

**COUNCIL MEETING
STUDY SESSION
October 27, 2003 ~ 7:00 P.M.**

A. CALL TO ORDER.

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

Moved By: Kramer

Seconded By: Ecker

That the agenda for this Council Meeting as prepared is hereby approved as modified by removing Item 1 under Regular Business.

Yes: 7

No: 0

Absent: 0

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS.

1. This was the date, time and place for a Public Hearing on a proposal to consider the preparation of an ordinance restricting burning in the City of Waverly. Councilmember Ecker read a letter from Gayle Dunn supporting an all-out burn ban because of the illicit burning in Northwest Waverly. Lake Lambert and Jack Dahlby were present to support burning restrictions. Scott Whitcome and Dan Brown both requested that Council consider reasonable options regarding burning restrictions. Lavern Andreasen and Lois Hurley voiced their concerns with burning enforcement issues and prairie grasses.

Gary Bixler stated that most neighbors will cooperate with each other and disagreed that leaf burning was abused. Mel Schulz questioned whether recreational and fireplace burning would be allowed. Don Freeman asked the Council to appoint a planning committee to focus on reasonable solutions to burning restrictions. Duane Liddle questioned whether burning abuse would fall under nuisance abatement. Gayle Dunn and Roger Metzger voiced concerns with garbage and toxic waste burning. Eldon Crandall asked if the City had investigated composting benefits. Staff stated that trash burning was illegal and voiced their concerns with 55-gallon drums within the City limits. Staff informed members of the audience that enforcement of the nuisance ordinance is complaint driven. Discussion followed on curbside leaf collection. Council will appoint a 9-member committee comprised of seven Council appointed members along with two Councilmembers to study burning options and restrictions and to amend the current City code regarding elimination of 55-gallon drums.

Moved By: Steege

Seconded By: Ecker

A 7-member task force appointed by Council, approved by the Mayor and with two members of the Council included brought together to study and make recommendations regarding burning restrictions in the City of Waverly with a year end completion date is hereby approved.

Yes: 7

No: 0

Absent: 0

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

- Parks & Recreation Director Ray informed Duane Liddle that the Parks & Recreation Commission is in the process of creating a Master Plan and plans to meet with Bremer County Fair Board regarding the Kohlmann Log Cabin.
- Butch Tillison voiced his concerns with statements made regarding Hotel/Motel Tax and future funding constraints.

D. TABLED ITEMS.

E. REGULAR BUSINESS.

1. **Review of Housing Rehab Application.**

Withdrawn until November 3rd Council Meeting.

2. **Mayoral Appointments.**

Moved By: Grace

Seconded By: Kramer

The Appointment of Chuck Brittain to the Parks & Recreation Commission is hereby approved.

Yes: 7

No: 0

Absent: 0

F. **STUDY SESSION.**

1. **Preliminary Discussions on the FY04-05 Budget and Budget Strategy.**

City Administrator Crayne reviewed a *Des Moines Register* article in which Representative Bill Dix, Chairman of the State House Appropriations Committee, was quoted as saying "The state is spending \$162 million this year on tax credits for homesteads, elderly and disabled, agricultural land, livestock producers, and military service." He said he will look at taking away property tax credits "altogether, across-the-board, or taking away a certain amount. No decisions have been made yet." Mr. Crayne also stated there is a strong possibility that the State would capture all Bank Franchise Taxes. The City may realize an impact of possibly \$400,000 decrease in revenues from the State. Mr. Crayne asked Council if the City should consider imposing a gas franchise tax or increasing building permit fees. He also stated that he had considered looking into a fee structure study at a cost of \$20,000.

Council requested that staff create a strategy listing of possible cuts and revenue enhancements for prioritization in the upcoming budget. Other expense cuts discussed included an employee wage freeze, an increase in employee participation of health insurance and private contracting of services. Discussion also followed on the Hospital taking over ambulance operations and a voluntary subsidy to the City. Butch Tillson voiced his concerns with funding of non-essential City operations. Council also requested that staff contact Representative Bill Dix to come and talk to the Council on future legislative cuts. City Administrator Crayne also informed the Council that the City may lose Tax Increment Financing Property Taxes that the State now reimburses to school districts. Staff will provide a budget cut and revenue enhancement listing to Council at the November Study Session.

G. **BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.**

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

Council thanked Jackie Strotman for being the Guest Councilperson for October.

H. **ADJOURNMENT.**

Moved By: Boorum

Seconded By: Ribich

That the City Council Meeting be adjourned.

Yes: 7

No: 0

Absent: 0

Council adjourned at 9:13 P. M.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk