

In the Middle

JUNE 2023 NEWSLETTER



City Council Meeting

June 13 and June 27
6:00pm Peosta NICC
Dubuque County Library

Planning and Zoning

July 10th
6:00pm
Peosta Police Station

City Council Meeting Agenda and Minutes



Mayors Message

*June is the gateway to summer –
Jean Hersey*

Welcome to Summer! I know it doesn't officially start until June 21st, but the heat has already started!

Some of the happenings around town are pretty exciting! Peosta Square welcomed its' new tenants in the building beginning June 1st. My understanding is they are 95% leased! That's a real testament to the addition of a place like Peosta Square to town. The first floor has room for 8 commercial suites. As of this writing just one of these have been leased, Jennifer Burds (ARNP) – Burds Family Practice.

Vive IV Therapy is closing in on finishing up their building on Thunder Valley Dr. and will be opening soon. I haven't heard an opening date yet but SOON! Truly something different for Peosta.

As long as we are on Thunder Valley Dr, I see that Sweat Inspired Sisterhood has broken ground and will be starting their new building as well. This business is created for women and provides daily workouts, weekly nutrition plans and a community atmosphere for women to uplift and assist each other to reach their life goals. While in the neighborhood let's talk about Next Level Dance starting their building along Cox Spring Rd. This is just North of the water booster station. Next Level is currently located on Peosta Street but has outgrown that building and needs more room to teach classes.

There have been some questions about the property along Cox Spring and whether other businesses will locate along there. That's a real possibility. The concern is having too many driveways to access these businesses. The long-range discussion has been to have the access point by Next Level be an entry into the area to minimize traffic turning on or off Cox Springs. One thing the council has done for safety on this road is reduce the speed to 25 miles an hour. If everyone follows that speed limit it should greatly improve the safety along there.

Peosta is truly the Middle of Everywhere and always a hub of activity!

Russ Pfab

Planning and Zoning Commission Vacancy

Planning and Zoning Commission Vacancy

Due to a recent vacancy, the City of Peosta has an opening on our Planning and Zoning Commission.

The city has basic requirements for membership on the commission, that include 4 of the 5 members be a resident of Peosta. The additional member of the commission may be a resident of the area outside the city over which the zoning jurisdiction of the city has been extended. This area is a 2-mile perimeter. Also, the city strives to make sure that we have a gender balance, so we are in accordance with the State of Iowa Code that is outlined below.

Responsibilities vary from reviewing preliminary and final plats, rezoning requests to ensure that the city is adhering to our Comprehensive and future land plans. You need not have any experience in these areas as there are seasoned members and staff that will guide you through each issue that is brought before the commission. The window for this opening will be 90-days starting on June 5th, 2023, afterward, the mayor will appoint the most qualified individual to complete the vacancies term, which is September 1, 2023. The term for this vacancy ends April 1, 2024.

This is an exciting time for the City of Peosta with the rapid growth of both residential and commercial development for you to become involved with the city, so give me a call at 563-556-8755 if you're interested in learning more or would like to be considered for an appointment to the commission.

Sincerely,
Annette Ernst

Gender Balance

1. All appointive boards, commissions, committees, and councils of the state established by the Code, if not otherwise provided by law, shall be gender balanced. No person shall be appointed or reappointed to any board, commission, committee, or council established by the Code if that appointment or reappointment would cause the number of members of the board, commission, committee, or council of one gender to be greater than one-half the membership of the board, commission, committee, or council plus one if the board, commission, committee, or council is composed of an odd number of members. If the board, commission, committee, or council is composed of an even number of members, not more than one-half of the membership shall be of one gender. If there are multiple appointing authorities for a board, commission, committee, or council, they shall consult each other to avoid a violation of this section.

2. All appointive boards, commissions, committees, and councils of a political subdivision of the state that are established by the Code, if not otherwise provided by law, shall be gender balanced as provided by subsection 1 unless the political subdivision has made a good faith effort to appoint a qualified person to fill a vacancy on a board, commission, committee, or council in compliance with subsection 1 for a period of three months but has been unable to make a compliant appointment. In complying with the requirements of this subsection, political subdivisions shall utilize a fair and unbiased method of selecting the best qualified applicants. This subsection shall not prohibit an individual whose term expires prior to January 1, 2012, from being reappointed even though the reappointment continues an inequity in gender balance.

Police Station Tour & Bike Safety

Saturday, June 17th

9:00-10:00 a.m. – Tour Police Station/
Police Car Demonstration/Bicycle
Safety/Rules Discussion

Ages: 18 and Under

Cost: Free

Limited to the first 25 kids.

