

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2022 11:00 A.M.

The Board met in session at the Linn County Jean Oxley Public Service Center.
Present: Chairperson Rogers, Vice Chairperson Zumbach and Supervisor Walker. Board members voting "AYE" unless otherwise noted.

Chairperson Rogers called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: The following comments were made with regard to the proposed Ordinance amending Chapter 14 of the code of ordinances, Linn County, Iowa by adding thereto a new Article III pertaining to the prohibition within the unincorporated areas of the county of any efforts to change sexual orientation or gender identity with minors, including conversion and reparative therapy:

Rev. Gary Sneller, 829 74th St. NE, spoke in favor of the ordinance. In his opinion this ordinance is targeted, measured, reasonable, right and gave examples. He stated that it mirrors language in ordinances and executive orders passed by 24 states around the nation, the city of Davenport and 104 other jurisdictions in the United States. He also gave examples for groups that have condemned conversion therapy. He stated that he spent time with the Linn Mar spectrum student group at the CR Pride parade. This ordinance assures them that they don't have to pretend to be something other than who they are. He asked the Board to approve this ordinance and he hopes that other government bodies will follow suit.

Jo Pearson, 1210 Starry Dr., Marion, stated that she is disappointed to find that a policy is necessary in Linn County to criminalize conversion therapy for minors and stated that these therapies have been discredited by the medical community for decades. She added that there is evidence that conversion therapy increases the risk of causing or exacerbating mental health conditions in the very youth they purport to treat. Too many people do not have the most basic understanding of what it means to be transgender or gender nonconforming. She encouraged the Board to approve this ordinance and to consequently dignify the transgender and gender nonconforming neighbors with the respect they deserve in living their lives in their most authentic ways.

Mark Banowetz, 2188 Ivanhoe Rd., Ely, stated that he went through the ordinance which only applies to the unincorporated area of Linn County. He looked to find any agencies that would do counseling and could not come up with any sites. He stated that typically there is a petition for an ordinance to address an issue. He also asked about enforcement and what department would be policing it. Is there an arbitration board? Finally, he asked who will decide if a fine is levied or not.

Atty. Drew Powell, 95 All View Dr. SW and CR Pride board member, spoke in favor of the ordinance noting that conversion therapy is a dangerous practice and is widely discredited. Studies show that youth that went through conversion therapy were twice as likely to attempt suicide. It is a dangerous practice and needs to stop. This ordinance would have an immense symbolic impact and would show how welcoming LGBTQ people are to the community. This would be a good move to serve as an example for other municipalities and he encouraged the Board to approve.

Dani Kallas, 1870 26th St., Marion, stated that conversion therapy is far worse than sitting down and talking. She explained the complicated biology regarding genders and countless sexes and chromosome patterns (gender identify is a science, not a choice). With regard to conversion therapy, children are verbally abused and often raped in order to correct their homosexuality. By allowing people to put their children through conversion therapy opens up a lifetime of trauma and suicidal ideations.

Lindsey Ellickson, 1352 1st Ave. NE, stated that she is the parent of a kid who came out this year and luckily, they live in Cedar Rapids where people are mostly accepting. However, they are facing a lot of backlash and harassment. Her sole job as a parent is to protect her kid. No parent should be able to place their child into conversion therapy or harm their kid. The best practice is supporting kids when they come out and she favors banning conversion therapy.

Dr. Andrew Peterson, 6614 Cottage Hill Crt. NE, stated that he has dealt with a lot of people over the years on gender identity and these things have implications of what happens with kids. When conversion therapy came out the doctor admitted that it was terribly flawed. Dr. Peterson shared his personal experience of having a gay child and stated that his son came close to committing suicide. Conversion therapy magnifies the risk of what kids suffer. This is an appropriate ordinance to pass.

Anne Salamon, 2052 Eastern Blvd. SE, stated that she grew up the daughter of a psychiatrist and has two psychiatrist degrees. She shared her personal experience with her son who is now her daughter. It took months to come to terms that this is a gender identity issue. Conversion therapy tries to mold someone into something they are not and damages that person. She stated that this ordinance is putting into place what parents should be doing anyway.

Aime Wichtendahl, 101 Emmons St., Hiawatha, stated that she is a member of the Hiawatha City Council and is transgender. She thanked the Board for supporting this

measure and for introducing it to the county. She stated that it is important to all LGBTQ youth in the county to know that they are valued and loved. She explained her personal experience in expressing her identity. She supports this ordinance because it makes real what they already know.

