

## **Study Session Meeting Minutes**

April 28, 2008 ~ 7:00 p.m.

### **A. CALL TO ORDER.**

A Study Session of the Waverly City Council was held on April 28, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Ackerman presided. Council members present were: Gene Lieb, Gary Boorum, Gary Grace, Fred Ribich and Duane Liddle. Absent: Jim Vowels and Cyndi Ecker

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

**Moved By: Ribich**

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

**Yes: 5**

**No: 0**

**Absent: 2**

2. **Employee Highlights.**

The City Council welcomed Sharon Werkman and Ben Kohout to the City of Waverly Staff.

### **B. PUBLIC HEARINGS.**

### **C. VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

After reading the article in the Waverly Newspaper, Gary Schultz questioned Councilmember Liddle on how he can justify staying on the Council when he has pleaded guilty to theft.

The Council again welcomed Linda Podahsky's Civics' Class as Guest Councilpersons for the month of April.

### **D. TABLED ITEMS.**

### **E. CONSENT AGENDA.**

1. Pay Request from Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments in the amount of \$344.52 for the Lead Based Paint II.

2. Pay Request from Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments in the amount of \$374.57 for Rehab II.

**Moved By: Lieb**

Items 1-2 on the Consent Agenda are hereby approved.

**Yes: 5**

**No: 0**

**Absent: 2**

### **F. REGULAR BUSINESS.**

1. **Set Public Hearing for 2007-2008 Budget Amendment.**

**Moved By: Boorum**

May 19, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall is the date, time and place set for a public hearing on the 2007-2008 Budget Amendment and is hereby approved.

**Yes: 5**

**No: 0**

**Absent: 2**

### **G. STUDY SESSION.**

1. **Review Sidewalk Program.**

The Action Plan outlined by City Engineer Cherry includes

- Continue enforcing sidewalk subdivision regulations with no additional personnel
- Develop an inspection and maintenance program to repair and maintain the existing sidewalk network for a trial period of 5 years

- Eliminate the gaps within the existing network of sidewalks – outline priority areas such as areas around schools
- Add a network of sidewalks to neighborhoods lacking pedestrian accommodations – one side of the street or both sides of the street

Council discussed whether the program should address highest priority areas or develop a quadrant program. Annual construction cost is estimated at \$75,000 with additional staff at \$60,000. Costs would triple if the City hired a consultant. Council preferred to fund construction costs rather than administrative costs. Ron Matthias stated that the sidewalks in southwest Waverly are in very bad condition and petitioned the Council to initiate a sidewalk program. Councilmember Boorum felt sidewalks missing in areas should be included in said program. Discussion followed on cost sharing with property owners or whether costs could be added to property taxes to be paid back after a period of years. Leisure Services Director Ray stated that the City has tried to repair all their hazardous sidewalks. State law states that adjoining property owners are responsible for sidewalks. Concerns were expressed on assessments levied on low income or fixed income property owners. The City could set the interest rate, assessment period, and minimum payments for voluntary sidewalk assessments. Ron Matthias again stressed that the Council consider a sidewalk reconstruction program so that sidewalks don't deteriorate further. Downtown property owners picked up 60% of costs for their sidewalks. The City contributes \$100 to properties with handicap assessable sidewalk ramps. Other comments expressed were:

- The City could offer a program to property owners who want to have the sidewalks done first – self nomination.
- Property owner does work and the City will reimburse a percentage
- Get City sidewalks done first
- What happened to the old program in the 80's
- 50/50 cost sharing between the City and the property owner
- Recommend different assessment policies for fixed or low income families
- Sidewalks that are the worst should be done first
- Replace bad sidewalks along critical corridors and areas
- Sidewalk along 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NW going to West Cedar School was part of street project
- 16<sup>th</sup> Street to the Library has no sidewalks
- Why do property owners that have sidewalks have to pay for those that don't – program should apply fairly
- Balance fiscal responsibility and safety
- Put sidewalk program money toward construction rather than administration
- Livable-walk-able community

City Engineer Cherry will comeback to Council with suggestions for program so that the program can be ready for approval at budget time.

2. **Review of Proposal to Amend Yard Waste Charges.**

Councilmember Lieb stated that residents are still being charged for yard waste even though our ordinance allows acceptance of yard waste from Waverly residents. Residents who do not have the ability to bring their yardwaste to the facility and use commercial haulers are passed these fees along by the commercial hauler. The fees were introduced because commercial haulers were cutting down trees and driving up costs for Waverly residents. The City was trying to recover operational costs of commercial haulers bringing semi-loads of trees to the yardwaste and using City mulch for their customers outside Waverly. After further discussion Mayor Ackerman asked Councilmember Lieb to prepare an amendment to the present ordinance and the Council would act on said proposal.

H. **BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.**

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

I. **CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS ON POLICY ISSUES.**

Council asked City Attorney Carney to check on a newspaper item regarding a suit against the City of Waverly.

J. **ADJOURNMENT.**

**Moved By: Boorum**

That the City Council Meeting be adjourned.

**Yes: 5**

**No: 0**

**Absent: 2**

**Council adjourned at 8:25 P. M.**

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Ivan J. Ackerman, Mayor

Attest:

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Jo-Ellen Raap, City Clerk