Sign up at activenet.active.com/Peosta to save you
spot today!

Sponsored by: Peosta Police and Peosta Optimists



Peosta Police Department News

Cones From Cops Summer Program

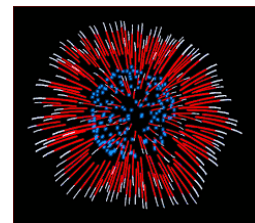
Summer for the kids is now in full swing. With sponsorship from Dairy Queen in Peosta, Peosta police officers will be patrolling the neighborhood's this summer and looking for children wearing their safety bicycle helmets or any other safety gear or doing good deeds throughout the community. With the good deeds and preventive safety comes a reward. The police officers will be handing out a free ice cream cone voucher to any child doing a good deed. See you all out this summer!

Stay Safe!
Chief Comer



Fireworks Reminders

July 4th is approaching! Please be safe when using fireworks and know the laws provided below:



The City of Peosta currently follows the state law for fireworks. If you plan on purchasing and setting off fireworks please read the following. Respect your neighbors and understand that if your fireworks end up on someone else's property, it is a violation of this code.

Iowa State Code 727.2 reads:

4. Limitations.

a. A person shall not use or explode consumer fireworks on days other than June 1 through July 8 and December 10 through January 3 of each year, all dates inclusive.

b. A person shall not use or explode consumer fireworks at times other than between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., except that on the following dates consumer fireworks shall not be used at times other than between the hours specified:

(1) Between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. on July 4 and the Saturdays and Sundays immediately preceding and following July 4.

(2) Between the hours of 9:00 a.m. on December 31 and 12:30 a.m. on the immediately following day.

(3) Between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. on the Saturdays and Sundays immediately preceding and following December 31.

c. A person shall not use consumer fireworks on real property other than that person's real property or on the real property of a person who has consented to the use of consumer fireworks on that property.

City of Peosta Government "101"

Series of articles to educate and inform the citizens of businesses of Peosta

It's highly unlikely that any of this information will be a question at your next trivia night, but you never know!

The City of Peosta government was chartered in May 1975. A charter is a document, very similar to a constitution that spells out the powers, duties and the structures of government and the rights of the citizens. It determines the system of "checks and balances" in our local government.

Some of the items in our charter, defines our form of government which is a Mayor-Council form. This means we have a mayor and council that are directly elected by the voters, as serves as the chief executive with a separately elected legislative city council.

In a recent conversation with our city attorney, he pointed out that there are two forms of a Mayor Council system depending on the relative power of the mayor.

The first being a In a typical *strong-mayor* system, the elected mayor is granted almost total administrative authority with the power to appoint and dismiss department heads. In such a system, the mayor's administrative staff prepares the city budget, although that budget usually must be approved by the council.

The second form, in a *weak-mayor* system, the mayor has no formal authority outside the council, serving a largely ceremonial role as council chairperson. The mayor cannot directly appoint or remove officials, and lacks veto power over council votes – however, in our charter, the mayor *has* veto power.

So, every four years we elect or re-elect a new mayor and city council. The following have served as our mayor since the charter was adopted.

Frank Dardis, George Kalb, Jim Weydert, Dick Avenarius, Larry Mescher, Jim Merton, and Russ Pfab.

Under our charter, the office of City Administrator was created by Ordinance 2020-02. Passed on February 11, 2020. I am the second administrator to be appointed in the City of Peosta, and I have been with the city since June 2021. My duties consist of several items that can be viewed within the ordinance that I referenced. In a nutshell, I work at the pleasure of the mayor, city council and community, to ensure that I enforce and execute our city laws and assure resolutions, ordinances and council directives and operational policies are enforced and executed. This includes, but not limited to the day-to-day operational components to keep the city "running". Public Works (Streets, Sewer, and Water), Police, Parks, and Recreation along with city staff are the backbone of any community and we are very lucky to be staffed with very talented and knowledgeable people!

Next, the mayor does have the authority to establish committees and select members to serve on those committees, and the city council also has the authority to remove anyone as well. Our code also conforms with the Iowa Code Section 69.16A, which states that we shall be gender balanced. The city has a Planning and Zoning, Board of Adjustments committees. Both are ad hoc. Here is a cliff notes version of what they do.

