Chapman; and Diane Lyon, City Clerk.

2. CONSENT AGENDA:
   Moved by Commissioner Murphy second by Commissioner Swanson to approve the items listed with an asterisk (*) (Agenda, Minutes, Communications, Department Reports, and Bills) that are considered to be routine by the City Commission. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried.

3. *APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
   Approved by Consent Agenda.

4. *APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
   Approved by Consent Agenda.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

7. NEW BUSINESS:
   A. PUBLIC HEARING-INTENT TO APPLY FOR USDA GRANT, CLARE FIRE DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT
      By adoption of its Resolution 2019-110, the City Commission approved the submittal of a USDA grant application for the purchase of specific equipment (turn-out gear extractor & drying cabinet and thermal imaging camera) for the Clare Fire Department. The grant application has been submitted and we anticipate approval of the application.

      A required step in the process of obtaining the actual USDA grant is the conduct of a public hearing prior to receipt of the grant. We have published the notice of the required hearing. In anticipation of receiving the grant, the City Commission is asked to conduct the mandated hearing, thereby expediting the process of accepting the grant when it is approved.

      Motion by Commissioner Bonham second by Commissioner Clark to open the public hearing. Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Josh Clark, Pat Humphrey, Carolyn (Gus) Murphy and Karla Swanson. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried.

      Public Comment: None.

      Motion by Commissioner Bonham second by Commissioner Clark to close the public hearing. Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Josh Clark, Pat Humphrey, Carolyn (Gus) Murphy and Karla Swanson. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried.

   B. APPROVE CHANGE ORDER #1-PEERLESS MIDWEST
      The City is in the process of completing critically needed improvements to its water treatment plant. A USDA loan in the amount of $1.5M was approved to fund the improvements. Fabrication and installation of the new iron removal filters and a failed attempt to rehabilitate one of the filters will cumulatively consume approximately $1.42M of the proceeds of the USDA loan. New piping/plumbing of the iron removal filters and painting of the interior of the water treatment plant, to include painting the new plumbing and the iron removal filters, are an essential element of this project. Gourdie-Fraser negotiated on behalf of the City with Peerless-Midwest, the approved contractor for the water plant rehab, to determine a cost for these two essential work elements. The negotiated costs are outlined in Change Order #1. The City Commission is asked to approve the Change Order.

      Motion by Commissioner Swanson second by Commissioner Murphy to approve Peerless Midwest Change Order #1 by adoption of Resolution 2019-143. Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Josh Clark, Pat Humphrey, Carolyn (Gus) Murphy and Karla Swanson. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried.

   C. APPROVE PAYMENT #1 TO PEERLESS MIDWEST
The City is in the process of completing critically needed improvements to its water treatment plant. Peerless Midwest was selected as the primary contractor for this project. The City has received the first invoice from Peerless Midwest for payment. Gourdie-Fraser has reviewed the invoice for validity and has recommended the City pay the invoice; the City Staff concurs with the GFA recommendation. The cost for the fabrication and installation of the iron removal filters is $1,150,981. The amount of this invoice is $155,963.70 – leaving a balance $995,017.30 for this work element/line item of the rehabilitation project. The City Commission is asked to approve the invoice.

Motion by Commissioner Clark second by Commissioner Bonham to approve Payment #1 to Peerless Midwest by adoption of Resolution 2019-144. Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Josh Clark, Pat Humphrey, Carolyn (Gus) Murphy and Karla Swanson. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried.

