

Study Session Minutes – February 22, 2021
Ivan “Ike” Ackerman Council Chambers

A Study Session Meeting of the Waverly City Council was held on February 22, 2021 at 7:00 P. M. at City Hall. Mayor Hoffman presided.

The Mayor and Council have determined that an in-person meeting of the City Council is impossible or impractical due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 will be conducted by video conference using ZOOM from the Council Chambers. The City Clerk was in the Council Chambers. The Mayor and seven (7) Council members were not in the chambers, but participated via ZOOM conferencing.

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

Comments for items that are on the agenda were allowed 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.

Meeting minutes were still 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 Glaser, seconded by Drenkow to approve the agenda as presented.

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

D. Community Highlight

1. Recognition of Waverly-Shell Rock High School Girls Wrestling Team 2021 State Championship.

- Mayor and Council recognized and congratulated the Waverly-Shell Rock Girls Wrestling team for winning the State Championship for the third year in a row. Team members included: Eva Heise, Eva Diaz, Brinley Meier, Avery Meier, Annika Behrends, Maria Cooper, Alexis Johnson, Macy Smith, Kailey Hervol, McKenzie Weidler, Marley Hagarty, Haiden Snyder, Kysa Klein, Addie Juhl, Madison Diaz, Karissa Oldenberger, Lauren Seegers, Nicole Miller-Cummings, Gayle Robinson, Emma Seward, Madison Henrichs, and Emma Jones. Managers: Landri Burgart, Carly Steiert Kelsie Wosepka, Kaelei Tellinghuisen, Ella Mason, Halie Geerts, Mia Wagoner, Madison Oelmann. Head Coach, Eric Whitcome; Co-Head Coach, Josh Meier; Assistant Coaches, Alino Djoumessi and Jacey Meier; Volunteer Coaches, Rusty Hagary and Andrew Snyder.

- It was expressed that it is great to see the growth in the team size, and it is great to see that there is a girls wrestling option.

E. Acknowledgment of Appreciation

1. Mayor and Council recognizes former Commission members for their service on Boards and Commissions.

- Mayor and Council recognized former Commission members for their service on Boards and Commissions and expressed their appreciation for taking an active role in the community. Council also thanked the families for sharing their time with their loved one(s).

Brittney Diercks, Economic Development Commission 2017-2021

Lance Gritters, Planning & Zoning Commission 2017-2020

Linda Hovden, Historic Preservation Commission 2017-2020

Linda Schrage, Cable Commission 2010-2020

Liz Wuertz, Leisure Services Commission 2020-2021

Mark Hanawalt, Economic Development Commission 2014-2021

Mary Ventullo, Historic Preservation Commission 2020

Paula Stevenson, Economic Development Commission 2017-2021

Peter Newell, Historic Preservation Commission 2014-2020
Sharon Abram, Golf Course Commission 2011-2021
Toshia Burrell, Leisure Services Commission 2019-2020

- Council also mentioned that if someone is interested in being a guest council member or just want to find out more information about it, they should notify one of the Councilmembers or City Clerk Carla Guyer.

F. Study Session Calendar.

1. Municipal Housing Commission update

- Waverly Senior Housing Director Rebecca Laas reported to Council that the senior housing has not had problems with COVID-19 and thanked the Bremer County Health Department and Clayton Drug out of Sumner for administering vaccinations to 68 residents and some of the staff on February 11, 2021. The commission members are: Ron Stahlberg, Kathy McClung, Doug Bowman, Peggy Rathe, and Clark Wilharm. There are 4 apartments in the Red Cedar Apartment House that are rented with one more that will be full soon. They were happy that all the furnaces kept working during all the extreme winter temperatures. The main task for the past year that the Housing Commission worked on this year was the classifications and pay plans for all employees of the Waverly Housing Authority. Waverly Homes opened in 1970, and currently, has full capacity. The Waverly Manor is a three-story building that opened in 1980, and there are some openings there.

- Waverly Senior Housing did not institute any specific policies that were key in helping to keep COVID-19 issues at a minimum. There were no visitation policies; however, it was very strongly recommended that people wear masks. They have not allowed activities since mid-March of 2020. They did not allow any large gatherings and removed certain chairs in order to distance people. Karen Schneider received kudos for the quality of the Waverly Homes website.

2. Review the Historic Preservation 2020 Certified Local Government Annual Report

- Community Development Specialist Isaac Pezley reviewed the Waverly Historic Preservation 2020 Certified Local Government Annual Report with Council. Mr. Pezley shared that there were two new members appointed this year. There were two new members appointed in 2020 Darious Robinson and Justin Schedtler. Mary Ventullo was a short-term member. Pezley reviewed each portion of the report highlighting specific areas of awards presented to residential owners for historic restoration, events, and challenges such as COVID-19. Pezley shared that the northeast historic district is put on hold since there is not enough funding to complete the requirements to be placed on the historic registry. Council thanked Mr. Pezley for putting all the information together and completing the report.

