

The Anita City Council met in regular session November 19th, 2025, at 6:30 pm, at Anita City Hall. Council members present were Meghan Dorsey, Simon Jensen, Deanna Andrews, and Roger Huffman, representing a quorum. Mayor Daughenbaugh was present and presided. City Clerk Jean Jessen was present and took the minutes. Also present were City Attorney, Justin Hockenberry and various members of the public.

Mayor Daughenbaugh called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Motion by Jensen; second by Dorsey to approve the agenda as posted. Ayes: All. Motion passed.

Motion by Dorsey; second by Jensen to approve the consent agenda including the October 8th, 2025, city council meeting minutes; the October 8th, 2025, public hearing minutes; clerk's treasurer's report, The Anita Fireman's Association liquor license Amendment and bills as presented. Ayes: All. Motion passed.

Tracy Knutson from the Anita Town and County requested Walnut Street from Main Street to the alley north be closed for Anita's Annual Christmas Walk Scheduled for December 7th. A motion by Dorsey, seconded by Jensen to approve street closure as requested. Ayes: All. Motion passed.

Discussion was held amending minutes of the August 13, 2025 meeting to correct a clerical error as it pertains to waiving second and third reading of ordinances. Motion by Dorsey; second by Andrews amend minutes as follows:

"Discussion held on proposed Ordinance 2025-03 entitled: "AN waive Second and Third Readings of Ordinance. Ayes: All. Motion passed. ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN PROPERTY FROM THE R-4 MOBILE HOME PARK DISTRICT TO R-2 TWO FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT, REPEALING THE R-4 MOBILE HOME PARK ZONING DISTRICT ALLOWING GRANDFATHERED USE FOR EXISTING STRUCTURES, AND AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP". Motion by Sokol; second by Dorsey to waive Second and Third Readings of Ordinance. Ayes: All. Motion passed. Motion by Sokol; second by Dorsey to approve Ordinance 2025-03 as presented. Roll Call Vote: Dorsey-aye, Jensen-aye, Andrews-aye, Huffman-aye, Sokol-aye. Ordinance passed.

Discussion held on Ordinance 2025-02 entitled "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ANITA, IOWA, BY AMENDING PORTIONS OF CHAPTER 3 "SPEED REGULATIONS". Motion by Dorsey; second by Sokol to waive Second and Third Readings of Ordinance. Ayes: All. Motion passed. Motion by Dorsey; second by Sokol to approve Ordinance 2025-02 as presented. Roll Call Vote: Dorsey-aye, Jensen-aye, Andrews-aye, Huffman-aye, Sokol-aye. Ordinance passed."

Ayes: All. Motion passed.

A discussion was held on waving rental fees for use of the Anita Community Center by governmental entities, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, fundraising events, or community celebrations benefiting the City as a whole. A motion by Dorsey, seconded by Jensen to approve adding necessary wording to contracts. Ayes: All. Motion passed.

Discussion was then held on the Delta Dental and Vision renewal for the 2026. The plan premium will not have an increase for 2026. Motion by Dorsey, second by Jensen to approve the United Healthcare Insurance, Delta Dental and Delta Vision plan renewal for the 2026 calendar year. All voted aye. Motion passed.

A discussion was on vacating a public right of way on the north end of Rosehill as requested by Blake Butcher. Motion by Dorsey, second by Andrews to schedule a public hearing for December 10, 2025 at 6:15 to further discuss. Ayes: All. Motion passed.

Council discussed the FY2025 Annual Finance Report. A motion was made by Andrews, seconded by Dorsey, to approve the FY2025 Annual Finance Report as presented. Ayes: All. Motion passed

Jackie Sander, Anita Public Library Board Member, presented the Council with the Anita Public Library's Annual Reports. Presentation included the financials, various programs they offer, the Newspaper Digitalization Project, Library Usage, Library Circulation, and various donations and grants they have raised/applied for.

A discussion was held West bound Parking on West Main and Rosehill. No action was taken.

Blake Butcher requested consideration of vacating a platted right of way the north end of Rosehill Ave. A motion by Dorsey, seconded by Jensen to present citizens with request. Ayes: All. Motion passed. A motion by Dorsey, seconded by Andrews to set a public hearing on December 10, 2025 at 6:15 for vacating a platted right of way as requested. Ayes: All. Motion passed.

A discussion was held on the intent of appointing a qualified individual to fill the vacant council seat. The following person spoke to their qualifications to fill the roll: Simon Jensen. A motion by Dorsey and seconded by Andrews to appoint Simon Jensen to fill open seat beginning January 1, 2026. Roll Call Vote: Dorsey-aye, Huffman-aye, Andrews-aye, Jensen-Abstain. Motion passed. Eligible voters residing in the City of Anita have the right to petition that the vacancy be filled by a special election. To do so, a valid petition requesting a special election must be filed with the Anita City Clerk within fourteen days after the appointment is made. Petition must contain at least two hundred signatures or at least the number of signatures equal to fifteen percent of the voters who voted for candidates for the City Council at the last regular election, whichever number is fewer.

A discussion was held on enforcement of nuisance abatements. Council is awaiting invoices on two properties' disposal fees completed in early December. Another property was questioned and will be notified of ordinance infraction.

City Attorney Justin Hockenberry provided an update to the council. A previous lawsuit has been dismissed by the city as qualifying actions have been taken. Hockenberry pointed out that enforcement took over 18 months to complete. Civil infraction penalties were discussed as alternative methods to encourage upkeep of structures. Council urges residents to be patient while legal process works.

Public input was heard. Praises over the improvement made on a former nuisance properties were given along with positive progress of alley conditions. Disappointment of the handicap lines left unpainted at the library were also expressed.

With no further business, Motion by Jensen; second by Dorsey to adjourn at 7:32 p.m. Ayes: All. Motion passed.

The next regular monthly Anita City Council meeting will be December 10th, 2025, at 6:30 pm at Anita City Hall.

ATTEST:

Ben Daughenbaugh, Mayor

Jean Jessen, City Clerk