

Study Session Meeting Minutes

March 22, 2004 ~ 7:00 p.m.

A. **CALL TO ORDER.**

A Study Session of the Waverly City Council was held on March 22, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Ackerman presided. Council members present were: Connie Rasmussen, Mel Kramer, Cyndi Ecker, Fred Ribich, Darrel Steege, Gary Grace and Gary Boorum. Absent: None

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

Moved By: Kramer

Seconded By: Ribich

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

Yes: 7

No: 0

Absent: 0

B. **PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

- Merwyn Briggs voiced concerns with maintenance of the proposed Baseball and Softball facilities.
- Councilmember Ecker informed members of the audience that water, sewer and solid waste fee increases will be on the April 5th agenda.

C. **PUBLIC HEARING.**

This was the date, time and place for a Public Hearing on plans, specifications, form of contract for Kohlmann Park Improvement Project Phase 2. Parks & Recreation Director Ray informed the Council that Phase 2 would involve construction of the gazebo, restroom, shelter, riverside railing and landscaping. All structures will be designed to be flood proof. A Kohlmann Park gift catalog will be distributed asking for donations for benches, drinking fountains, picnic tables that could commemorate a loved one. The original location for the restroom was in the floodway and was denied by the Board of Adjustment. The restroom will now be placed at the north end of the park next to the parking lot. The gazebo will be placed at the north end of the park along the river and have benches for seating. Discussion followed on the cost of the gazebo. The gazebo will be bid as an alternate. The restroom and gazebo will be constructed with durable materials to guard against vandalism and flooding. The project is intended to produce a showcase park and create a downtown square. Mr. Ray also stated that there would be increased parking.

Moved By: Ribich

Seconded By: Grace

Resolution 04-33, a Resolution Approving Plans, Specifications, Form of Contract and Estimated Cost for the Kohlmann Park Improvement Project Phase 2 is hereby approved.

Yes: 7

No: 0

Absent: 0

D. **TABLED ITEMS.**

Moved By: Boorum

Seconded By: Ecker

To remove the contract approval with Aerial Services to develop a Geographical Information System website for the City from the table.

Yes: 7

No: 0

Absent: 0

Discussion followed on the City's use of Bremer County's GIS System.

The original motion was then voted upon.

Yes: 0

No: 7

Absent: 0

On March 1, 2004, the Second Reading of Ordinance 825, an Ordinance Setting an Infrastructure Review and Inspection Fee for Subdivisions and Private Projects Involving the Construction of Public Infrastructure **was tabled**.

Council will review infrastructure and inspection fees for subdivisions and private projects involving the construction of public infrastructure at its April 5 Meeting.

E. **STUDY SESSION.**

1. **Review of Wartburg College Street Concept.**

Gary S. Hammers of RDG Planning and Design reviewed plans for the Wartburg College Entrance. Mr. Hammers stated that original design indicated closure and removal of 8th and 9th Streets between Bremer and 1st Avenue NW. A new plan includes:

- a. developing a new 8th Street north of Bremer Avenue with a dedicated right turn lane (to the west) at the intersection;
- b. repositioning the roundabout to center at the intersection of 8th Street and 1st Avenue NW to act as a traffic calming device, as well as create a focal point indicating the entrance to the College;
- c. continuing 8th Street in a northeasterly direction to eventually align with 7th Street and its intersection with 3rd Avenue NW;
- d. closing and removing the north half of 9th Street, between Bremer Avenue and 1st Avenue NW, to create a contiguous green area as the front door to the campus; and
- e. completing 1st Avenue NW, between 9th and 8th Streets to complete a ring road around campus.

Mr. Hammers also informed the Council that the City and Wartburg College had discussed completing 7th Street NW between 3rd and 5th using Wartburg's contractor. An agreement for cost sharing has to be completed. City Attorney Carney will review the code to see if Wartburg's contractor can finish 7th Street NW from 3rd Avenue to 5th Avenue NW.

2. **Review of Waverly Master Plan for Baseball and Softball Facilities.**

Bill Heckroth of the Ball Diamond Committee stated that 25 acres were purchased to construct a ball diamond facility north of the Soccer Fields. Mr. Heckroth also informed the Council that all ball diamonds in the City were in bad shape and losing teams as a result. He also stated that a new baseball/softball complex would enhance revenues to the City due to league participation and to the community due to the ability to hold invitational tournaments. The Ball Diamond Committee gathered information from the baseball and softball teams and organizations. From that information they simulated a master plan for the best use of the new land as well as the City's present fields. Larry Kurtz of AHTS Architects reviewed the proposed master plan for baseball and softball facilities. The purpose of the plan is to keep youth baseball and softball in town at the Fairgrounds and Amvets with adult baseball and softball at the new complex. The lighting and landscaping were

designed to protect surrounding residences. Discussion followed on traffic disruption to residents. Dr. Richard Shields voiced his concerns with maintenance of the new baseball complex and lighting. Staff informed Duane Liddle that residences and roads would be protected from the balls. Drew Mumelthei again stressed the need to reconstruct all ball diamonds. Tammy and Scott McKenzie voiced their concern with the high density lighting, traffic and flooding if a ball diamond complex was constructed. Larrie Steenhard voiced concern with traffic. Gene Rathje, Parks Superintendent emphasized that the lighting proposed for the new complex has little or no spillage to surrounding property owners. Ron Reusche of the Parks & Recreation Commission stated that the new proposed complex is not just for adult ball, but for all levels. The proposed new complex would offer additional fields for practice and indoor off-season workout facility. Mr. Reusche informed the Council that the Recreation Center and Ball Diamond Complex were priorities of the Park & Recreation Commission. He reminded the Council that there is no facility devoted to baseball. Rod Schutt asked the Council to consider a stop sign at 4th Street and Crestwood. After more discussion the Council asked the Committee to see if there is interest through fundraising and to see if Waverly-Shell Rock Schools and Wartburg would be interested in the use of the complex and cost participation. Council was also concerned with costs relating to improvements at the Fairgrounds and AmVet's fields. Tammy McKenzie requested the Council to consider traffic and flooding issues as well as the condition of Crestwood Avenue before they make a final decision. Doran Butschi, Bonnie Moeller and Stan Saunders voiced their concerns with ball fields abutting their property.

F. **BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.**

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

Council questioned staff on timeline for the dry run improvements west of the Rieger Addition.

G. **ADJOURNMENT.**

Moved By: Boorom

Seconded By: Ribich

That the City Council Meeting be adjourned.

Yes: 7

No: 0

Absent: 0

Council adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk