Resident asks council to look at attendance

Seidel says duties don’t stop at monthly meetings

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A long-time city resident asked the Fort Madison City Council Tuesday night to consider adopting a rule on attendance for those elected to the city council. Mike Kiloren spoke during the public input section of the council’s regular meeting and pointed out an attendance issue with Third Ward Councilman Travis Seidel, although not by name.

Seidel’s attendance at council meetings has been suspect, making 58% of the meetings for the 12-months that ended July 30. Seidel was in attendance at Tuesday’s meeting. Kiloren said Seidel had made 57% of the meetings over the past two full years.

“An examination of the city council attendance records for the past two full years paints a disturbing picture of poor attendance by one of our council members. He missed 21 of the 49 meetings for a 57% attendance record. The average attendance by all other council members combined during that same period was nearly 90%,” Kiloren said.

“In other words, that representative was absent for more than four times the average of all other councilmen... and 7 times as often as the best attendance recorded for two other council members.”

Councilman Kevin Rink added that the people needed to get better information about what’s going on.

“I think we need to keep in mind health and family issues. I’ve had a couple of health issues having both hips replaced. But I think what’s going on

Task force makes 2nd bust in two days

KEOKUK - The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Keokuk, Iowa man on misdemeanor drug charges.

Tab Andrew Bottger, 44, of 516 South 5th #1, Keokuk, Iowa was arrested on September 15th, 2017 at the Lee County Sheriff’s Office on misdemeanor drug charges.

Bottger is charged with two counts of possession of a controlled substance (marijuana and methamphetamine), a serious misdemeanor, maintaining a drug house, an aggravated misdemeanor, possession of drug paraphernalia, a serious misdemeanor, and 7 counts of unlawful possession of a prescription drug, a seri-

Sheriff’s new “Gunner” is all business

Second dog should be in place before year’s end

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - First impressions last and the Lee County Sheriff’s Department’s new K9 animal left an impression with those in attendance for a demonstration on Tuesday morning outside the sheriff’s office in Montrose.

Chris Kearns, the chairman of the Lee County K9 Association meandered over behind the sheriff’s garage where Dep. Uriah Wheatley was prepping his new partner Gunner for the demonstration. The Lee County Supervisors were on hand and several other members of the public were invited out after the supervisors regular meeting.

Gunner quickly let Kearns know he was in the wrong place and Kearns quickly rejoined the gathering for the demonstration.

“The other dog, when I first went up to him, kind of walked around and sniffed me and went back and I knew something wasn’t right,” Kearns said. “That’s more of the reaction I would expect.”

As part of the demonstration, Chief Deputy Will Conlee had a volunteer hold a pen in his hand for about a minute and then placed the pen out in a field next to the office building.

Wheatley brought his new partner around the other side of the garage on about a 10-foot leather lead and being held in close proximity. The two walked into the field about halfway and then Wheatley gave a command to search. Gunner found the pen in about 20 seconds.

The duo showcased Gunner’s nose for narcotics. Deputies had placed about a tablespoon of marijuana in a cellophane wrap and stashed it inside the door compartment of

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See ATTENDANCE, page 8

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a vehicle that was parked in the field. Wheatley walked Gunner around two vehicles and Gunner sniffed and sat right by the driver’s side front door in what was is called “passive identification”. Wheatley opened the door and pulled out the small amount of marijuana that the German Shepherd had indicated.

At each step as a reward for achieving the right response, Gunner was given an orange ball to chew on. There were no treats or snacks, but a simple orange ball.

Wheatley opened the door in what was is called “passive identification”. At each step as a reward for achieving the right response, Gunner was given an orange ball to chew on. There were no treats or snacks, but a simple orange ball.

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OBITUARIES

JOSEPH W. “JOE” STEFLIK

Joseph W. "Joe" Steflik, age 42 of Jonesboro, AR and formerly of Ft. Madison, passed away on September 19, 2017 at St. Bernard Hospital in Jonesboro. Arrangements are pending at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

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GRHS launches Medical Explorers program

Program kicks off Oct. 4

BY PCC STAFF

WEST BURLINGTON - A kickoff meeting for a new Medical Explorers program is scheduled at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 4, at Burlington Area Family Practice Center, 1201 W. Agency Road, West Burlington. It will be led by family physicians Laura Hadden, M.D., and Doug Peters, M.D.

Medical Explorers is a career exploration program for 14- to 20-year-olds. It provides an opportunity to learn about many health care jobs and meet with professionals already working in those fields. Exploring helps students:
• Build self-confidence
• Develop leadership skills
• Gain volunteer opportunities
• Obtain unique career experiences and network

Medical Explorers will meet at least monthly at a time chosen by group members. There is a fee for the program. Parents are encouraged to attend the kickoff to learn more information. People who are interested in the program, but cannot attend the kickoff may call 319-753-2798.