8. TREASURER’S REPORT
The Treasurer presented his report.

9. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT
Recreation Topics.
- The Operator’s Union has offered to design and construct (at no cost to the City) the donor board for our new recreation complex to identify & recognize all the individuals and organizations that have contributed to the development of the complex. The Union has delivered the promised AED for the complex.
- Annual Soccer Raffle. The Youth Soccer Program raised nearly $6,000 in this year’s annual raffle – approximately $600 more than the preceding year. Cumulatively, more than $29K has been raised by means of these annual raffles; all the funds have been and will continue to be used for continuing improvements to the Emerald Isle recreation site.
- SHARPCO Industries has completed construction of a very unique skateboard park bench to recognize Alan Winter, Dylan Morrish, and the many other contributors who have made the new skateboard park possible. The bench was purchased with funds donated and raised to construct the skate park.
- New Storage Building. We’ve received an offer from a local resident to fund and construct a 1,200sf pole building to be used for storage and an office at the Emerald Isle Complex if the City pays for the concrete pad, electrical service, heating, and plumbing for the building. We are researching the cost of these items.
- New Emerald Isle Playground Equipment. The total estimated cost of the new playground is $117K (includes a $37K rubber surface). To date, fund raising and grant applications have netted in excess of $58K toward the goal of constructing the playground. We have applied for and are awaiting notice of a $60K Recreation Passport grant, which if approved, will allow us to construct the new playground next year.
- Emerald Isle Pavilion. In addition to the 60 trees and eight benches that have already been purchased by the Clare Rotary Club, the Club has offered to construct a new pavilion at the complex; tentative plans indicate this will be a 2020 construction project.
- Tennis Courts. Unless we experience an unexpected and extended Indian Summer this fall, it is unlikely that the rehabilitation project will be completed this year – anticipate next spring. Since we awarded the contract, we’ve had consistent rain and cool temperatures, which have precluded commencement of the project.

CFD Grant. The Clare Fire Department applied for and received a $6.5K grant from TransCanada Pipeline to purchase new Hurst rescue air bags. Our current air bags are 20 years old and unserviceable. The grant from TransCanada Pipeline fully funded the purchase of new Hurst air bags.

Fall Color Excursion Train. As a reminder, the train is scheduled to run from Clare to Cadillac tomorrow, Oct 19; an estimated 700 passengers are expected to either embark or disembark the train in downtown Clare (train is scheduled to load/offload at the spur by the Clare Depot).

Addendums:
Clare Airport Chili Cookoff. The annual chili cookoff will be held at 3:00 pm, at Clare’s Municipal Airport on Saturday, October 26, 2019.
Second Grade Tour. The annual second grade tour of city offices is scheduled for Wednesday, October 30. Tour times have not yet been confirmed.
Clare Rod & Gun Club Property. The City Manager sent out a questionnaire to each of the Commissioners related to potentially selling or leasing the property that the Rod & Gun Club currently occupies. The City is currently in the process of obtaining a property appraisal. Following the receipt of responses from each of the Commissioners, the City Manager will draft a proposal to present to the City Commission for consideration.

Iron in Water. As part of the water plant upgrade, starting October 29, customers are likely to experience high amounts of iron in the water as a result of bypassing the water filters to install new piping. City staff are working with engineers and the vendor to find a workaround as the water is likely to discolor laundry and make customers unhappy. Staff will provide a public notice to all water users, post the notice on our website, bulletin boards, Government Channel 189, and forward a notice to the local newspaper.

Maple Street Park. As Maple street park is rarely utilized, the PRAB has recommended moving the playground equipment to Pettit Park. The property is located within the wellhead protection area and is identified as commercial property in the future land use map. The City has been approached by a telecommunications company who is interested in placing a tower within the City. City staff will inquire as to whether that company has interest in purchasing or leasing that parcel but before the park is dismantled the City will notice a public hearing and inform neighboring property owners to find out if there is interest in keeping the park intact. The City will obtain an appraisal on the park property.

10. *COMMUNICATIONS

FOIA Requests: The most recent FOIA requests & responses are attached for your information.

Thank You Note: Clare Class of 2021 Student Counsel forwarded a note of thanks and appreciation for assistance with the parade.

Charter Communications Rate Increase: The City received notice of a consumer rate increase for select services.

Notice of Dispute: The City issued a notice of dispute regarding MCTWF’s audit findings on health insurance premiums.

11. EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: Pat Maurer voiced concerns about the blighted condition of the Rod & Gun Property.

12. COMMISSION DISCUSSION TOPICS: Commissioner Clark voiced concern regarding animals chewing the bark off of newly planted trees at Emerald Isle Recreation Complex; he also noted that a mailbox at Emerald Isle is full of mail. Commissioner Bonham suggested that city staff should remove the tennis court nets and lock the tennis court gates for the winter if the City (rather than the school or tennis league) will be responsible for maintaining the property under the new lease agreement.

13. *APPROVAL OF BILLS

Approved by Consent Agenda.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Bonham second by Commissioner Murphy to adjourn the meeting. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Pat Humphrey, Mayor
Diane Lyon, City Clerk