

In the Middle

OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER



City Council Meeting

October 10th,

October 24th

6:00pm,

Peosta NICC Dubuque County
Library

Visit the City of Peosta [website](#)
for Agenda and Minutes.

Trick or Treat

Tuesday, October 31st

6:00pm-7:30pm

City-Wide Clean Up

(Large Garbage Pick up)

Saturday, November 4th



Mayor's Message

Every year, The Great Pumpkin rises out of the pumpkin patch he thinks is most sincere. He's got to pick this one. He's got to!

- Linus VanPelt

The season of Halloween is upon us! Let the festivities begin! Peosta is hosting its first of what will hopefully be its annual Trunk or Treat on October 26th. This event will take place from 6 – 7:30pm on Peosta Community Parkway. Fun for the kiddos to get out and try their costumes. Better yet, they can do a costume for Trunk or Treat and a different one for Trick or Treat Halloween.

As you are all aware the construction on the Peosta St./Burds Road intersection is in full swing. I understand how inconvenient this is but please have patience as the crews work to get this project done. The end goal of better flowing traffic at this main intersection will serve the community well for many years to come.

Thunder Vally Drive continues to be an area of growth as Dubuque Physical Therapy recently opened and held a ribbon cutting on September 25th. The Health Spa by Vive is looking like it's close to opening. The building going up next to The Health Spa by Vive is the Sweat Inspire Sisterhood studio and looks amazing! It's always a great feeling watching our community grow!

If you have been down Cox Spring Road lately, and who hasn't with the detour, you've seen the dirt getting moved in Kelly Oaks Park. This is the first phase of the future design of the park – the parking lot! I know that's not exciting but the fact that it's a sign of the future is! This will be a great place for the families of Peosta to enjoy with a pavilion, trail, new playground equipment and new bathrooms. There's still a lot of work to do but I'm excited to see it get started.

Work continues the new City Hall at the Peosta Community Center. This should be wrapping up within the next month or so. Look for information regarding an open house to show off this new centerpiece for Peosta! Peosta is truly the Middle of Everywhere and always a hub of activity!

Russ Pfab
City of Peosta Mayor

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

What is the procedure for a Council Meeting?

This month, I thought it would be interesting to cover what the council and staff do to prepare for our work sessions and council meetings.

To be clear, the city holds a work session the Thursday before the first meeting of the month. At the work sessions, different topics can be discussed such as projects, upcoming change orders for projects, any ordinance changes, or revisions. Unlike the council meeting agenda, agenda items can be discussed that are not listed if they do not fall under the closed session requirement. At this point, agenda items can be moved to the next or future council meetings – or they “fall dead” and will not be discussed. The council also reviews the upcoming two meeting agendas to see what will be discussed. This also allows staff to research and gather information for the council to base their decision on when the item comes up for discussion and a vote.

Council meetings. The City of Peosta holds two meetings per month. They fall on the second and fourth Tuesday and start at 6 p.m. Currently, council meetings are being held at NICC in Community Rooms 203 and 204. Hopefully, in November we will resume meetings in the renovated City Hall.

There is more to running an efficient and successful city council meeting, as it requires a lot of preparation and knowledge of proper procedures. The roles of the mayor, council members and city staff are different, and each are equally important. Understanding these roles and having a plan in place can lead to well-run city council meetings.

Open Meetings. In Iowa, city councils and their advisory bodies are required to comply with the open meetings law (*Code of Iowa, Chapter 21*). *The law requires that meetings of governmental bodies are open to the public. A meeting is a gathering of a majority of members (or quorum) discussing city business. The city must give public notice of its council meetings and include the time, date, place of each meeting, and the tentative agenda. The city needs to advise the media which have filed a request for notice and post the notice on a bulletin board or other prominent place easily accessible to the public at the city's principal office. If there is no city hall, the notice should be posted at the building where the meeting will be held. Notice must be provided at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.*

Setting our agenda. Each city council has the authority to decide how its meeting agenda will be set. *Code of Iowa Section 372.14* specifies the mayor as being “the chief executive officer of the city and the presiding officer of the council.” As such, in many cities, the responsibility for establishing the agenda for the city council meeting falls to the mayor and key city staff, such as the city manager or city clerk. In some cases, this may be established by city ordinance.