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By PCC Staff

FMAAA names winners of Art-in-Central-Park judging

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Area Arts Association presented its annual Art-In-Central-Park awards on Sunday.

Artist Trax wins $250 Ft. Madison Partners Purchase Award awarded by Tim Cobbie to Ian Hauck. Craig Mills wins $200 FMAAA Purchase Award delivered by Board Members Teresa Dearing and Mary Brockman.

Holly Carpenter wins $150 Ft. Madison Rotary Club Purchase Award given by Tamara Dietzsch for the Rotarians.

Kathy Fuerman won 1st Place Booth Award which was overnight stay at Governor’s Suite at The Kingsley Inn.

Vickie Dovenspike took 2nd Place with free entry into next Art-in-Central Park and mum from Matt’s Greenhouse. Jim & Sheryl McClain was 3rd Place with mums from Matt’s Greenhouse.

Booth jurer was Lillian Rubin, well-known artist from Burlington.

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Our Household Hazardous Waste Unit is open Monday through Friday 8am - 4pm. Call 800.216.2370 for an appointment.

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- Insecticides
- Pesticides
- Household Cleaning Products
- Auto Cleaning Products
- Antifreeze
- Motor Oil
- Car Batteries
- Rechargeable Batteries
- Oil Based Paints
- Paint Thinners
- Propane Tanks
- Swimming Pool Chemicals
- Florescent Light Bulbs
- And More

If you don’t see your item(s) on this list or if you have any questions please call 800.216.2370

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The Holy Trinity Boys cross country team took first place in their division at the Mt. Pleasant meet on Tuesday night. Details on the meet will appear in Thursday’s edition.

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Casebine Community Credit Union is #ChamberStrong

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Fort Madison FastBreak is #ChamberStrong

---

Team Staffing is #ChamberStrong

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Photo by Chuck Vanderberg/PCC
I. Call meeting to order and determine a quorum of a
II. Recognition of guests
III. Reading of Foundation documents
IV. Monthly communications
A. Student Rep Report - Sierra Howardson and Katie Larson
B. Curriculum Corner - Summer Capital Projects Update - Kevin Moon
C. Did You Know?
D. Superintendent Goal
   I. National School Safety Conference
   V. Approve the agenda
   VI. Consent Agenda
V. Approve the agenda
1. Codi Bunnell, Central
2. Gina Marsh, Bus Driver
D. Consider personnel
   1. Dana Smith, 8th grade
   2. September General
   3. Activity Account Activations
   4. Nutrition Account Nutritions
   5. Consider approval of FFA request for travel from FFA - Splash into Science
   6. Consider annual Board appointments
      a. Kim Harmon, Title IIA, Title VI, Title IX, ADA and 504 coordinator
      b. Kim Harmon, compliance officer (Step II) of grievance procedure as it relates to discrimination issues
      c. Erin Slater, child abuse / harassment alternate investigator (Level I), AAO/EOE officer
      d. Kim Harmon, child abuse / harassment investigator (Level I)
      e. Kevin Moon, asbestos coordinator
      f. Sandra Elmore, insurance trustee IEBP
      g. Reconsideration committee
   1. Consider approval of Transportation Report for Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2017
   2. Consider approval of SBRC request - LEP Allowable
   3. Approve Depository Resolution Depository Resolution
   4. Approve Abstract of Votes - School Board Election
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   VIII. Selection of temporary chair for organization meeting
   IX. Adjourn 2016-2017 Board sine die
   FORT MADISON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
   BOARD OF DIRECTORS
   ORGANIZATION MEETING
   September 26, 2017
   (Immediately following regular meeting)
   I. Call meeting to order and determine a quorum
   II. Consider the agenda
   A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services – Kim Harmon
   B. Superintendent – Erin Slater
   C. Board Secretary/ Business Manager – Sandy Elmore
   D. Election of vice-president
   E. Consider Board appointments
      1. Cathy Hoppman,
      2. Dana Smith, 8th grade
      3. Dana Smith, Junior
      4. Andrew Troxel, Asst.
      5. Consider approval of
      6. Emily Bruxvoort, Linen
      7. Consider approval of
      8. Consider personnel matters
   C. Board Secretary/ Business Manager – Sandy Elmore
   D. Election of president
   E. Oath of office to new Board members
   F. Consider approval of
   G. Consider approval of
   H. Consider approval of
   I. Consider approval of
   J. Consider approval of
   K. Selection of committee
   L. Consider personnel
   M. Appoint Delegate assembly member
   V. Action Items
   A. Board Secretary/ Business Manager – Sandy Elmore
   VI. Discussion Items
   A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services – Kim Harmon
   I. Review the District Wellness Plan Wellness Policy # 507.9
   B. Superintendent – Erin Slater
   1. Discuss plans for American Education Week
   2. Discuss Board February meeting date
   3. Schedule October In roundround tours
   C. Board Secretary/ Business Manager – Sandy Elmore
   VII. Comments from the audience
   VIII. Legislative update
   IX. Announcements
   Next regular meeting, October 16, 2017, 6:00 p.m.
   X. Adjourn