Gloria Smally, 900 2nd St. SE, stated that this is personal to her on many levels and shared her gay brother's experiences. She also gave an example of a friend who was the son of a Baptist minister and was put into a conversion therapy camp and his experiences. She retired from the Linn Mar High School and the Spectrum Club was started while she was there. Conversion therapy should be banned everywhere and she applauds the Board for bringing this up and urged the passage.

Susan Benderson, 4141 Elk Horn Dr. CR, Vice Chair of the Linn County Stonewall Democrats, stated that she is speaking on behalf of more than 100 families and individuals that are in the LGBTQ community. She is in favor of the proposed amendment. She stated that conversion therapy is a range of dangerous and discredited practices and is rejected by every mainstream medical and mental health organization. Minors are especially vulnerable and are five times more likely to commit suicide. Conversion therapy should be a crime. She asked the Board to adopt the ordinance.

Mandy Blotner, 6508 Boxwood Ln. NE, stated that she is a sexual assault advocate and worked with clients that had conversion therapy. She stated that the trauma from conversion therapy will never be forgotten. She works with them to try to deal and cope with that. She personally has a child that came out and it has been a struggle within the community. She is advocating for the kids that do not have the support that her child has. She asked the Board to ban this horrible torturing practice.

Joe Stutler, 2647 29th Ave., Marion, stated that he is a disabled combat veteran and suffers from lasting effects of a traumatic brain injury that he received in the Gulf War. The Board should look at dealing with specific anxiety related issues such as DSM5 regarding phobia anxiety related issues. He asked the Board to look at the folks that are opposed to this issue because of their phobias. They need help too.

Clair Ammons, 926 Ashford Dr. NE, presented data related to research on gender dysphoria. Banning conversion therapy helps support the mental health wellbeing of the Trans youth. Additionally, even if conversion therapy is not in the unincorporated areas, it is symbolic and a valuable message.

Kat Power, 2030 Sunland Dr. SE, stated that she stands in support of a ban on conversion therapy; supports the LGBTQ students at Linn Mar school as a faculty advisor of the gay/straight alliance; supports all LGBTQ people and supports herself as she was born this way. She asked the Board to pass the ordinance and help protect the youth from abuse disguised as therapy.

Casey Pick, Atty. for the Trevor Project based in Washington DC, stated that the Trevor Project is the world's largest provider of suicide prevention and mental health services for the LGBTQ young people. They served over 1,200 from Iowa last year or 7% of the LGBTQ youth in Iowa that seriously consider suicide in Iowa. They are dedicated to seeing the end of conversion therapy. Statistics were provided regarding experiences with conversion therapy or threatened with conversion therapy.

Jordan Mix, 103 SW 3rd St in DM, Iowa Safe Schools, stated that they proposed this ordinance. Repeatedly research has shown conversion therapy does not work. Those victimized by conversion therapy (overwhelmingly youth) are at a higher risk of depression, anxiety and other mental health outcomes. Banning this mid-evil practice should be a no-brainer and she urged the Board to support this in order to protect the youth.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Walker to approve Consent Agenda as follows:

Resolution 2022-6-90

A Final Plat approving a final plat to be named Timber Creek Second Addition, case JF22-0014. The following description is a summary of Resolution No.2022-6-90 as passed and approved by Linn County Board of Supervisors, effective June 8, 2022. Timber Creek Second Addition (Case # JF22-0014) to Linn County, Iowa, containing two (2) lots, numbered lot 1 and lettered outlot A, a subdivision of real estate located in the SWSE of Section 24, Township 84 North, Range 8 West of the 5th P.M., Linn County, Iowa, described as follows: Lot 26, Timber Creek Addition in Linn County, Iowa.

The full text of the Resolution may be inspected in the Linn County Auditor's Office located at 935 Second Street SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or on the Linn County website at www.linncountyiowa.gov

Resolution 2022-6-91

A Resolution approving a Residential Parcel Split to be named Webster's Second Addition, case JPS22-0007. The following description is a summary of Resolution No.2022-6-91 as passed and approved by Linn County Board of Supervisors, effective June 8, 2022.

Webster's Second Addition (Case # JPS22-0007) to Linn County, Iowa, containing three (3) lots, numbered Lot 1, Lot 2, and lettered Lot A, a subdivision of real estate located in the SENE of Section 17, Township 86 North, Range 7 West of the 5th P.M., Linn County, Iowa, described as follows: A Subdivision of the Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 17, Township 86 North, Range 7 West of the 5th P.M., Linn County, Iowa. Subdivision contains 40.63 acres.

The full text of the Resolution may be inspected in the Linn County Auditor's Office located at 935 Second Street SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or on the Linn County website at www.linncountyiowa.gov.

