

Study Session Meeting Minutes

June 26 2006~ 7:00 p.m.

A. CALL TO ORDER.

A Study Session of the Waverly City Council was held on June 26, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Ackerman presided. Council members present were: Cyndi Ecker, Gary Grace, Duane Liddle, Gene Lieb, Connie Rasmussen, Fred Ribich and Gary Boorum. Absent: None

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

Moved By: Ribich

Seconded By: Grace

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

Yes: 7

No: 0

Absent: 0

B. REGULAR BUSINESS.

1. Mayoral Appointments.

Moved By: Boorum

Seconded By: Rasmussen

The following Mayoral Appointment Appointing Donna Kay Oberheu to the Cable Commission is hereby approved.

Yes: 7

No: 0

Absent: 0

C. STUDY SESSION.

1. John Mardis, President of the Iowa League of Cities reviewed the highlights of the Legislative Session. Mr. Mardis stated that there were changes in the competitive bidding process but no movement in property tax reform. He believed that the League's theme is cities working together.

Tom Bredeweg, Executive Director, informed Council that the Iowa League of Cities is the oldest league in the States. The League is a collaborative effort of local governments. Cityscape magazine and a Special Report on New Laws of Interest to Cities are some of the informational materials provided by the League. The updates for the 2006 Legislative Session included:

- Changes in competitive bid process which raises the threshold for formal bidding on construction projects.
- Increased Iowa Public Employers Retirement System (IPERS) contributions by one half percentage point a year for four years starting July 1, 2007.
- Deferred Retirement Option Program for members of the Municipal Fire and Police Retirement System of Iowa.
- Government accountability – contains an extensive set of requirements for any recipient agency which is defined as an intergovernmental entity that enters in a service contract with a state agency. Provisions that also apply to Chapter 28E entities.
- Property tax credits will continue and there was no movement on property tax reform.
- Eminent Domain was vetoed by the Governor for being too restrictive

The League's Policy Committee will finalize recommendations to the Executive Board in August for the upcoming Legislative Session. Property tax reform, eminent domain, state cable franchises, utility issues and economic incentives are potential issues for debate in the Legislature's next session.

2. Presentation by Waverly Area Development Group Outlining the Services Provided to the City of Waverly, the Funding of the Organization, and What Challenges and Opportunities the Waverly Area Development Group Sees in Waverly's Future.

Tara Harn reviewed the four divisions of the Waverly Area Development Group. The Chamber Division provides tourism packets and brochures, relocation and human resource packets and coordinates Ridiculous Day, Customer Appreciation Day, Autumn Holiday Decorations, Wonderful Wednesdays, Wartburg Welcome bags. Special events include Casino Night, Courtyard Bash, Ridiculous Day Kid's Zone, Golf Outing, Holiday Events, Christmas Greetings on Main. They prepare a business investor directory, support new members with Ambassador Visits and have been involved in the Kohlmann Park project, Veteran's Tribute and Bremer Avenue Decorations. The Tourism Division distributes Waverly Tourism, Golf Waverly and Bremer County Brochures and promotes Bus Tours and the Barn Quilt Project. Main Street assisted in the development of Big Six, Palace Theatre, Sidewalk Enhancement, and Spirit of Main Street Award. Carol Jahnke stated that the Economic Division works on job retention, new business start-up assistance, expansion and revolving loan projects. Other assistance includes business plan and financial packaging and grant writing. WADG works with Black Hawk EDC, organizes the Annual Industry Appreciation Luncheon, participated in the Telecommunications and Gas Utility studies, and the Iowa Great Places initiative. Waverly is part of the Cedar Valley Marketing Region and has access to financial resources from the State and other counties and economic development groups.

The State of Iowa is working for business growth and attraction by retaining/expanding current business and attracting new business. Objectives are to demonstrate Iowa's commitment to existing business by offering access to resources, support and information and to promote the business, economic and lifestyle benefits of an Iowa location. The State is also reaching out to Alumni living outside of the State. The State through the regional program posts qualified jobs on www.smartcareermove.com for companies in our community and direct links to the City's website. WADG receives \$50,000 from the City of Waverly and \$43,000 from Waverly Light and Power and \$12,075 from the County. Developing a future site, spec building for industrial projects, the vacant Wal-Mart Building, ongoing funding of community and economic development are all challenges for the future. Ms. Harn stated that there is no mechanism in place for feedback on the City. Tourism brochures are at the four main Iowa Welcome Centers. Most staff hours are spent on special events. Discussion followed on the City's Industrial Park and the old Wal-Mart store.

3. Quarterly Review of Strategic Planning Report.
After discussion Council will wait for completion of the Traffic Modeling before making a decision on road improvement projects.

D. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.

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

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

Staff informed Council that property owners can initiate curb and gutter replacement through contact with Public Works Office at City Hall. Said projects have to be pre-approved and work has to be completed by a licensed contractor before they would be eligible for a rebate.

Council thanked Public Services Sullivan on returning 29th Avenue SW to it's original state of gravel and anticipate upcoming dust control.

Discussion followed on the relocation of geese in Kohlmann Park.

F. ADJOURNMENT.

Moved By: Boorum

Seconded By: Ribich

That the City Council Meeting be adjourned.

Yes: 7

No: 0

Absent: 0

Council adjourned at 8:30 P. M.

Ivan J. Ackerman, Mayor

Attest:

Richard J. Crayne, City Administrator