PUBLIC NOTICE)
MADISON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
September 25, 2017
6:00 P.M.
Finance/Lamb / DiPrima

AGENDA

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II. Recognition of guests
III. Reading of Foundation documents
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Steve Mclain
Assistant of the Jefferson County Green Band

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Killoren asks council to look at state code

ATTENDANCE - Continued from Page 1

here is a bit stronger than that. And since it is a bit stronger, I think we can a little bit more lenient when something like this is going on.”

Councilman Brian Wright said the issue should be settled at the polls.

“It comes down to the elections, and if you feel the representative is not represent- ing then you go to the polls and handle it there,” Wright said.

Seidel, who is disabled, said personal matters and the council meeting time change has made it difficult for him to attend all the meetings.

“I definitely think the meetings are crucial,” Seidel said after the meeting. “It’s important to attend, but I also think as a representative, a councilman, making those two meetings, although important, isn’t where the job stops. I’m not looking for sympathy but life happens. My dedication to the city doesn’t end at those meetings whether or not I can make it at 5:30 or 7 p.m.”

Seidel said he’s never entertained the idea of resigning due to the personal issues that hinder his ability to attend the meetings. Partly because he wants to fulfill his obligations and partly because there never seems to be anyone else in line to do the job.

“No, I’ve always planned on serving the time I was elected for. I was going to stick with that to fulfill what they elected me to do,” he said. “Do I feel guilty that I’m not there more, yes, and I do my best to be there and I don’t want to say I’m too busy to do it because I’m not. But there is no time I’m not involved and getting information. I’m a terms guy. I thought after eight years that would probably be enough. After four years I was wondering if I was being effective enough for the Third Ward and what made me run again was that others told me I was doing a good enough job and they liked my opinion on things affecting the city,’ he said. “The second time I ran there was no one in line to run against me and there’s just too much going on to keep it vacant.”

Killoren suggested the council look at Iowa code for relief from council members who don’t show up.

“Serving as a council member should be viewed as a noble honor with a behavior focused on credible representation,” he said. “And the city may want to consider implementing provisions of appropriate chapters of the Iowa Code for other options to remove someone unwilling to honor their oath.”

After the meeting Killoren said he wasn’t running for office, nor was he trying to get anyone off the council.

“I’m just trying to start a public debate on this. Give me a number that’s too many absences. We should be talking about it.”

Seidel said he’s reasoning for being legitimate and he’s open to speaking to any- one about what’s best for the city.

“I don’t miss because I’m in the Bahamas,” he said. “Let alone I don’t have the best health and I have some family members with health issues, but I don’t want to whine about that. Not being in attendance doesn’t mean you don’t care. Anytime I miss it’s not a no show. I spoke with the city manager directly when I couldn’t reach the may- or, I told him that there’s a good chance I might be out a couple of months.

“I’ve always said at anytime if you want to come up to me at election time and tell me I’m not doing good enough please go to the polls or run. We need community involvement.”

In other action, the city council

• approved a bid from Floyd’s E-Z way of Burlington for $78 per unit to haul

• approved an ordinance amending city code to remove permit fees for oversize loads from Title 9, Chapter 11, and allowing for the permit fee to be set by resolution and specifying who shall lay out the route and times for oversize loads to move through the city

• passed a resolution to file a grant application for the Iowa DOT’s Federal Recre- ational Trails program for PORT Trail Phase 3. Larry Driscoll said the PORT com- mittee has about $275,000 for the project and this grant, if approved, would help

• approved a bid from Floyd’s E-Z way of Burlington for $78 per unit to haul

Bottger facing 11 years on drug charges

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faces up to 11 years and 30 days in a state correctional facility.

The arrest of Bottger stems from an investigation by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force into allegations that he was involved in the use and possession of illegal drugs in the Keokuk area. A search warrant was served as part of this investigation and items that support the charges were discovered.

The Lee County Attorney’s Office, Keokuk Police Department, and the Lee County Sheriff’s Office assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation.

The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

The Lee County Narcotics Task Force is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Justice and the funds administered by the Iowa Governor’s Office of Drug Control Policy.