Resolution 2022-6-92 A Resolution approving a Residential Parcel Split to be named Randall First Addition, case JPS21-0022. The following description is a summary of Resolution No.2022-6-92 as passed and approved by Linn County Board of Supervisors, effective June 8, 2022.

Randall First Addition (Case # JPS21-0022) to Linn County, Iowa, containing two (2) lots, numbered Lot 1, and lettered Lot A, a subdivision of real estate located in the SENE of Section 21, Township 84 North, Range 5 West of the 5th P.M., Linn County, Iowa, described as follows: Commencing as a point of reference at the E $\frac{1}{4}$ corner of said Section 21; thence N01°53'49"W along the east line of said SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, 322.99 feet to the Point of Beginning; thence S87°53'09"W, 396.00 feet; thence N03°08'41"W, 1010.15 feet; thence N87°53'04"E, 418.00 feet to said east line; thence S01°53'49"E along said east line, 1010.00 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 9.44 acres which includes 0.93 acres of road right of way.

The full text of the Resolution may be inspected in the Linn County Auditor's Office located at 935 Second Street SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or on the Linn County website at www.linncountyiowa.gov.

Resolution 2022-6-93 AUTHORIZE CONVEYANCE OF VACANT REAL PROPERTY

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors, Linn County, Iowa, is empowered under §331.361, Code of Iowa, to dispose of the interest of Linn County, in real property, and, WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors, Linn County, Iowa, has title in vacant real property described as: LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Hull's 3rd Out Lot C N 1' S 59' Lot 9 & N 1' S 59' W 24' Lot 10, Cedar Rapids, Linn County, Iowa.

Quit claim all that part of said property described as Hull's 3rd Out Lot C N 1' S 59' Lot 9 & N 1' S 59' W 24' Lot 10, Cedar Rapids, Linn County, Iowa .

Said area contains 0.002 acres more or less, subject to easement and restrictions of record, and WHEREAS, City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, owner of real property adjacent to the above described parcel desire to obtain whatever interest Linn County, Iowa may have in the above described parcel, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors, Linn County, Iowa, has pursuant to §331.361, Code of Iowa, conducted a public hearing upon the proposal to convey by gift through quit claim deed whatever interest Linn County, Iowa, may have in the above described parcel. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors, Linn County, Iowa, this date met in lawful session that whatever interest Linn County, Iowa, may have in the above described parcel shall be conveyed to City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, owner of real property adjacent to the above described parcel, by quit claim deed. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors, Linn County, Iowa, hereby authorize to execute said quit claim deed conveying whatever interest Linn County, Iowa, may have in the above described parcel to City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Resolution 2022-6-94 APPROVE QUIT CLAIM DEED

WHEREAS, there is presented to the Board of Supervisors, Linn County, Iowa, for its approval, a quit claim deed executed and acknowledged by Ben Rogers, Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors, Linn County, Iowa, and Joel D. Miller, County Auditor of Linn County, Iowa, conveying the interests of Linn County, Iowa, to City of Cedar Rapids, and

WHEREAS, said deed conveys the following real estate described as follows:

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Hull's 3rd Out Lot C N 1' S 59' Lot 9 & N 1' S 59' W 24' Lot 10, Cedar Rapids, Linn County, Iowa.

Said area contains 0.002 acres more or less, subject to easement and restrictions of record, and WHEREAS, said deed was executed by Ben Rogers, Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors, Linn County, Iowa, and Joel D. Miller, County Auditor of Linn County, Iowa, pursuant to resolution 2022-6-93 adopted by the Board of Supervisors, Linn

County, Iowa, on the 8th day of June, 2022. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors, Linn County, Iowa, this date met in lawful session, that the above described quit claim deed, dated the 8th day of June, 2022, conveying whatever interest Linn County, Iowa, may have, to City of Cedar Rapids, be and the same is hereby approved.

Approve and authorize Chair to sign a contract between the City of Cedar Rapids (CR Transit) and Linn County for FY23 ADA complementary transportation effective July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, in the amount of \$904,296.

Approve and authorize Chair to sign a contract with Iowa Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy to provide funding from Iowa Byrne Justice Assistance Grant to the Mental Health Access Center and sub-contractor, Foundation 2.

Approve and authorize Chair to sign an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Subaward Agreement between Linn County and the Kids First Law Center for Advocacy for Children of High-Conflict Divorce in the amount of \$20,000.00.