Planning Zoning (P&Z). By ordinance, this is a group of five members, four of whom are residents of Peosta and the fifth can be a member if they are within the jurisdiction of the city, which is 1.5 miles. Their terms can range from two years to five and these positions are not compensated. The power and duties of P&Z are many, starting with our Comprehensive Plan, review and comment on plans, plats, or replats, zoning or rezoning of all property within the city and those requests that are within 1.5 miles of our jurisdiction.

When a rezoning or zoning is brought to P&Z, they review based on the comprehensive plan and zoning code or ordinances. They then make a recommendation to the city council and the council can choose to accept or deny their recommendation. If the recommendation is accepted, then the council is required to set a public hearing notice so that the citizens and businesses can speak before the council with their approval or disapproval.

Zoning Board of Adjustments (BOA). Like P&Z, the group consists of five members with terms of two to five years and are appointed by the city council. Meetings are called by the chairperson as determined by the need to meet. The BOA has the following responsibilities and powers. They review any conditional use permit, such as anything that is not identified as a permitted use within

our zoning ordinance. Approve/deny a variance request. A good example of this would be a business wanting to place their garbage dumpster on the property line. BOA is different from P&Z as their decision is final and does not need City Council approval.

I hope to bring you an article each month with something regarding our government with the hope of educating you so that you can better understand what we do, and why we do it.

As always, reach out to me with any questions. My email address is aernst@cityofpeosta.org and city cell number is 563-258-3818.

Respectfully,

Annette Ernst, ICMA-CM
City Administrator

Public Works Department



Hydrant Flushing

Hydrant Flushing will take place the month of June. Residents may experience rusty colored water and low water pressure while flushing occurs in their area. The water is safe to drink, but caution should be taken when doing laundry to prevent staining of clothing. Please check the City of Peosta Website for updates.

Dean Ludwig
Public Works Director



Soccer Registration is now open. Stop by the Peosta Community Centre to pick up a registration form, or register online at

[Register Here](#)



8411 Peosta Commercial Ct.
Suite #8
Peosta, IA 52068
Office: (563) 588-6659
Jennifer@BurdsFamilyPractice.com
www.burdsfamilypractice.com

Burds Family Practice

The City of Peosta welcomes Burds Family Practice to Peosta! Burds Family Practice is located in the new Peosta Square Building at 8411 Peosta Commercial Court Suite #8

Jenny Burds is a family nurse practitioner and owner of Burds Family Practice. Jenny along with her husband Jason and their 3 boys are long time Peosta residents. Jenny has over 25 years of experience in the healthcare field and that past 10 years as a nurse practitioner. Jenny is excited to practice in the city she loves.

The family practice serves all ages. They also offer aesthetic services such as Botox and fillers, and professional skin care. The Family Practice also includes an **infrared sauna**.

Many major insurances are accepted and listed on the Burds Family Practice **website**. The website also includes more information on services and staff.



Dubuque County Library PEOSTA / NICC BRANCH

PROGRAMS FOR KIDS & FAMILIES

Go Wild

Peosta Branch

We'll use stories and fun to help young children make their voices heard!

Tuesday, June 13 @ 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Cartoons with Tim Read

Peosta Branch

Laugh out loud with author and illustrator Tim Read! In his My Silly Monster Program, kids will help him illustrate silly monster cartoons and more. Register by 6/12.

RSVP Here: <https://www.dubcolib.org/calendar/cartoons-with-tim-read/>

Go Wild

Peosta Branch 8342

We'll use stories and fun to help young children make their voices heard!

Wednesday, June 14 @ 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Art as Advocacy

Peosta Branch

In this weekly series, Jenn will give a survey of how various art forms have been used to give different people and groups a voice. Then, learn about ways YOU can spread positivity through art (Even if you don't consider yourself an "artist"). Registration recommended.

RSVP Here: <https://www.dubcolib.org/calendar/art-as-advocacy-4/>

Wednesday, June 14 @ 6:00 pm

Stuffed Animal Sleepover

Peosta Branch

Your stuffed companions deserve summer library fun too! Drop off your stuffed companion at the library in the evening, then pick them up the next morning, we'll supply pictures of their library antics!

Our stuffed companions deserve summer library fun too! Drop off your stuffed companion at the library in the evening, then pick them up the next morning.

Tuesday, June 20 @ 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Go Wild

Peosta Branch

We'll use stories and fun to help young children make their voices heard!

Thursday, June 22 @ 9:30 am - 10:00 am

(563) 556-8755

[City of Peosta Website](#)



City of Peosta | 7896 Burds Road, P.O. Box 65, Peosta, IA 52068

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