The meeting was called to order at 5:36pm by Mayor Jacobsen. Council in attendance: Griffith, Hocker, Murray, Absent: Hemmingsen and Jacobsen. Hocker moved, Murray seconded, to approve the agenda. ALL AYED.

Audubon Transfer Station- Janet Hansen and Bob Sornson presented the FY17 financials to the Council and explained how the station earns income and how the expenses are distributed. Hansen explained that the Committee was formed by a 28E agreement. The members have an annual cost calculated by per capita. This payment is then broken down to quarterly payments. Hansen went on to explain the landfill cost and how the station is subsidizing the landfill costs and how they are setting additional funds set aside for the post closure fund. When there is a short fall for that year the members that are not still actively in the 28E agreement are invoiced for that amount. Griffith asked about the costs of labor with respect to wages and benefits. Murray asked if fines were ever imposed for residents that did not put recycling into the tubs and instead put in regular trash. Hansen explained that there weren’t except that 20% of refuge is required to be recycled per State law. It would be to the benefit of the residents as the recycling of items is one way the station earns income.

Urban Chickens- The Mayor explained that as the proposed ordinance reads there is a $25/year permit fee. There was discussion on who the enforcement officer would be. Under the proposed ordinance any City staff would be able to perform the duties. Murray asked questions about placement of the buildings because of the smell nuisance. Chief Starmer expressed concerns about how the enforcement of the proposed ordinance. He did not want the Police Department to be bogged down on enforcement of the ordinance. The Mayor pointed out that a fine schedule would have to be created for chickens found at large. Hocker suggested that the number of birds be set by lot size. During further discussion, the idea to just keep it as a variance issue for the Board of Adjustments was suggested.

Friendship Home Exemption Assistance- The Friendship Home has asked the City for assistance with the Tax Exemption assistance with obtaining a USDA loan. It was explained by the City Clerk that the only impact would be on the Calendar year limit of $10 million in bank borrowing that the City would be required to stay below to keep the exemption status. For the current calendar year the Wastewater improvement project uses $4 million, the Friendship home request would be $2.3 million, and then the Water project would be $3.4 million if it were all to complete during the same calendar year. The water project may or may not close by the end of the year. This would mean a total of $9.7 million if all debt was issued in the same year. Murray stated he was against this and asked that more information would be obtained from USDA and Steve Nadel from Ahlers and Cooney. Hocker agreed that more information was needed.

Nuisance Abatement- The City Clerk presented to the Council a handbook that was created by the Iowa League of Cities to help assist in handling the entire process of nuisance abatement and condemnations. Stetzel has asked the Mayor the see if the Council was aware of any other properties that needed to be condemned other than the two that he was currently working on. Murray suggested the hole that was left by the Stotlz’s building. The other was the property on Market Street that had weeds growing between the cracks in the concrete. The Mayor suggested the building that was next door to Tinker’s Law office. Griffith suggested the property on Broadway Street but was concerned about whether it could be done. Hocker mentioned that it was a lengthy process. Bohlmann asked about the process of inspection for these abatements. Griffith and Murray brought up the property on 107 Church street. Murray was concerned on what would happen after it was burned. Bohlmann explained that the Friendship Home was responsible for leveling out and cleaning the property up afterward. Murray asked about the 408 Market Street property. The City Clerk explained that when the company was excavating the property to get rid of the contamination. When this was done one of the monitoring wells was damaged and needed to be replaced. They have asked for permission to do so and are waiting for the approval. Approximately 30 days after that it will be tested and if level are low enough the project will be completed.

Meeting adjourned 7:24pm

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 Barb Jacobsen, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Joseph Foran, City Clerk