

A Study Session of the Waverly City Council was held on September 28, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Ackerman presided. Council members present were: Gary Grace, Fred Ribich, Gary Boorum, Jim Vowels, Gene Lieb, and Duane Liddle. Absent: Cyndi Ecker

A. CALL TO ORDER.

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

Moved By: Grace

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

Yes: 6

No: 0

Absent: 1

B. VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS.

Kelly Engelken informed Council of the Waverly Chamber's new "Steps for Success" workshop for new businesses. Ms. Engelken also informed Council that a new Project Lead Class will start identifying community leaders.

Kate Payne of the Historic Preservation Commission requested that as the City's buyout program moves forward that the Council would consider moving the flood homes for purchase by area residents or if the items in the house can be salvaged. Rod Scott is a preservation consultant and will be coming to Council on October 5th to review how the City can apply for tax credits to buy down lots and buy down the cost of the home after it's been moved. Waverly had the highest percentage of historic homes damaged by the flood.

C. CONSENT AGENDA.

1. Class C Liquor License for El Senor Tequila II.
2. Pay Request from Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments for the Housing Buyout Program in the amount of \$1,400.73.
3. Pay Request from Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments for the Pre-award- for the Housing Buyout Program in the amount of \$1,036.00.

Moved By: Ribich

Items 1 – 3 on the Consent Agenda are hereby approved.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Absent: 1

budget will be very tight. The disaster did not hit a lot of communities but hurt a lot of districts. The frustrating part of the Hazard Mitigation Buyout Program is the time it takes. The City thought the approval process was a little cumbersome through the State and Federal governments. INRCOG has spoken to 8-10 people who are on the buyout list. The State has a projected deficit from 900 million to a billion dollars. The legislature will look at the Homestead credit and look at places to cut the budget. Federal stimulus dollars now are slowing up revenue. The State is looking at 5% to 10% cuts across the board. The budget will have to be reviewed line by line and cuts will have to be made. If the State does not fund the Homestead credit program then the counties are going to have to make up the difference and property taxes will go up. The Legislature has to make changes in Iowa Public Retirement System. Interim committees are looking at the changes now. 2010 is the year the legislature looks at IPERS. Probably there will be a 5% to 10% cut in road repair infrastructure funding. The gas tax funds would still go to road infrastructure. Last year the Governor stated that he would veto a gas tax increase. There is a critical need for streets and infrastructure and trying to protect that need. Representative Grassley again stressed the need for input from communities on their issues and needs. Natalie Sugira from the Rebuild Iowa Office thanked Waverly staff and stated that there is still work to be done to get people back into their homes and businesses back in working order.

F. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.

1. Boards and Commissions.

Economic Development Commission Minutes-McDonalds and potential surrounding property owners are negotiating issues.

Board of Adjustment Minutes –There is conflicting setback language in the Code, and the Board decided to go with the lesser setback for the Cemetery Storage Building and no variance was needed. Leisure Services Director Ray stated that the City is currently using the Golf Maintenance and other storage buildings for the dirt from graves and would be better to have the storage right at the Cemetery. The Cemetery truck would have a snow plow on it and stored on site to plow the cemetery. The insulation and some inside work for the storage building will be done in-house and will be in the next year's budget. The Cemetery storage building will be brought back to Council at the next meeting.

2. Reports.

Departmental Status Report – “The W” voluntarily sends the membership expenses and income on a monthly basis.

The City is waiting for money to come in to cover the \$569,297 deficit because the fall taxes have not been paid yet. The City spent money to operate in July and August and will receive tax money in September and October. The deficit is covered by cash reserves until it is replenished. The FEMA account shows a positive balance. All revenues and expenditures in the general fund are being replenished by property taxes, fees, fines.

3. **Communications.**

G. CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS ON POLICY ISSUES.

Police Chief Pursell stated that the Citizens Academy is going well and evaluations of each class have been very positive. Chief Pursell will report to the newspaper on the progress of the Citizens' Academy.

The budget environment at the State level will be very difficult and have an impact on all governments. With Waverly's growth and private enterprise investing in the community, the City will be better equipped to weather the cuts. The City has sustained losses in residential values and it is important to keep growing. Waverly's taxes have stayed low because of the growth in the tax base.

Council discussed property tax rebatement for buyout owners. City Attorney Carney notified the County Assessor to base buyout owners' taxes on January 1, 2009 value.

The City approved an application to NRCS for funding of the bank stabilization and reshaping of the drainage ditch along the bowling alley as well as other projects. The only portion that the NRCS will fund is removal of the batter board retaining walls from the 4th Street Culvert wing-walls to the walkway bridge. The cost of the bridge work is the Bowling Alley's responsibility.

The DOT cleaned the dry run area by Irving School. The City does not know the intentions of the DOT regarding the stumps left after the clearing.

City, County groups use the Civic Center for free and there is a non-profit fee schedule and a profit fee schedule.

Kathy Olson thanked the Council for their efforts and encourages citizens to be guest councilpersons.

H. ADJOURNMENT.

Moved By: Boorum

That the City Council Meeting be adjourned.

Yes: 6

No: 0

Absent: 1

Council adjourned at 8:01 P. M.

Ivan Ackerman, Mayor

Attest:

Jo Ellen Raap, City Clerk