On the other hand, *Code of Iowa Section 372.13 (5)* states that “the council shall determine its own rules and maintain records of its proceedings.” This law allows councils to set rules, such as how the agenda will be set, for their council meetings. In some cities, the council has determined that each member of the council, as well as the mayor, has the right to place items on the agenda.

With several options available to cities, it's important that clear rules of procedure are adopted by the city council. Rules of procedure are guidelines established by the council outlining the manner in which the council will conduct its business, including rules for creating the council agenda.

Discussion and Public Hearings. During a meeting, the city council will address various items related to city business. Among other actions, they will approve minutes, license applications, new city regulations, bills, and budgets. Council members and the mayor will often discuss items before taking a vote to ensure there is an understanding of the proposed action. State law requires that city councils hold public hearings before taking action on certain items. Public hearings are intended to provide the public in general and those particularly affected by a proposed municipal action the opportunity to provide input regarding the policy options available to the city council. Supporters of a proposal can explain why they believe a particular course of action is necessary or helpful, and those opposed to the proposed policy can explain why they believe such action is unnecessary or detrimental.

Public Participation. While the open meetings law gives the public the right to attend meetings of governmental bodies, the law does not require cities to allow public input at council meetings. The council may permit an audience member to speak at its meetings but is not required to do so. Without an invitation to speak, everyone is simply an observer listening and watching the deliberations. That said, the City offers the public the opportunity to comment at the beginning of the meeting on any of the agenda items, and then

at the end of the meeting, there is another public comment section for any questions on any topics.

To help prevent a public comment period from becoming prolonged and unproductive, cities find it useful to establish rules for public comments. For example, limitations can be placed on the time and manner of public participation to help maintain efficiency. Those wishing to address the council will be asked to identify themselves by name and address and avoid repeating what already has been said.

Motions, Resolutions and Ordinances. To conduct business, the city council takes one of three actions: motions, resolutions, or ordinances. Motions are used to handle the routine business of the city at council meetings and are recorded in the minutes. Actions typically addressed by a motion include approval of the minutes, claims, licenses, permits and giving direction to city staff on a particular issue.

A resolution is a statement of policy. Examples include setting council rules and procedures, setting wages and salaries and establishing investment and other financial and employment policies. In certain cases, the passage of a resolution is required by Iowa law.

An ordinance is a city law of a general or permanent nature. Ordinances cover all areas of municipal authority, from setting speed limits on city streets to establishing water and sewer rates. And if you're paying attention, this was covered a couple of newsletters ago.

Voting Regulations. Motions require a majority vote of the quorum at the meeting to pass. For resolutions, ordinances and amendments to such, a majority of the total number of seats on the council must vote affirmatively for passage. All council members are defined to include any vacancy and any council member who is absent but does not include the seat of a council member who does not vote due to a conflict of interest.

Resolutions can be passed with a majority of votes at one meeting. Ordinances and amendments to ordinances must be passed by the majority at three council meetings before becoming final. However, city councils can waive the requirement to have three votes to approve an ordinance or amendment by approval of at least three-fourths of the council. This is usually done for ordinances that the council deems necessary to have in place immediately.

In most cities, including Peosta, the mayor has no authority to vote on city council business. The Mayor-Council form of government is the most common form of government in Iowa. Under this form of government, the mayor is not a member of the council and cannot vote, with one exception. Section 372.4 of the Code of Iowa authorizes mayors in cities with an even number of council members to break a tie on a motion not involving ordinances, resolutions or appointments made by the council alone. A vacancy on a five-member council does not make the council have an even number – the number of seats is still five. This was the long-winded version, and I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have. My door is always open, and if you have any suggestions on a topic of interest as it relates to governmental operations – bring it on!

Respectfully,

Annette Ernst, ICMA-CM
City Administrator



Garbage/Recycling Information

New Garbage Cans/Recycle Bins will be delivered the last week of October.

Citywide Fall Clean-Up November 4th

Citywide Fall cleanup day will be on **Saturday, November 4th**. Please have all items to be picked up at the curb before 7:00 am. Bi-County Disposal will make one trip through town.

If you have any questions, please call City Hall (563-557-8755) or email City Hall.
(info@cityofpeosta.org)

Each appliance, computer monitor, television, or tire to be picked up will require a sticker.

Appliance: \$12.00
Car Tires: \$6.00
Truck Tires: \$12.00
Tractor Tires: \$27.00
All Monitors & Televisions: \$17.00

*****3 Options to purchase your Sticker*****

***PAY AND REGISTER ONLINE** through your **FrontDesk** Account (Your Sticker will be mailed to you) (Deadline to purchase online is Sunday, October 29th to allow proper time for mailing)

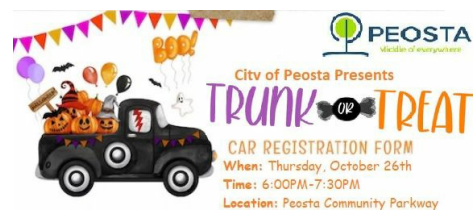
***Drop your payment in the City of Peosta Drop box** which is located in the upper level of the Peosta Community Centre parking lot. Please include items you are purchasing with payment. (Your Sticker will be mailed to you-deadline to drop payment in box-Sunday, October 29th)

***Purchase your Sticker at City Hall* DEADLINE TO PURCHASE AT CITY HALL IS BY 11:00am on Friday, November 3rd.**

Items that won't be picked up:

Yard waste, stockpiled daily garbage, rocks, concrete, large amounts of building and construction materials, railroad ties, paint (unless the can is completely dried out and open, chemicals, motor oil, shingles, fencing, fluorescent bulbs)

Trunk or Treat October 26th



Local Businesses and organizations are welcome to participate!

Please sign up [Here](#) or by emailing info@cityofpeosta.org.

- *Line up will begin at 5:00 PM to park your vehicle and decorate.
- *All vehicles have to be ready to hand out goodies at 6:00PM Sharp.
- *All engines must be turned off during event.
- *You are responsible for cleaning up your area before leaving.
- *You must have a spot reserved by October 20th.
- *Vehicles are asked to not leave until completion of the event.
- *Please fill out this form for **EACH** vehicle.

[REGISTRATION FORM](#)

For more information or questions



Join us for this fun event! Mobile Food Vendors that will be available:

Adobos Mexican Grill
Birds.Fried Chicken
Myson's Tacos and Burritos
That 1 Place (bean)

Visit Facebook for updates for this event.

about the event, please call City Hall at 563-556-8755 or email info@cityofpeosta.org.



Meet the Clarke Baseball Team!

Come run the bases with the Clarke Pride Baseball Team from 6:00pm to 6:30pm during the Trunk and Treat Event.



Police Department

Halloween is fast approaching! Trick or treating in Peosta will be held October 31st from 6:00pm-7:30pm Here are some friendly safety reminders to the parents and children celebrating the holiday:

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

Walk Safely

1. Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks. Look left, right and left again when crossing and keep looking as you cross.
2. Put electronic devices down, keep heads up and walk, don't run, across the street.
3. Teach children to make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them.
4. Always walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible. Children should walk on direct routes with the fewest street crossings.
5. Watch for cars that are turning or backing up. Teach children to never dart out into the street or cross between parked cars.
6. Join kids under age 12 for trick-or-treating. If kids are mature enough to be out without supervision, tell them to stick to familiar areas that are well lit and trick-or-treat in groups.

Costumes for a Safe Halloween

1. Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors.
2. Choose face paint and makeup whenever possible instead of masks, which can obstruct a child's vision.
3. Have kids carry glow sticks or flashlights to help them see and be seen by drivers.
4. When selecting a costume, make sure it is the right size to prevent trips and falls.

Drive Extra Safely on Halloween

1. Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods. Children are excited on Halloween

- and may move in unpredictable ways.
- 2. Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs.
- 3. Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully.
- 4. Get rid of any distractions - like your phone - in your car so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings.
- 5. Turn your headlights on earlier in the day to spot children from greater distances.

Police Chief-Mike Comer

Political Signs

Just a reminder for those of you who are planning to place political signs throughout Peosta, that there is an ordinance in place that outlines what is and what is not allowed.

6-16-10 TEMPORARY SIGNS

1. Political Signs.
 - a. Political signs shall be permitted in all zones but not within any public street right-of-way or on any public land.
 - b. Such signs shall not exceed 8 square feet in area and shall not exceed 42 inches in height.
 - c. Political signs shall be permitted only for a period of 90 days prior to the election and shall be removed within 10 days after the election.
 - d. Political signs established in violation of this section may be immediately removed by the City.
 - e. Permits are not required for temporary political signs.