Approve and authorize Chair to sign an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Subaward Agreement between Linn County and the Kids First Law Center for Restorative Justice Prevents Youth Violence in the amount of \$100,000.00.

Approve and authorize Chair to sign a First Amendment to the Iowa Child Abuse Prevention Program (ICAPP)- Parent Development Services contract between the Linn County and the Department of Human Services extending from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

Approve and authorize Chair to sign a Quit Claim Deed to City of Cedar Rapids of Linn County, Iowa's interest in Hull's 3rd Out Lot C N 1' S 59' Lot 9 & N 1' S 59' W 24' Lot 10, Cedar Rapids, Linn County, Iowa by gift.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Walker to approve minutes of June 6, 2022 as printed.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Walker to approve Claims for AP checks #71007276 - #71007316 in the amt. of \$70,429.09 and AP ACH in the amt. of \$765,639.16 for a total of \$836,068.25.

Karen Heiderscheidt, Budget & Finance Sr. Accountant, asked the Board to set a public hearing on the proposed amended budget for June 29, 2022, at 11:00am.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Walker to set a public hearing on the proposed amended budget for June 29, 2022, at 11:00am.

Brent Oleson, Deputy Dir. of Policy & Comm. Relations, presented for second consideration, the ordinance amending Chapter 14 of the code of ordinances, Linn County, Iowa by adding thereto a new Article III pertaining to the prohibition within the unincorporated areas of the county of any efforts to change sexual orientation or gender identity with minors, including conversion and reparative therapy.

Chairperson Rogers stated that he has a profound sense of gratitude for those who shared their stories and the stories of their loved ones. This is maybe one of the most personal testimonies that he has had the privilege of witnessing for what this means to them and their loved ones. Linn County can become the 105th community in the nation to ban this type of therapy.

Supervisor Walker thanked everyone who shared his or her thoughts and personal stories. He also thanked the individuals that see things differently and brought their questions to the Board's attention. He clarified something that Supervisor Zumbach brought up on Monday regarding who brought this to his attention, and stated that it was Iowa Safe Schools and wanted to acknowledge that. He also stated that when this was first brought up, they had hoped that other municipalities would join them in this effort. Unfortunately, there was not a lot of interest in doing that. If this ordinance does pass, he hopes that it will inspire and encourage other governments in Linn County and at the state level. He noted that there are two experts on this subject matter that he would like to call upon.

Supervisor Zumbach stated that most everyone knows that he believes government should keep in their own lane for which they are elected. As County Supervisors, he does not believe that they can cherry pick what they decide for or don't decide for jurisdictions. This is well beyond that of a County Supervisor. He stated that nowhere in rural Linn County is this going on. He has the emails to put on file that started this last June by Damian Thompson in Des Moines. He will be voting no.

Supervisor Walker asked Dr. JoAnna Cartaya, Psychologist from Iowa City, that in her expert opinion, what is her assessment of conversation therapy.

Dr. Cartaya stated that practices such as conversion therapy or reparative therapy is under a class as sexual orientation change efforts or identify change practices. They do not legitimize these practices as a therapy and continued to give data from extensive research on the matter.

All major medical associations denounce and debunk these practices and added that any religious leader doing these therapies have no training in mental health. Ordinances like this are extremely important and stated that there is no state law that prohibits this type of therapy.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Walker to approve upon second consideration of an ordinance amending Chapter 14 of the code of ordinances, Linn County, Iowa by adding thereto a new Article III pertaining to the prohibition within the unincorporated areas of the county of any efforts to change sexual orientation or gender identity with minors, including conversion and reparative therapy.

Discussion:

Chairperson Walker asked Emily Blomme, Chief Exec. Officer of Foundation 2, if gender identify is a crisis that needs corrected.

Blomme stated that it is a crisis but not one that needs corrected. Foundation 2 has been providing crisis response and suicide prevention services in Linn County for over 50 years. They often have LGBTQ+ people coming to them in crisis trying to make sense of their life and trying to find support in their community. Often parents and others are not supportive of them. She explained in detail about individuals in the LGBQ community and suicide in general noting that every 45 seconds an LGBTQ+ youth attempts suicide.

VOTE: Rogers and Walker - Aye Zumbach - Nay

Chairperson Rogers acknowledged Michael Garner for his work in sustainability and congratulated him in his endeavors in South Carolina. Linn County was lucky to have him.

Supervisor Walker will forward several emails to the Auditor's Office regarding medical experts on the ordinance.

Adjournment at 12:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JOEL D. MILLER, Linn County Auditor
By: Rebecca Shoop, Deputy Auditor

Approved by:

BEN ROGERS, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors