

Study Session Meeting Minutes –August 22, 2016  
Ivan “Ike” Ackerman Council Chambers

A Study Session Meeting of the Waverly City Council was held on August 22, 2016 at 7:00 P. M. at City Hall. Mayor Infelt presided and the following Council Members were present: Reznicek, Lampe, McKenzie, Gade, Sherer and Kangas. Absent: Waldstein

- A. Meeting was called to order by Mayor Infelt.
- B. Moved by McKenzie, seconded by Waldstein to approve agenda as presented.  
**Motion passed. Yes: 6 No: 0 Absent: 1**
- C. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda.
- Chuck Mashek shared that the Knights of Columbus would be conducting their annual Tootsie Roll Fund Raiser for people with Intellectual Disabilities from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of this week. The four places they will be stationed at are: Hy-Vee, Fareway, Kwik Star South, and Casey’s.
- D. Consent Calendar.
1. Pay Request from Iowa Falls Roofing Co. for the Reroofing of the Civic Center for \$44,753.00.  
Moved by Reznicek, seconded by Lampe to approve the Consent Calendar.  
**Motion passed. Yes: 6 No: 0 Absent: 1**
- E. Study Session Calendar.
1. Waverly Bark Park Update
    - Leisure Services Director Tab Ray gave a brief update to Council. Also, in attendance were members of the Waverly Off Leash Friends (W.O.L.F.) Nichole Welch and Joel Johnson. He reviewed the mission statement, goals, park use policies, past programs (usually in participation with other agencies), maintenance efforts, and labor & material need & costs. One of the next goals for the dog park would be to purchase some agility equipment. Mr. Ray added that there are dog waste bags dispensers also available at Kohlmann Park, South Riverside Park, Fairgrounds, Brookwood Park, Rail Trail by Nestle, and at the Trail Head Shelter in case you are walking your dog in those areas as well.
  2. IA Highway 3 (Bremer Avenue) Reconstruction- Public Information Meeting and Council Update #3.
    - Scott Sweet of WHKS & Co. gave an overview of the traffic study work that has been completed by WHKS and how it relates to the Highway 3/Bremer Avenue Reconstruction project. Mr. Sweet covered items such as:
      - > Looking at the feasibility of implementing a “road diet” or a three-lane configuration along Bremer Avenue from 20<sup>th</sup> Street NW to 8<sup>th</sup> Street NE. A “road diet” may improve safety, convenience, and functionality of the roadway.
      - > Traffic counts were taken for both A.M. and P.M. peak periods and those counts were entered into software to determine the Level of Service which is the measure of delay that motorist would have going through town.
      - > Looking at a three-year period of traffic accidents along the corridor, there were basically 111 crashes reported. Of those 111 crashes, 91 had property damage, 17 possible injuries, 3 minor injuries, and no major injuries or fatalities. 25% of the Waverly crashes occur along the Highway 3 corridor. Iowa Highway 3 had 575 crashes per 100 million vehicle miles traveled. A statewide average on a similar condition street averages 293 crashes per 100 million vehicle miles traveled.