3. Discussion of Downtown Parking

- City Administrator James W. Bronner explained that this was brought to Council in response to a Council request after receiving a complaint from a downtown resident and to discuss what it is that Council is looking for. Most of the parking tickets that are given are due to snow events and people not moving vehicles out of the way so public works can plow the lots. The complaint was received by someone using a City downtown parking lot. It is reasonable to ask people to move their vehicle once it is done snowing to a place that has already been plowed so that the rest of the spaces can be plowed. The City owned downtown parking lots are mostly 24-hour parking. The only place that vehicles are required to be moved during a snow event is on designated snow routes. Otherwise, parking is allowed for 48-hours on public roadways, unless designated as no parking zones, and 24-hours in City owned parking lots. There have been many different snow removal policies looked at and tried. The Waverly Municipal Code states that parking is limited to 24-hours within a City owned parking lot. It seems to be more evident after a snow event. Police Chief Richard Pursell stated that most other parking tickets are complaint driven. There was a concern expressed regarding inconsistency of when people

would or would not receive a ticket. Parking tickets should not be the police department's focus. 2-hour parking near the high school is enforced. The posted signs should be enough for people to know what the parking restrictions are when they park their vehicle. Does the City Council want to discourage people from living in the downtown residential buildings? What message does the City Council want to send? The only residents that have designated parking downtown are the people that live in "The Big Six" buildings. That was part of the original agreement when "The Big Six" began since there was no parking available behind that building. These people do not have to move their vehicles. It is not unusual for people in cities to have to move their vehicles; however, it is unusual for people to get free parking in downtown areas. Some developments have gone to limiting how many vehicles people can park. There is plenty of room to move vehicles around. There are a lot of parking spaces downtown; people can make a choice to walk a couple of blocks. No matter what is done, there will always be someone unhappy.

4. Discussion of Special Election vs Appointment for the upcoming Ward 2 vacancy
 - Iowa Law gives the City Council authority to fill a vacancy by appointment until the next available election. That seems like too much power being given to the Council. If there is only one person expressing interest in filling the vacancy, an appointment is fine. If there is an appointment made, the citizens may still petition for a special election. A special election would cost the City approximately \$2,000.00 and the same for a run-off election. It is important that the people of the ward make the decision, if there is more than one choice. Ranked voting was looked into, and it is not permitted within the State of Iowa. In the past, it seems like there was a set date for interested parties to let Council know that they were interested. If there were more than one person interested, it would go to a special election. If only one person was interested, there would be an appointment. This is how the consensus agreed to move forward.

G. Reports from Boards and Commissions

1. Economic Development Commission Minutes; December 8, 2020; Received into record.
2. Planning and Zoning Commission Minutes; January 7, 2021; Received into record.
3. Golf Commission Minutes; January 12, 2021; Received into record.
4. Airport Commission Minutes; January 14, 2021; Received into record.

H. Staff Updates

- Leisure Services Director Garret Riordan and his friends Bryson and Brinley Todd announced that the Waverly Area Partnership for Healthy Living (WAPHL) has won \$5,000.00 from the Healthy Home Town Powered by Wellmark award for the second year in a row. Last year, the money was used towards the mural on the west wall of The Mixing Bowl bakery. It has not been determined yet what the award will be used for this year.

I. City Council Comments

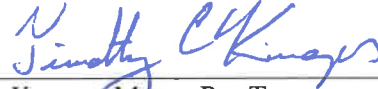
- Councilmember Birgen mentioned that his family has adopted a dog from the Cedar Bend Humane Society. Birgen mentioned that the dog park is a great place to take a dog.
- Councilmember Rathe announced that the Waverly Senior Center's 506 Café will be having an Irish lunch on March 2nd from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. You can call 319-352-5678 for curbside pickup. The cost is \$10, and there will be an Irish menu. Rathe also noted that the Heritage Days Committee is selling raffle tickets for \$10 for a chance to win a \$300 dollar shopping spree at Fareway. The winner will get 3 minutes to fill a cart with as many groceries as they can. (Some exclusions apply.)
- Councilmember Schneider commented on snow removal efficiency. He also mentioned that his son, Ben Schneider, is currently working hard practicing for the talent show. He writes his own songs and plays many instruments. He has a song on Spotify called Ghost Boy.
- Councilmember Kangas mentioned that folks should support local and celebrate today for National Margarita Day. Kangas also reminded voters that the Waverly-Shell Rock School vote is coming up on March 2nd so please get out there and vote.

J. Mayor's Comments

- Mayor Hoffman echoed Kangas regarding the important school bond vote that is coming up and encouraged people to engage in civil dialogue over the matter.

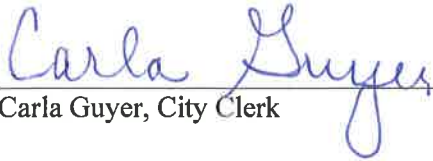
K. Moved by Kangas, seconded by Birgen to adjourn. Motion passed and the Council meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Yes: 7 No: 0 Absent: 0



Tim Kangas, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:



Carla Guyer, City Clerk