

Study Session Minutes – November 23, 2020
Ivan “Ike” Ackerman Council Chambers

A Study Session Meeting of the Waverly City Council was held on November 23, 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 Adam Hoffman 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 broadcasted 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. Present: Beaufore, Birgen, Drenkow, Glaser, Kangas, Rathe, and Schneider Absent: None
- C. Moved by Birgen, seconded by Drenkow to approve the Agenda as presented.

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

D. Study Session Calendar.

- 1. Airport Commission update
Airport Commission Chairperson Dennis Hansen reviewed a PowerPoint presentation with Council. The Airport Commission meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at the Waverly Municipal Airport. The current Commission members include: Dennis Hansen as Chair, Mike Sherer, Eric Bagelmann, Jane Wollenzien, and Lee Hinrichs. The Council Liaison is Kris Glaser, and the City Staff Liaison is Mike Cherry, Director of Public Works. Mr. Hansen reviewed the General Duties and Powers of the Commission: maintain the airport, budget for the airport, plan for the airport, and promote the airport. Over the last 10 to 12 years, the amount the City has to subsidize for the airport funds has decreased to about \$.02 per \$1,000.00 of taxable valuation of real estate. The Airport Manager is Waverly Air Services and the Fixed-Based Operator is Swieter Aircraft Services both owned by Irvin Swieter. Swieter Aircraft Services also provides aircraft maintenance, plus one other mechanic. Clinton Swieter runs the one of the few within the state avionics department where they can put in a whole new avionics panel if you want them to. Barb Swieter manages the office area. Hansen explained that the aircraft operations involves the business traffic that comes in, flight training, aircraft for rent, agricultural traffic for spraying crops, and also recreational uses for individual flying. The National Air Guard uses the Waverly Municipal Airport to practice certain maneuvers. Since they sell fuel 24/7 now, the AirCare Ambulance helicopter will often times purchase fuel at the Waverly airport in order to fly in and out of the Waverly Health Center. The Commission sponsors a Young Eagles Flight ½ day program. Each July, the Lions Club holds a Fly-in Pancake Breakfast with the exception of this past year, due to Covid-19. Mr. Hansen reviewed past projects since 2011. In general, Covid-19 has brought aviation traffic count numbers down. There are less people flying for business. Fuel sales are also down. The mechanics shop is busier than ever with repairs, maintenance, and avionic installations. Numbers are better now than in April or May of this year. Dennis Hansen reviewed services in more detail. A pilot could go and have an annual service check done to their aircraft, major overhauls on engines or

retractable gears, body work, and interior work. They have aircraft rental, instructors available to give lessons, plane storage, and a courtesy car. There are events in Waverly that people fly-in for such as for Wartburg events and the horse sales. It will be exciting to see if the airport will see some larger, charter aircrafts flying into the airport once the 3,200 feet runway is published with the FAA. The Young Eagles Flight Program and instructors are available for an hourly fee. The pilots are enjoying the extra 400 feet for taking off and landing purposes. The FAA visited in order to take photos of the approaches so that there could possibly be some upgraded approaches for both runways (29 and 11). Currently, there is a "circle to land" approach of about 600 feet for coming out of the clouds, which is a little high. The new approaches will be GPS with glide-scope approaches which will bring that down to about 250 feet. The 3% glide path will still be applicable. This will give better access to the airport during inclement weather. Hansen reviewed proposed projects for the next 3 to 5 years. The airport obtains approximately \$150,000 per year from the FAA that can accumulate. Other projects may be submitted as separate funding requests on a 90/10 basis. State funding can also be applied for at times for certain projects. The City's 10% would be covered under a capital improvement project fund. Thank you to Swieters for a doing a great job as Fixed Based Operator and Airport Managers. Airport Commission is also doing a great job. Council thanked Mr. Hansen for presenting.

E. Regular Business

1. Moved by Drenkow, seconded by Birgen to approve Resolution 20-179, a Resolution in support of Governor Reynold's proclamation regarding COVID-19 dated November 16, 2020.

Moved by Drenkow, seconded by Rathe to amend Resolution 20-179 by removing the second, third, fourth, and fifth "Whereas" paragraphs and by inserting a "s" at the end of the word "proclamation" in opening paragraph and in the "NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED" paragraph.

Moved by Drenkow, seconded by Rathe to amend Resolution 20-179 a second time; to change the word "requested" in the "NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED" to the word "encouraged".

Moved by Drenkow, seconded by Rathe to amend Resolution 20-179 a third time by removing the words, "dated November 16, 2020" in the opening paragraph.

Moved by Rathe, seconded by Birgen to call the question on the amended Resolution 20-179.

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

The Resolution amendments were then voted on.

Motion passed. Yes: 6 No: 1 (Birgen) Absent: 0

The original motion with the amended Resolution 20-179 was then voted on to approve Resolution 20-179, a Resolution in support of Governor's Reynold's proclamations regarding COVID-19.