- > A Department of Transportation study of 15 similar corridors with similar traffic resulted in four major areas of crash reductions experienced in those communities with the four areas including: rear end, angle on-coming left turn, broadside, and sideswipe or same direction.
- > With three-lanes of traffic, there are fewer conflict points, not as much shadowing, and not as much trailing traffic.
- Assistant Engineer David Little from the I.D.O.T. District 2 office named a list of what functions would be desirable for IA3/Bremer Avenue. The list included: mobility, accessibility, positive contribution to the economy, community image, parking, safety, access to property, and self-enforcing traffic flow. Safety, access to property, and self-enforcing traffic flow are the three most impacted functions. 26% of crashes within the City of Waverly happen on Bremer Avenue. This is a total of 429 crashes happening within the City of Waverly and 111 of them happening on Bremer Avenue. There is approximately \$367,000 per year in economic losses due to crashes. These numbers only reflect the crashes that are reported. Auto insurance rates are based on the safety of the community that a person lives in. The Iowa Urban Crash Rate average is about 293 per 100 million vehicle miles traveled. There are four reasons why three-lanes are safer than four-lanes. The first would be that driving decisions are simpler; three-lane reduces the number of conflict points which helps since a driver can only focus on so many conflicts at a time. The second reason would be that speeds are more uniform and this has been evidenced by a before and after conversion study that was completed. A third reason is that drivers can better see conflicting vehicles and other road users. The fourth reason is that a three-lane road is more forgiving of poor driver decisions as there are no chances to pass. An average of 20 seconds would be the change in level of service (delays) if changed to a three-lane. Comparisons to other cities were also discussed.
- Sioux Center, being a close comparison to Waverly with size and having US Highway 75 going through town, completed a 3-lane conversion in about 1999. They did the conversion mostly due to pedestrian safety issues. The 3-lane is still in place, even though it has been re-visited several times as council members have turned over. Mr. Little encouraged Mayor and Council members to call the Mayor and Council members of Sioux Center. Centerville, Cresco, Bloomfield, Clear Lake, and Ingersoll Avenue in Des Moines are additional areas that have gone through a conversion and all had success in lower crash rates and increased pedestrian safety.
- An oversized vehicle such as a tractor would utilize the roadway as they do currently. The roadway width will not be reduced.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW was originally proposed to have a 2-lane but was rejected by Council. Council chose to go to a divided 4-lane with the opportunity to build left turn lanes.
- A revised plan was shown for 1<sup>st</sup> Street to 4<sup>th</sup> Street on Bremer Avenue that included painted medians, not raised ones. The bridge will also have a turn lane.
- Bicycle lanes will not be signed or marked. There will be a five foot buffer lane.
- City street snow removal operations will continue as it has in the past.

- Cycle timing for traffic lights may change to accommodate left turning traffic, this would create optimal traffic movements within the intersections. Traffic light modeling was shown in the traffic study.
- Whether a 3-lane or 4-lane highway is implemented after reconstruction, it can always be changed to the opposite just by changing paint markings and signage. If a 4-lane project is favored, it would not affect funding or timing of the project.
- The City's involvement is asked for since this directly affects the citizens of Waverly in terms of costs of crashes and physical injuries. The City and the I.D.O.T. each have responsibilities regarding Hwy. 3/Bremer Avenue. The timing, project phasing, operation, and electrical maintenance of the traffic lights are the responsibility of the City with funding help from the I.D.O.T. The I.D.O.T. is responsible for pavement maintenance from face to curb. The City is responsible for the maintenance of the roadway beyond the curbs. Highway lighting is the City's responsibility. When there is a utility, driveway or any other kind of permit request, the City signs off to recommend and the I.D.O.T. signs to approve.
- The east side of Bremer Avenue from 8<sup>th</sup> East will be restriped to begin the transition. The east side of Bremer Avenue was transitioned to a 3-lane in 1996.
- Speed limits are anticipated to remain unchanged.

F. Reports from Boards and Commissions

1. Bremer-Waverly Law Board Minutes; July 11, 2016; Received into record.
2. Airport Commission Minutes; July 14, 2016; Received into record.

G. Staff Comments

- There were none.

H. City Council Comments

- Council Member McKenzie noted there may be as many as 200 firefighters and family members in town over the holiday weekend in preparation of the Firefighters Convention the following week.
- Council Member Kangas commented that the next Council meeting will be September 12 and urged residents to contact the Council members and let them know where you are on the Bremer Avenue issue. He also reminded the public that school is starting and to be mindful of pedestrians.
- Council Member Gade read a message from Golf Pro Jordan Davis regarding the Annual Junior Golf event. There was \$1,830 raised and donated to the Waverly Junior Golf program.
- Council Member Sherer spoke regarding his visit to Colorado and Council relationships.
- Guest Councilmember Mashek reminded the public of the Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Fund Raiser for people with Intellectual Disabilities.

I. Mayor's Comments

- Mayor Infelt recognized City Clerk, Carla Guyer for her attendance at Iowa Municipal Professionals Academy.

J. Moved by Kangas, seconded by Lampe to adjourn. Motion passed and Council meeting adjourned at 9:27 P.M.

**Yes: 6 No: 0 Absent: 1**