

Study Session Meeting Minutes – September 24, 2018
Ivan “Ike” Ackerman Council Chambers

A Study Session Meeting of the Waverly City Council was held on September 24, 2018 at 7:00 P. M. at City Hall. Mayor Soash presided.

- A. Mayor Soash called the meeting to order.
- B. Roll Call
 - Council Members were present: Birgen, Kangas, McKenzie, Rathe, and Waldstein
 - Absent: Drenkow and Sherer
- C. Moved by Birgen, seconded by Waldstein to approve the agenda as presented.
Motion passed. Yes: 5 No: 0 Absent: 2
- D. Moved by Rathe, seconded by Birgen to approve the September 10, 2018 regular meeting minutes.
Motion passed. Yes: 5 No: 0 Absent: 2
- E. Presentation of Plaque.
 - Historic Preservation Commission Chairperson Don Meyer and members Karen Lehman and Peter Newell presented a National Historic Preservation Plaque. The City of Waverly was one of only three in the nation to receive this award. Council liaison for the commission, Brian Birgen, added that this is a very hard working, devoted group and thanked them for their time and devotion.
- F. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda
 - There were none. Mayor Soash recognized middle school student Paityn Kaune and her dad Mike for attending as part of a school project.
- G. Study Session Calendar.
 1. Leisure Services Commission Update.
 - Leisure Services Commission Chairperson Derek Solheim invited members of the public to join them for their monthly meetings every third Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Members of the Commission include: Derek Solheim, Randy Neuendorf, James Carver, Joel Johnson, Brian Pins, Tara Winter, Sharon Cashman, Brian Birgen as Council Liaison, and Tab Ray as Staff Liaison. Mr. Solheim highlighted five main areas of responsibility including: 1) Parks – Waverly now has over 16 parks that have amenities such as: disc golf, nature trails, play equipment, basketball courts, ball diamonds, skateboard park, fishing, open nature areas, a pool, mini-golf, etc. 2) Harlington Cemetery, 3) Swimming Pool, 4) Civic Center, and 5) the Trails/Forestry/Public Properties/Central Business District/ Right-of-Ways (ROW) are four other areas the commission advises. The golf course and pro shop have their own commission. One of the goals of the commission is “Making the Good Life, Better by providing safe, modern, well-maintained, and aesthetically pleasing environments for the community of today and tomorrow”. The commission tries to identify appropriate fees for certain activities, long range capital projects, and figure out ways to promote the activities to benefit the entire community. Mr. Solheim talked about a couple of the accomplishments of the commission. The South Riverside Park project has a lot of potential, and

citizen input is more than welcome for this project. The Leisure Services Foundation accounts are other accomplishments worth mentioning. The potential of Memorial Park will be looked at. They will continue to search for quality seasonal staff. The Emerald Ash Borer is a challenge that continues. This year it is expected that approximately 100 Ash trees will come down on public properties. The City staff is in need of a policy to encourage/incentivize our private property owners. While looking into the future, they see work on vegetation management, South Riverside Park redevelopment, Kohlmann Park Safety Surface project, HD cameras and sound system upgrade for the Council Chambers, Park and Open Space Plan update, trail signage, policy for private Ash Trees, and an increase in Foundation funds. A great amount of gratitude was given to Tab Ray and his staff for their hard work and dedication in keeping the quality of these areas high.

- Mayor and Council thanked Derek Solheim for his presentation and also thanked Tab and his crew while commenting that he has seen and heard nothing, but good comments regarding the mowing this year.

2. Fundraising Update from Champions Ridge Committee.

- Fred Ribich and Terry Hinrichs announced that the Champions Ridge Committee met the September 21st benchmark goal to raise \$500,000 for the project. The next goal is to have an additional \$250,000 raised by November 16th towards the end of the year goal of \$1million. “This has required to have all hands on deck for those associated with the project. They continue to develop leads in terms of potential gift donors and still have a number of them in the works.” The Bremer County Fair Association’s funds were also reviewed, although no one from the fair group was in attendance. It was reported that the fair is in very good financial shape and has raised an average of \$60,000 per year over the past five years. The two gentlemen informed Council that the Champions Ridge Committee generally meets every two weeks, but sometimes is stretched to three. The committee consists of three representatives from each of the ball diamonds and the fair groups, and then, there is one at-large person from the county. All of the pledges listed are cash. No in-kind pledges are listed. With fundraising, it is typical to see 75% of the pledges are made good. Mr. Hinrichs said that in his 27 years of fundraising he has experienced 98% of every pledge he has ever received has been paid. Mr. Ribich commented that once the first \$1million is raised, the committee is planning to pursue a State of Iowa Community and Attraction (C.A.T.) Grant which would require them to partner with the City in terms of an application. The grant could potentially double the million dollars. They will also continue to develop major donors and launch a broad-based public campaign. It is anticipated to begin construction in 2019; although, there won’t be any dirt moved until the financing is in place. The intention is to have the business plan ready for presentation by the December report timeline. The two additional quads of diamonds may take an additional 5 – 8 years to complete. Terry Hinrichs informed Council that \$505,814 has been raised in the last 90 days. Of that, \$170,764 is for the fair, \$287,550 is for the ball diamonds. Fred Ribich recognized the fact that the business plan is a very important part of moving forward. This is a County project not just a City

project. If people would like to find out more information regarding Champions Ridge, they can go to www.championsridge.org, email: info@championsridge.org or Terry Hinrichs directly at: terry.hinrichs@gmail.com or if telephone works better they can call Terry Hinrichs at: 641-425-5169.

- Council emphasized the importance of accelerating and keeping the momentum for the fundraising process and the completion a business plan. Council thanked the committee for coming before them without additional requests to the City. It was confirmed that they are not planning to ask for anything additional from the City with the exception of what was originally stated in the agreement. Concerns for sustainability were brought up in regards to continual maintenance, upkeep, and etc.

H. Reports from Boards and Commissions

1. Airport Commission Minutes; August 9, 2018; Received into record.

I. Staff Comments

- Leisure Services Director Tab Ray complimented the Oktoberfest Committee on a well-run event with family friendly activities, fireworks, and entertainment.

J. City Council Comments

- Councilmember Rathe agreed that the Oktoberfest was a lot of fun, the park looked great, and it was a lovely setting with good weather. It was great to have an activity that was geared for all ages.

- Councilmember Waldstein also agreed that Oktoberfest was a lot of fun and appreciated the intergeneration nature of it as well (at least until later in the evening).

- Staff informed Councilmember McKenzie that concrete will continue to be poured on Bremer Avenue until the project is complete. Mr. McKenzie also asked that the Strategic Planning document that was recently completed and received by the City be on a work session agenda.

- Councilmember Birgen was informed by staff that the repairing hole at 2nd Avenue NE and Cedar Lane will probably begin the week of the October 1 and will take 5 – 6 days to complete.

K. Mayor's Comments

- Mayor Soash also complimented the Oktoberfest Committee on a successful event and added that he heard feedback that the fireworks were the best they've ever seen.

L. Moved by Birgen, seconded by Kangas to adjourn. Motion passed and Council meeting adjourned at 8:02 P.M.

Yes: 5 No: 0 Absent: 2

Dean Soash, Mayor

ATTEST:

Carla Guyer, City Clerk