Peosta Optimist Club



Avenue of
Flags
subscription
details

**Subscription
Registration**

The Peosta Optimist Club, chartered in 2019, is the only service organization focusing on improving the lives of youth in Peosta!

Optimist Clubs nationwide participate in the "Salute To America/Avenue of Flags" program. For an annual \$50 donation per flag, our Peosta Club members along with our partners, Western DBQ High School Band and Peosta Scout Troop 5, currently serve our community by placing over (600) flags in Peosta neighborhoods and businesses on (5) holidays: Memorial Day, Flag Day (June), 4th of July, Labor Day and Veteran's Day (Nov).

Proceeds go toward supporting our Peosta Club initiatives that serve all youth in Western DBQ County. We have hosted annual T-Ball Clinics, Basketball Clinics, Peosta Police Station tours, helped at Peosta Days and more! We're adding a Bike Rodeo in Spring of 2024!

We have donated annually to our local schools in Peosta, Epworth and Farley, including to (2) new local playgrounds, to our Peosta Police Department and to the Peosta Rec Centre.

You are invited to show your patriotism by subscribing to this program! Also consider getting involved in our mission. Click on the link below if you are interested in joining our Club or to subscribe to our Salute To America flag program! You can also text or call Mike Sullivan at 563-495-2262 for more information!

PHYSICAL DUBUQUE THERAPY

ORTHO • SPORT • SPECIALTIES • SPINE

The City of Peosta welcomes Dubuque Physical Therapy. A ribbon cutting took place on Monday, September 25th to celebrate the new location at 7462 Thunder Valley Suite C. Dubuque Physical Therapy opened in 1995 by Mel Harvey in the lower level of Dr Fields building in Dubuque. Jason Meyer bought Dubuque Physical Therapy in 2008 and expanded it to the location under Klauer Optical on Delhi Street in Dubuque. In 2015, the main clinic moved to its current location at 2300 JFK Road. The Delhi location closed in 2023 and has now moved to the new Peosta location.

The mission at Dubuque Physical Therapy is to help patients eliminate the aches and pains that keep them from being active and enjoying their lives. Dubuque Physical Therapy combines the latest technology and most effective techniques so that patients can feel like new again.

This clinic offers traditional physical therapy services along dry needling, cupping, manual therapy, vestibular therapy, and blood flow restriction. Dubuque Physical Therapy will also offer massage therapy and workers compensation services such as work conditioning/hardening and functional capacity evaluation.

Most insurance accepted and some do not require a physician order to be seen. Call your insurance company to see if you have this benefit to avoid waiting to see your doctor first. Call today to schedule your appointment at DPT!

563-582-4170

7462 Thunder Valley Suite C
Peosta, IA 52068

[Website](#)



Special Saturday Preschool Workshops

Come enjoy the fun with crafts, games, and much more!

Ages: 3–5-year-olds.

9:00am - 10:00am

October 28th- Halloween Spooktacular

November 18th- Kid's Cooking

December 16th- Santa's Workshop

[Sign up online today:](#)

Hours

October 1 - May 26

Monday-Thursday — 5:00am-9:00pm

Friday — 5:00am-8:00pm

Saturday-Sunday — 7:00am-7:00pm



Dubuque County Library PEOSTA / NICC BRANCH

8342 NICC Drive

Peosta, IA 52068

Phone | 563-556-5110 ext.2224

Email | library@dubcolib.lib.ia.us

Storytime

Join Ms. Teresa for reading, rhymes, and socialization. No registration required.

Mondays @ 9:30am October 9th, October 16th, and October 30th

Costume Swap

Looking to get rid of a gently used older costume and get a new one for this year? Drop in to swap out costumes with other families!

Wednesday, October 4 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Culture Club

Learn about countries all over the world! Try a snack, do a craft, learn a little language, and play games. October's country is Japan.

For K - 5th grade

Tuesday, October 17 @ 4:30pm - 5:30pm

Kids Craft Club

Join Miss Kayla for a craft club! September's craft is masquerade masks. For K - 5th grade

Thursday, October 19 @ 5:30pm - 6:00pm

Snack on Science: Bugs!

Learn about a science topic and do an edible experiment to go along with it. September's topic is cells. For kids K - 3rd grade.

Tuesday, October 24 @ 4:30pm - 5:30pm

(563) 556-8755

[City of Peosta Website](#)



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

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