

Study Session Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2005~ 7:00 p.m.

A. CALL TO ORDER.

A Study Session of the Waverly City Council was held on January 24, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Ackerman presided. Council members present were: Mel Kramer, Cyndi Ecker, Fred Ribich, Gary Boorum, Tammy McKenzie, Gary Grace and Connie Rasmussen. Absent: None

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

Moved By: Kramer

Seconded By: Rasmussen

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

Yes: 7

No: 0

Absent: 0

2. Presentation of Plaques.

The Mayor and City Council thanked John Kurtt for his service on the Park & Recreation Commission.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

Staff informed members of the audience that three sites are being considered for a proposed Public Services Facility.

Discussion followed on marketing of the municipal golf course.

Police Chief Simpson informed the Council that the Police have no jurisdiction regarding snowmobiles on the Cedar River.

C. TABLED ITEMS.

D. STUDY SESSION.

1. Review of the City of Waverly Audit.

Jeff Peters of Williams and Company was present to review the June 30, 2004 Audit. Mr. Peters stated that the audit was conducted in accordance to state and federal standards and conforms to accepted accounting principles. He informed the Council that for the first time the audit included general infrastructure, property, equipment, and the depreciation of these assets. Mr. Peters further noted the significant loss in the sewer fund. Staff will discuss with Council possible increases in sewer rates to address this problem. The City has a solid fund balance and the General Fund is where it should be. In summary an unqualified opinion was issued on the financial statements. A reportable condition in the internal control over financial reporting was disclosed and the City understands the nature of the weakness and will continue to exercise control through administrative review of reports. The audit did not disclose any non-compliance which is material to the financial statements.

2. Review of Harlington Cemetery Crypt Renovation Project.

Parks & Recreation Director Ray stated that the retaining wall of the Harlington Cemetery Crypt is deteriorated and could collapse. The Crypt was constructed in 1887 to provide casket storage over the winter months. The project will be funded from the Cemetery Reserve which has a balance

of \$35,581. Tom Gardner from Gardner Architects informed the Council that the vault is sound but the wall and drainage have to be restored. The Crypt has no current official historic designation but there are only two left in the state. Des Moines is in the process of restoring their Crypt. Terry Lindell from the Historic Preservation Commission stated that the Crypt is an integral part of the history of Harlington Cemetery and the restoration would benefit the City. Discussion followed on the stone and the capstone of the retaining wall. Mr. Gardner also stated that he is working with the State Historic Preservation and the Crypt could have tourism value. Council suggested that the City match any funds raised through outside fundraising efforts toward this project.

3. **Discussion of the Merits of a Sidewalk Maintenance Program.**

Council and staff discussed the process and mechanics of a sidewalk maintenance program. City Engineer Cherry reviewed that the department would survey City sidewalks and then notify property owners if their sidewalk should warrant replacement. Mr. Cherry also stated that the program would be ongoing and that assessing sidewalks, notifying property owners and follow-up would require additional personnel. The Council stated that Waverly should be “pedestrian friendly” so citizens can walk on sidewalks and not in the street. Several issues for consideration are whether sidewalks should be on both sides of the street and loss of trees. Staff will research other communities with sidewalk maintenance programs and investigate revenue streams that would support a program.

Council thanked Matt Pries for his participation as guest councilperson for January.

E. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.

1. Boards and Commissions. The Council reviewed Board & Commission Minutes.
2. Reports. The Council reviewed the Project Status Report.
3. Communication.

F. ADJOURNMENT.

Moved By: Boorum

Seconded By: Ribich

That the City Council Meeting be adjourned.

Yes: 7

No: 0

Absent: 0

Council adjourned at 8:15 P. M.

Ivan J. Ackerman, Mayor

Attest:

Richard J. Crayne, City Administrator