

Regular Meeting Minutes – October 3, 2016  
Ivan “Ike” Ackerman Council Chambers

A Regular Meeting of the Waverly City Council was held on October 3, 2016 at 7:00 P. M. at City Hall. Mayor Infelt presided and the following Council Members were present: Waldstein, Lampe, McKenzie, Gade, and Sherer. Absent: Reznicek and Kangas

- A. Mayor Infelt called the meeting to order.
- B. Mayor Infelt led in Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. Mayor Infelt led in prayer.
- D. Moved by Lampe, seconded by Waldstein to the Agenda as presented.  
**Motion passed. Yes: 5 No: 0 Absent: 2**
- E. Moved by Waldstein, seconded by Sherer to approve the September 12, 2016 Regular Meeting minutes and the September 19, 2016 Regular Meeting minutes.  
**Motion passed. Yes: 5 No: 0 Absent: 2**
- F. Guest Councilperson
- Council welcomed Ann Rathe as the Guest Council Person for October.
- G. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda
- There were none.
- H. Consent Calendar.
1. Pay Request from Service Signing for the Iowa Firefighters Association Convention for the closure and detour of Bremer Avenue for \$3,500.00.
  2. Pay Request from Feldman Concrete for the Citywide Concrete Sidewalk Repairs- 2016 for \$26,715.99.
  3. Class B Native Wine permit renewal for Meyer Pharmacy.
  4. Class B Beer permit for Waverly Heritage Days for a special event.
- Moved by Sherer, seconded by Gade to approve the Consent Calendar.  
**Motion passed. Yes: 5 No: 0 Absent: 2**
- I. Regular Business.
1. Moved by McKenzie, seconded by Gade to approve Resolution 16-81 Approving the Professional Services Agreement with GEO International, LLC of Newton, Pennsylvania for the 2016 inspection and torquing of the submerged mounting clamp nuts on the Waverly Inflatable Dam for the estimated cost of \$11,060.00.  
**Motion passed. Yes: 5 No: 0 Absent: 2**
    - This is routine maintenance and can be expected every five years. There are 309 stainless steel bolts, each approximately one foot apart and about 7½ feet below water surface. Divers are used for this since there is no cofferdam. This procedure usually takes place in the fall when the water is still a little warm and yet more clear. There is overtime figured into the agreement since there are less daylight hours which could possibly cause a third day of maintenance.
  2. Moved by Sherer, seconded by McKenzie to approve Resolution 16-82 Accepting the Airport Runway Reconstruction as complete and approving Change Order No. 2 in the amount of a \$5,217.50 decrease, and Pay Estimate No. 4 of \$13,870.00 as the sub-final payment and No. 5 of \$37,530.00 as the final payment to Concrete Foundations, Inc. of New Hampton, Iowa.  
**Motion passed. Yes: 5 No: 0 Absent: 2**
    - This project was 90% funded with federal funds and 10% was funded by the City for the required local match.

3. Discussion of the 2016 flood event.
  - The morning of September 21, the National Weather Service published projections that Wednesday evening going through to Thursday evening heavy rainfall would occur in the Mason City, Clear Lake, Albert Lea and Austin areas. The Cedar River at Waverly is approximately 26 hours downstream from the Cedar River at Charles City. The Cedar River at Waverly is approximately 6 hours upstream from the Cedar River at Janesville. While Charles City is forecasted through the LaCrosse, WI National Weather Service office, Janesville is forecasted from the Des Moines National Weather Service office. Both areas matched up well for their predictions. The rainfall had not yet fallen. Our concern is for the Austin, MN area since that is the headwaters for the Cedar River. Albert Lea Lake is the headwaters for the Shell Rock River. The rainfall actually happened in Butler County where over 10 inches of rainfall occurred. Preparations began at a Flood Preparedness Team level the afternoon of Wednesday, September 21. The Flood Preparedness Team included representation from the Bremer County Emergency Management, Hospital, Waverly Utilities, MidAmerican Gas, Fire Department, Ambulance, Police Department, Economic Development, Chamber of Commerce, and various City Staff members. After the meeting ended, a press release was distributed. Paper copies of the press releases were always distributed to all three Kwik Stars, Fareway, Caseys, Public Library, and Hy-Vee. The press releases were distributed by local media, e-mail, Facebook, and the City's website. The National Weather Service, in these situations, commonly updates their models twice a day and, at times, more frequently as information changes. Based on National Weather Service predictions, City Officials predicted the Cedar River at Waverly to rise to 14.1 feet at the time of their first meeting. The National Weather Service takes into account existing soil conditions, such as, how saturated the ground is and many other factors. The team met and reviewed all current information from the National Weather Service and all historical information from previous flood events. The team met at least twice daily during this flood event and sent press release updates out after each meeting. The flood predictions did change as forecasts were updated by the National Weather Service. For safety of the public, the team felt it was important to evacuate 59 single family homes and 24 apartments in Southeast Waverly where water overtopping 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE and 4<sup>th</sup> Street SE would have prevented access to the neighborhood. Electric and gas were shut off to all of the impacted addresses. By Thursday morning, the models and inundation mapping were showing that water levels could reach levels of a 100 year flood, or close to 1999 levels. By later that evening, the prediction for Waverly was about 16.0 feet. On Friday, the prediction was lowered to 14.2 feet. From there, predictions didn't change until Saturday when it was estimated to crest at about 13.2 feet. The final prediction from City Officials was that the river would rise to approximately 13.2 feet, and the crest would last for about 36 hours. The river crested at 13.17 feet at approximately 11:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 24. By Monday, September 26 in the afternoon, people were allowed back in their homes. Few people had issues with flood water damaging their homes. Most damage was related to ground water seepage. City Officials chose not to deploy the HESCO barriers since it was proven in the 2013 flood event that they would only last a few hours and there was no guarantee as to when they would break. Having them in place can be dangerous because when they break the rising water is almost

instantaneous, this would be particularly dangerous after nightfall. In 2013, it took 300 tons of sand to fill the HESCO barriers and 15 city employees. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Bridge would have been closed even if it weren't closed prior to this flood. It would still be closed due to debris that would need to be cleared from underneath the bridge, and once the debris is removed, the bridge would have needed an inspection to declare it safe for crossing. Even if the bridge would have been able to stay open to vehicle traffic, the utilities vehicles, the fire trucks and ambulances would not be able to cross the bridge. If there was any more damage to the bridge it will be repaired within the repairs that are already scheduled. The project will remove and replace all the floor beams, stringers, the entire deck and floor system. The trusses above that will remain. Even a repaired bridge is susceptible to this type of a flood event. The proposed new bridge would have remained open during a flood event like we just experienced, and power would not have had to be disconnected because Waverly Utility vehicles would have had access. If the river would have been forecast to go one foot higher, the proposed new bridge would have still been ok. During a 100 year flood, like in 1999, a new bridge may also have been closed to all but emergency vehicles. The inflatable dam would still protect the northwest during a 100 year flood, and the southwest part of town except, from 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and south would have had some minor damage to some houses adjacent to the Dry Run. With the inflatable dam and the Dry Run Creek Improvements being done, we still need to finish up the Dry Run Creek FEMA Map Revision which should be done in about one year. We now need to look at flood protection for the southeast portion of town. The Hazard Mitigation and River Use Commission was formed March 10, 2010 to help address the flood protection issues. Southeast Waverly was one of the first projects undertaken by the commission. AECOM Engineering out of Waterloo was the consulting company the commission and council selected for that process. The council had already heard from another consultant who had done hydraulic modeling of the Cedar River. AECOM was chosen to complete research and modeling in the form of a second opinion. There were public open house meetings conducted. In the City Council Minutes of May 23, 2011, it was recorded that the Commission concluded that the improvements to the Dry Run Creek Improvements were a better cost benefit to the community than the Southeast Waverly Flood Protection Project. The flood protection to Southeast Waverly would have been extremely expensive and some Southeast residents had objected to flood protection since it would mean that there would be levees and flood walls placed between their house and the river. They understood the risk. We should now, however, re-consider flood protection. Beneficial and cost effective improvements may be possible to provide some help for the type of event the community recently experienced; however, maybe not for a 500 or 100 year flood. There have been six events in the past 23 years that have created this situation. Four of those are very similar to what was experienced recently. There are possible infrastructure improvements that can be done economically to provide a meaningful benefit. The Council and community should decide what they want protection for. Costs could range from \$50,000 up to \$9.5 million. Community feedback to Council after the recent event included that they were pleased with the type of information being put out. The information gave them time to get things out of their basements. Given that the HESCO barriers are time-consuming to deploy, comments were that some type of a dike or berm may be helpful so that some type flood gates could be installed at the sidewalks and streets. A permanent levee could be built at 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE for a cost of \$50,000 to \$100,000 and would provide tremendous value. The height would be approximately four to five feet tall at the low spot in the road. With the berm, the water would begin to come back through Crestwood and would eventually overtop

7<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, but would provide more time. Models can be done to determine likely impact the berms may have on nearby areas. It would be important to have additional modeling done. It was very good to see the support from the community during this time. Students, both Wartburg and high school, were active in efforts of sandbagging and helping neighborhoods move things to higher areas of their homes. Council thanked them for their support and efforts. It was nice to see people take effort in getting items up out of harm's way before considering sandbagging efforts. It is important to get belongings up first, and then, sandbag. Consider to covering floor drains with a sandbag. Going forward, the HESCO barriers may be used and will be considered in a case by case scenario. Timing has to be figured in so it can be determined whether safety is impacted.

J. Reports from Boards and Commissions

1. Library Board of Trustees Minutes; August 9, 2016; Received into record.

K. Staff Comments

- There will be a FEMA meeting with City staff next week to review damages to the little league fields and Brookwood Park.
- Thursday and Friday the Red Cross will be at the Civic Center from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for those people in the area, not just Bremer County, who need assistance with personal property damage, food, clothing, financial help, or mental health services.

L. City Council Comments

- Staff informed Councilmember Lampe that they will begin working on the traffic light timing issues and that the box culvert on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW is about 2/3 complete.
- Councilmember Sherer, again, thanked students for all their hard work and support to the community during the recent flood event.
- Councilmember McKenzie invited the public to the Veterans Post on Saturday. They will be hosting breakfast until 10:30 a.m. and from 11:00 a.m. to noon there will be a presentation on Saturday. This event will be open to the public.
- Councilmember Gade echoed McKenzie's comments and invited the public to join the veterans.

M. Mayor's Comments

- Mayor reminded people to shop local, especially during the Bremer Avenue reconstruction.

N. Moved by Lampe, seconded by Sherer to adjourn. Motion passed and Council meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

**Motion passed. Yes: 5 No: 0 Absent: 2**

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Charles Infelt, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Carla Guyer, City Clerk