

Study Session Meeting Minutes

July 28, 2003 ~ 7:00 p.m.

A. **CALL TO ORDER.**

A Study Session of the Waverly City Council was held on July 28, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Ackerman presided. Council members present were: Patsy Reed, Mel Kramer, Gary Grace, Cyndi Ecker, Gary Boorum, Fred Ribich and Darrel Steege. Absent: None

1. **Approve Agenda as Printed or Add Items for Discussion Only.**

Moved By: Ribich

Seconded By: Kramer

That the agenda for this Council Meeting as prepared is hereby approved.

Yes: 7

No: 0

Absent: 0

B. **PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

C. **TABLED ITEMS.**

D. **REGULAR BUSINESS.**

1. **Resolution 03-74, a Resolution Approving an Easement Agreement with Gaylen Hassman.**

Moved By: Grace

Seconded By: Ecker

Resolution 03-74, a Resolution Approving an Easement Agreement with Gaylen Hassman is hereby approved.

Yes: 7

No: 0

Absent: 0

E. **STUDY SESSION.**

1. **Report from Task Force on 3rd Street SE Bridge.**

Mayor Ackerman read an e-mail from a citizen asking why another task force was making a recommendation on the Bridge when the Green Bridge Task Force had already done so. The Citizen Force, headed by Phyllis Roelfs, was present to review their report on the 3rd Street SE Bridge. Ms. Roelfs stated that southeast citizens did not feel proper investigation or consideration was given to some of the very important issues including community support, historical significance, traffic and safety concerns and future flooding. The citizens group submitted a 700+ signature petition and conducted a Southeast Waverly residential survey. The survey was distributed to 350 homes and 134 surveys were returned. The opinion of 63% said traffic on 7th Avenue SE and 3rd Street SE has increased in recent years, and 48% believe that speed was a problem. Kate Payne of the Historical Preservation Commission also informed the Council that the historic significance of the bridge may have changed since a 1990 survey due to a number of existing truss bridges. Ms. Payne also stated that the bridge was a connector of neighborhoods and an "icon of the town". A letter sent from the Historic Bridge Foundation supports preservation and fix of the current structure. Ms. Roelfs discussed debris

under the bridge during the '99 flood and wing walls on a proposed new bridge. She is concerned with the extension into the streets affecting access to existing driveways and alleys and possibly dam the flow of water and increase local water levels. The proposed south ground abutment of the bridge sticks out into the flow way of the river and causes a huge back-wash eddy during flooding. The City conducted a survey and registered 177 cars per hour that travel over the bridge. Speeds in excess of 15 m.p.h. cause wear and tear on bridge due to the sudden auto impact at the entrance of the bridge. The green bridge has a low sufficiency rating due to its single lane, load capacity, clearance and the needed repairs. Federal HBRR funding program is to assist cities in bringing low sufficiency rated bridges to a desired rating. Butch Kehe reviewed that addressing corrosion of the abutment bearings and stringers would cost approximately \$83,000 for repair. Mr. Kehe also proposed construction of a new bridge beginning at 8th Street SE at the northeast edge of the soccer complex and crossing the river northeast to tie into 12th Street SE below the bike path at a cost of \$1,779,437. HBRR would provide \$1 million and the City share would be \$800,000. The 10th Avenue bridge alignment would cost approximately \$6,000,000. City Engineer Cherry stated that the application involves reviewing hydrology, identifying right-of-ways and easements, and following federal acquisition guidelines. Discussion followed on the use of federal money for a new bridge in a different location and keeping the existing 3rd Street Bridge open without DOT recognition. City Engineer Cherry cautioned the Council on taking the 3rd Street Bridge off the DOT books and then keeping it open. Discussion followed on cost of noise control. The DOT would not likely fund the repair of the existing bridge, therefore use approximately \$150,000 of City money to repair the existing facility. The City could also sign the agreement for the new bridge at 3rd Street SE and would likely lose future funding when a new, more expensive crossing is developed. Also the City could replace the 3rd Street Bridge in a new location but plans would have to be developed and the DOT expects immediate action on this project. Administrator Crayne informed the Council that Clean Air Act funding was available for bridge replacement in a new location but cautioned the Council to consider good routes and good access to a new bridge. City Engineer Cherry also informed the Council that ICAP funding is available with an application deadline of October 1. Council also discussed 10th Avenue SE and bridge crossing and access for the soccer complex. Members of the audience voiced their concerns with access so far out of town and the impact to downtown area. Concerns were raised with Mr. Kehe's proposed 12th Street route. Members of the audience questioned staff as to how long the bridge will last. The City has just undertaken bridge inspection and the next inspection is in 2005. Ms. Payne stated that the bridge is not currently on the National Registry but may be eligible. Once nomination is completed, the City could pursue state and federal grants but the process may take some time. The

Historic Bridge Foundation urges the City to reconsider and preserve the 3rd Street Bridge. Ms. Payne urged the Council to preserve the small town atmosphere and character of the neighborhood.

F. **BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.**

1. Boards and Commissions.
2. Reports.
3. Communications.

Mayor Ackerman viewed an e-mail from a citizen congratulating all staff and volunteers on the successful Vietnam Wall weekend.

The Council thanked Sally Schneider for her service as Guest Councilperson. Mrs. Schneider thanked the staff and Council for moving forward with the Kohlmann Park Project.

After discussion, staff will bring drainage concerns to Council for prioritization and summary of current obligations at a future study session.

Council thanked Parks & Recreation staff for their work on Downtown Wonderful Wednesday's.

G. **ADJOURNMENT.**

Moved By: Boorum

Seconded By: Ribich

That the City Council Meeting be adjourned.

Yes: 7

No: 0

Absent: 0

Council adjourned at 9:15 P. M.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk