

Times-Republican

City Council rejects Creekside Estates bid



T-R PHOTOS BY JOE FISHER — Councilors Bill Martin and Bethany Wirin attend their last meeting as active members of the city council on Monday. Their terms end on Friday.

With just enough present members for a quorum, the Marshalltown City Council considered construction bids for the Creekside Estates development but ultimately opted against approving any of them at its final regular meeting of 2021 on Monday.

Bill Martin, Al Hoop, Bethany Wirin and Mike Ladehoff attended the meeting, along with mayor Joel Greer. Three councilors — Gary Thompson, Mike Gowdy and Gabe Isom — were absent. It was also the final meeting for councilors Martin, Wirin and Gowdy, whose terms will end Friday.

The meeting was one of the shortest of the year, with no discussion items on the agenda. One business item was a resolution to approve the acceptance of a bid for construction on the Creekside Estates development.

In March, the council narrowly approved the creation of a subdivision on South Sixth Street north of the Wayward Social Club. The development would include necessary infrastructure as well as a new public street to be constructed.

Con-Struct of Ames submitted the low bid for the project at a total cost of \$684,161.75. Public works director Heather Thomas said five bids were received to construct an asphalt street along with six bids for concrete. She noted a correction to what was enclosed in the agenda packet on the split between public and private funding after “additional negotiation” — \$464,652 in public money and about \$219,000 from private sources in accordance with the original development agreement.



Ryan Keller, mental health therapist with YSS, shares MPACT's quarterly update with the city council during Monday's regular meeting.

The figure is still below the estimate from March. Substantial completion would be expected in October.

Councilor Martin said he still has concerns about the public/private split on the project. He raised the same concern when it was discussed in March, saying he was supportive of the project itself but did not like the idea of public money being used to enhance what would be private property.

"I'm not sold on it," Martin said Monday.

Martin was the lone vote against approving the acceptance of the bid. Because there were only four councilors present, the motion to pass the

resolution failed.

The council did approve a 28E agreement with the county for the Marshalltown Police Department (MPD) to include county officers on its tactical and crisis negotiation teams. Police chief Mike Tupper said he had a gentleman's agreement with former Marshall County Sheriff Ted Kamatchus to include deputies in these units. Tupper had discussed 28E agreements with Kamatchus and his successor, former Sheriff Steve Hoffman, but neither were interested.

"This past year with insurance, ICAP said it's a great idea, but you need to have a 28E agreement," Tupper said. "(Current) Sheriff (Joel) Phillips is in."

The council unanimously approved the agreement, and it will now go before the Marshall County Board of Supervisors.

In other business

The council officially approved a new contract with Youth and Shelter Services (YSS) to continue the Marshalltown Police and Community Team (MPACT) program, allocating \$400,000 to keep it going.

Ryan Keller, mental health therapist with YSS, presented MPACT's quarterly update to the council. He shared examples of cases where MPACT helped connect people with mental health services or other assistance to help them through crises.

"It's encouraging for me as a therapist to be able to walk with a client and see that," Keller said. "With your (the city council's) insight and the partnership we have, it's really making deep, positive impacts with individuals out there."

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