

Study Session Minutes – June 22, 2020
Ivan “Ike” Ackerman Council Chambers

A Study Session Meeting of the Waverly City Council was held on June 22, 2020 at 7:00 P. M. at City Hall. Mayor Hoffman presided.

The Governor of Iowa has declared a Public Emergency because of the COVID-19 outbreak. The Mayor has determined that an in-person meeting of the City Council is impossible or impractical without violating the Governor’s mandates.

When an in-person meeting is "impossible or impractical," Iowa Code Section 21.8 permits a governmental body to conduct a meeting by electronic means.

The meeting was conducted by video conference using ZOOM from the Council Chambers. The Mayor, City Attorney/Economic Development Director Bill Werger, and City Clerk Carla Guyer were in the Council Chambers. The 7 Council members were not in the chambers but participated via ZOOM conferencing.

Comments for items on the agenda could be made by submitting them prior to the meeting to the City Clerk, Mayor, or any of the Council members or by calling 319-596-0179 during the meeting.

The video/audio conference of the meeting was broadcast on the normal public access channels. Staff strived to maintain the quality of the video and audio during that broadcast. Public access was available through this broadcast.

Meeting minutes were kept and included a statement explaining why an in-person meeting was impossible or impractical.

A. Mayor Hoffman called the meeting to order.

B. Roll Call

- Present: Beaufore, Birgen, Drenkow, Glaser, Kangas, Rathe, and Schneider. Absent: None.
(Birgen arrived at 7:07 p.m.)

C. Moved by Rathe, seconded by Schneider to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion passed. Yes: 7 No: 0 Absent: 0

D. Study Session Calendar.

1. Municipal Housing Commission update

- Waverly Senior Housing Executive Director Rebecca Laas provided a review of the activities that have happened over the recent months. Ms. Laas shared actions taken during the Corona Virus Pandemic, the status of the new building at 426 Cedar Place, and a recently completed rent comparative study. This is completed every five (5) years, and they have not received the results of this study yet. Waverly Senior Housing can be contacted at: 320 15th Street NW or by calling: 319-352-3394.

2. Historic Preservation Commission update

- Historic Preservation Commission Chair Karen Lehmann shared recent events of the Commission. Ms. Lehmann talked about present and future membership; she shared that the Commission has been holding their monthly meetings via Zoom during the Corona Virus Pandemic. Three Commissioners attended the Annual Preservation Conferences this year and two attended last year. In 2018, the Commission won the national award. Lehmann wrote a publication for Alliance Review Magazine. In 2019, the Commission held an open house for current and past commissioners and those that live in the Historic Districts in Waverly. They hope to host an open house at the newly remodeled Farmers’ Exchange Building this year. They promoted a program they called “Hit the Streets” with the walking maps of the historic districts. Commission member Don Meyer produced a promotional video. The Historic Preservation Award goes to residential properties, generally. There is a list of criteria and a form to apply on the Commission’s website. There is also a historic registry that is posted in various places in town. There are maps of Waverly from 1868 available for \$10 each. They have also hired Spark Consulting to do a windshield drive-by survey of the Northeast section of Waverly to find out if that area would be eligible to become a historic district. It may qualify for either one large area or three smaller sections. They have worked with Wartburg College Marketing Class and were

able to get some ideas before the semester had to be cut short. For the future, they would like to explore the potential for another historic district, sell more poster maps, hold another forum, work on a historic signage, continue adding historic preservation award winners, continue working to promote the downtown district, and possibly a mural on the side of one the historic downtown buildings, and work on social media and online presence. Everyone is invited to visit the web site for Historic Preservation Commission. Thank you to the Commission for their hard work and dedication.

3. EMBRACE update

- EMBRACE committee members, La Toshia Burrell, Jean Schenkewitz, and Libby Fry gave a Power Point presentation to Council. This committee was formed as a product from the 2018 City's Strategic Planning session. After reviewing the history of how Embrace came about, they shared Embrace's main goal "to continue the conversation that leads to action in improving all facets of diversity, allowing for celebration amongst our communities". There four main concepts to focus on are: Education, Conversation, Action, and Celebration. Approximately, 350 people attended the first event May 11, 2019 at Kohlmann Park, and it was a rainy, cold day. There were several various booths. One of the booths allowed visitors to sign a pledge, EMBRACE THY Neighbor, created by the Wartburg College Diversity and Inclusion Committee. At this booth, there was also opportunity for volunteers to sign up and be a part of Embrace or learn more about it. The committee has held additional events such as: National Hispanic Heritage Month, Embrace Book Club, and other educational functions. They reviewed accounting for funds of the committee. Embrace has been a part of attending the peaceful protests that Sheri Nolte and Jes Nolte have pulled together and the vigils with Mark Newsome that St. Paul's Lutheran Church organized. They would like to continue their relationship with the library, donate books through individuals and partnerships, expand their diversity platform, grow the leadership team and volunteer staff, continue to host online and, eventually, in-person events to include an annual outdoor event, create educational packets, participation with small groups with focus on education of race and groups like LGBTQ and ability. Their goal is to increase awareness through use of language to begin to erase taboos around talking about topics so we can begin to learn and unlearn together as a community. The group also tries to Embrace truth through conversations. There is still a need and desire for diversity and more education. Embrace would like to take their issue a step further by having support and structure from City government. In order to become more established and grow in capacity, they asked for a commission to have representation from Council and/or staff, budget, and to be part of the City's agenda on a regular basis. The current committee is small, and they could see it starting slow and growing over time. They stated they were not looking to hand this off. They are looking to have a formal liaison to be in contact with regularly. It might be best to begin with a steering committee to put together a proposal and some sort of formal structure. It would be imperative to involve the Wartburg College (staff, faculty, or students). The City's growth requires acceptance of diversity. There was discussion on what needs to happen next as far as a committee being appointed. The Mayor said he would speak with City Administrator James Bronner and City Attorney Bill Werger on this topic.