Motion passed. Yes: 5 No: 2 (Beaufore, Schneider) Absent: 0

- Councilmember Drenkow explained that this Resolution is to raise awareness for the steps that can be taken in an effort to keep the number of COVID-19 cases down, keep the hospitals from overflowing, and to support and understand the Governor's proclamations. Councilmember Schneider commented that he cannot at all be supportive of the Governor's proclamation. Councilmember Rathe expressed that she agrees with Councilmember Drenkow. She added that COVID-19 is a major problem right now, especially in Bremer County. Waverly Health Center is managing with the census being down a little bit since 11-22-20 but last week, the hospital was full and area ICU's are filling up, if not full. Rathe commented that local people have died from this illness, and it is a serious problem. It needs to be expressed that people wash their hands, distance from others, wear mask when in public, do not gather in large groups, and use hand sanitizer. Councilmember Beaufore remarked that she feels public health should have more of a presence, and they were suppressed early on because of their transparency. Beaufore

added that she would like to hear from Bremer County Public Health on education, prevention, and mitigation strategies. An invitation to a City Council meeting was declined in April due to Bremer County Public Health being busy. Lindley Sharp of the Bremer County Public Health did share that people need to focus on prevention by social distancing, do not gather in large groups, wash hands frequently, cover coughs, and stay home when ill (even when mildly ill). There are continual, new proclamations. Councilmember Schneider voiced that this Resolution is to show that the City Council is doing something and that we are in agreement with the governor. He commented that there is evidence that the COVID actions don't do anything. He mentioned numbers in other States such as a freer State like South Dakota are a little worse and that heavy lock down states like Illinois and Wisconsin have worse numbers. Councilmember Beaufore shared concern for the businesses in Waverly. She added that there is a more recent proclamation from the Governor that restricts more than what is on the November 16th proclamation. Councilmember Birgen noted that States that have less restrictive policies for COVID-19 are having more cases per thousand than other States. He also spoke of economic impact being positively affected by people wearing masks within each business establishment. Councilmember Beaufore expressed that she could see both ways if people wear masks or do not wear masks. She commented that she didn't feel COVID-19 numbers should be put in the Resolution and the words, "dangerous disease" should be changed to COVID-19. Councilmember Rathe noted that COVID-19 is a dangerous disease. Councilmember Schneider commented that he thinks the policy for the City should be the same as the CDC policies. Councilmember Kangas brought up concerns for enforcement, 1st Amendment and the right to assemble. He could fully get behind Council recommending people to wear face masks, etc. rather than to mandate or dictate it. Businesses have the option to put their own restrictions into place. Councilmember Drenkow pointed out that the Resolution does not mandate people to wear masks. The Resolution requests the compliance of the Governor's proclamation. This is an effort to make the public know that their City Government is concerned about them, and we want them to do, at a minimum, what the Governor is asking them to do. This Resolution is different than the City is already doing with requiring that masks be worn within all public buildings. City Clerk Carla Guyer confirmed for Councilmember Schneider that the Resolution, being regular business, is appropriate and proper procedure. Councilmember Rathe noted that during discussion at the November 16th meeting it was discussed by two or three Councilmembers that they would like this on the agenda for this day. Councilmember Birgen noted that it was Drenkow, Rathe, and Birgen that expressed interest in having this item on this agenda. Rathe commented that there is confusion stemming from varying messages between Federal, State and Local governments. Councilmember Birgen commented that a mask mandate could give local businesses political cover while trying to avoid backlash from consumers when enforcing their own mask mandate.

F. Staff Updates

- There were none.

G. City Council Comments

- Councilmember Birgen recognized Matthew Letsche and Isaac Birgen of Troop 69 for passing their Eagle Scout Board of Review and obtaining their recent Eagle Scout status.
- Councilmember Glaser commented that 4th Street Reconstruction turned out very nice.
- Councilmember Schneider expressed that he is concerned for the hunger that is spread worldwide and seems much worse since the start of the Coronavirus.
- Councilmember Beaufore recognized the healthcare providers from the respiratory therapists, radiology, lab technicians. She added that she hopes everyone is safe if they venture out for the Thanksgiving holiday. She mentioned that the military troops need help and asked that everyone just do their part.

- Councilmember Kangas reminded everyone to support local for Small Business Saturday. Kangas also shared that he hopes everyone will reach out, support, and be there for people that are experiencing rough times.
- Guest Councilmember Blake Yanda thanked Council for the opportunity to participate as guest council.

H. Mayor's Comments

- Mayor Hoffman noted that at the beginning of the year there will be openings for some of the Boards and Commissions. If interested in serving on one, please go online to <http://www.waverlyia.com/city-information/boards-commissions/default.aspx> and fill out an application for the respective Board or Commission.
- 1859 Ventures, LLC has created a Facebook page for the formerly known as Red Fox Inn.
- Thank you to all who participated in putting upcoming holiday decorations up.
- City trash collection will be different due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. Thursday trash will be picked up on Wednesday and Friday trash will be picked up on Monday. Happy Thanksgiving.

I. Moved by Kangas, seconded by Schneider to adjourn. Motion passed and Council meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Yes: 7 No: 0 Absent: 0



Adam P. Hoffman, Mayor

ATTEST:


Carla Guyer, City Clerk