4. Discussion of the term limits for the Municipal Airport Commission

- Councilmember Kris Glaser explained that this topic came to Council when it was learned that members of the Airport Commission may not serve more than two, full, five (5)-year terms. Glaser added that the Airport Commission is the only commission within the Municipal Code that has a term limit restriction. It is unknown why the Airport Commission has the term limitations. It would be prudent to review the term limits of all the Boards and Commissions. Eric Bagelmann mentioned that there are approximately 35 pilots in Waverly. Bagelmann shared that a paper they received showed that the airport commission began in June of 1992.

Glaser and Bagelmann both expressed that losing Dennis Hansen as a Commission member would not be good since Hansen has a lot of experience and wisdom that are very valuable to the commission. There is an application on the City's web page for those who are interested in a particular Board or Commission. It seemed to be the consensus of the Council that the Airport Commission should not be the only one with term limitations and a proposed amendment to the ordinance will be presented at the July 6, 2020 meeting.

5. Discussion on the Domestic Animals Disturbing the Peace section of the Municipal Code
 - Those that do not follow this Code section will be charged for a simple misdemeanor. Officers use discretion when responding to these calls. Since there aren't a lot of frequent and habitual offenders of this Code, the consensus of Council was to leave the Code the way it is.
6. Discussion of Capital Improvement Planning vs Strategic Planning
 - This was discussed at budget work sessions in January & February. Staff is looking for direction on whether to have a full community involved strategic planning session or to have a smaller capital planning session. After some discussion, Council consensus was to hold a more extensive strategic planning session every five (5) years and have a capital planning session each year in the fall with a smaller strategic planning included to review progress of the formal strategic planning session.
7. Discussion of the future of the 3rd Street SE Bridge
 - City Administrator James Bronner reviewed that it would cost an estimated \$175,000 - \$200,000 to completely remove the 3rd Street SE Bridge. In order to move a span to the park and remove the rest of the bridge, there would be an estimated cost of \$230,000 - \$255,000. The Army Corps of Engineers need to be contacted, and they need to complete a hazard mitigation process. Corps permitting can take anywhere from 2 – 4 weeks, and it can take 4 – 6 months to go through the hazard mitigation process. After those steps are completed, the bridge can begin to be removed, and it is predicted to be in March as an estimated time frame. The optimal time to remove it is during the winter months when river levels are more stable. The best forecasted scenario would be that it would be removed next spring. If the bridge was not removed and nothing is done, the bridge could, conservatively, last about ten (10) years to twenty (20) years, unless a large flood would occur. To eliminate the dip in 7th Avenue SE it would cost anywhere from a few hundred thousand dollars to 1½ million dollars. There is still a reason for having a replacement vehicle bridge in that location. The Historic Preservation Commission is in favor of memorializing the bridge in some way. Past Mayor Dean Soash reviewed the history of the bridge, he added that the City purchased a property to use for staging for construction of a new bridge. Soash also spoke of response times. It was mentioned that the \$1 million grant has held the bridge hostage over the years. The City has already levied for a bridge replacement. Leaving the bridge stand affects flooding impacts for 100 – 200 yards upstream. Discussion continued whether spending money to move spans for a memorial was a good use of fund or not. Staff was given direction to bring an agenda item to have a formal vote to remove the bridge and have a vote on a professional services agreement also for the removal of the bridge.

E. Reports from Boards and Commissions

1. Airport Commission Minutes; March 12, 2020; Received into record.

F. Staff Updates

- Leisure Services Director shared that there was a nice turn out present at the groundbreaking ceremony for the ball diamonds.

G. City Council Comments

- Councilmember Glaser thanked those executing a plan to bring something great to this City.
- Councilmember Beaufore thanked staff for their work and answering her questions.
- Councilmember Birgen thanked La Toshia Burrell for participating as Guest Council for the month of June and for work on peaceful demonstrations.

- Councilmember Kangas also thanked Ms. Burrell for all that she does in the City and thanked Garret for the work he did on the groundbreaking for the ball diamonds.
- Guest Councilmember La Toshia Burrell thanked Councilmember Drenkow for the invitation to participate as Guest Council, and she asked for continued support within this community and for Embrace.

H. Mayor's Comments

- Mayor Hoffman reviewed times that it is legal to use fireworks during and around the 4th of July Holiday.

I. Moved by Kangas, seconded by Birgen to adjourn. Motion passed and Council adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Motion passed. Yes: 7 No: 0 Absent: 0



Adam P. Hoffman, Mayor

ATTEST:



Carla Guyer, City Clerk