

Study Session Meeting Minutes – April 24, 2017
Ivan “Ike” Ackerman Council Chambers

A Study Session Meeting of the Waverly City Council was held on April 24, 2017 at 7:00 P. M. at City Hall. Mayor Infelt presided and the following Council Members were present: Kangas, Lampe, McKenzie, Sherer, and Waldstein Absent: Gade and Reznicek

- A. Meeting was called to order by Mayor Infelt.
- B. Moved by Waldstein, seconded by Lampe to approve agenda as presented.
Motion passed. Yes: 5 No: 0 Absent: 2
- C. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda
 - Owner of Miller’s True Value, George Miller, addressed Council to request a review of the City’s sign ordinance. Mr. Miller noted that signs are being removed near Miller’s True Value and the Center. Groups that rent the Center like to post signs advertising for public events. These signs are usually removed or left lying on the ground. He added that it appears that other areas in town are allowed to keep their signs that advertise garage sales, property for sale/rent, hail repair, and etc. These signs seem to be allowed to remain posted while signs advertising craft sales, auctions, etc. are removed.
- D. Study Session Calendar.
 - 1. Discussion of the walking bridges over Dry Run Creek that were removed during construction near Wartburg.
 - Council discussed whether there was a need to move forward in replacing a walking bridge that was removed during the re-construction of the Dry Run Creek near Wartburg College. Since the area that is in question is dry most of the time and can be walked across, and it doesn’t impact a lot of pedestrians it was the consensus of the Council that it is not a priority of the City at this time. However, staff will briefly research what would be involved in doing such a project.
 - 2. Economic Development Commission Update to Council
 - Economic Development Specialist Connie Tolan presented goals of the Economic Development Commission moving forward and she reflected on the past year. Supporting existing businesses is, and always has been, the primary areas of focus for the commission. A secondary area of focus is recruitment and development of new business and industry. All programs, initiatives, and activities of the Waverly Economic Development Program support one or both of the areas. Ms. Tolan reviewed six categories that included: business visit program, regional marketing through the Cedar Valley Regional Partnership, Waverly Marketing initiatives, workforce initiatives, housing initiatives, and providing sites for new and expanding businesses and industry. In 2016, the partnership developed a new regional marketing website located at www.cedarvalleyregion.com. This resides on the regional website and is I-framed into six individual websites through the use of a portal. This offers six different websites that job seekers can utilize to see job postings.

3. Discussion of Amendment to the Urban Renewal Ordinance.
 - In 2014, the Council adopted an ordinance that unified the two urban renewal plans previously enacted by the Council. This amendment added property and identified projects to permit Tax Increment Financing (TIF) dollars to be used to partially finance those projects. The Council should now consider an amendment that could update previously identified projects, add property to the urban renewal area, and identify additional projects that could be funded by TIF.
4. Discussion of Integrated Roadside Vegetative Management Plan.
 - The City of Waverly has experienced growth throughout the years. With growth, additional infrastructure is necessary to accommodate the needs of the community. Besides the hardscape, the City has seen its developed turf and undeveloped natural areas grow in area size. This growth was the impetus to develop the 4th municipal Integrated Roadside Vegetative Management Plan (IRVMP) in the State of Iowa. This was used as the basics of the Waverly Plan, but we have proceeded to address the roadside and non-roadside vegetation management needs of the community. This plan will include off road natural areas and tree maintenance that will be consistent in the maintenance goals of the program.

In the plan are goals of the program, a section on public involvement which is a very important element including education and outreach, a calendar of basic operations, and existing City policies that will be used within the plan. Implementation of a formal vegetation management plan will enhance the City of Waverly by beautification of the natural areas and roadsides, promote environmentally friendly practices, and reduce nuisances and hazards. This plan is a fluid document with, minimally, a review after one year of implementation. This is necessary because the continued community growth and vegetation issues change on a seasonal basis. Implementation of this program would require at least one additional full-time person, moving a current full-time position over to IRVM and sharing some of the seasonal staffing hours.
5. Discussion of invocations at City Council meetings.
 - Council discussion was mixed. Kangas liked rotating around the community with different pastors of different organizations as was done during Bob Brunkhorst's term as mayor. Kangas could not recall hearing complaints from organizations stating they were not being represented. Waldstein and Sherer were of the opinion that it would be good to offer a moment of silence in lieu of saying prayer since prayer is/can be very personal. McKenzie felt comfortable with Mayor Ike Ackerman leadership of not doing prayer; however, if Council continues the direction of the current mayor (Infelt) that it would be good to rotate throughout the different denominations. Lampe expressed that he would be fine with being open to other denominations, but would ask that if an organization came forward with a request to participate that they would have a sponsor to sponsor them with someone residing within the city limits. Mayor Infelt said that he spoke with Attorney Brent Hardy who told him that things prayers cannot do is: preach conversion, preach damnation; disparage non-believers, and force non-believers to participate. Mayor Infelt added that Mr. Hardy referenced Marsh v. Chambers of 1983 and the Town of Greece, N.Y. v. Galloway of 2014 both

stating that the practice of prayer being completely constitutional. City Attorney Bill Werger said that the law on whether or not prayer is acceptable in a City Council setting could be interpreted in different ways given each perspective that it is being looked at with. Kangas added that he has no problem with asking for guidance or collective wisdom whether it is done during a prayer or invocation and that most organized civilizations have focused around some kind of guiding principles that animate from something. Guest Council Brian Birgen likes the opportunity to showcase the diversity of opinions and backgrounds present within Waverly. Mr. Birgen would like to have community members or religious leaders sponsored by community members or free-thinkers sponsored by community members giving the invocation with the message coming from the public rather than the Mayor/Council dais.

E. Reports from Boards and Commissions

1. Monthly Financial Report; March, 2017; Received into record.
2. Airport Commission Minutes; March 9, 2017; Received into record.
3. Leisure Services Commission Minutes; March 16, 2017; Received into record.
4. Bremer-Waverly Law Board Minutes; April 10, 2017; Received into record.

F. Staff Comments

- There were none.

G. City Council Comments

- Councilmember Kangas mentioned there are several public hearings coming up on the May 1 agenda.
- Staff informed Councilmember McKenzie that there has been contact with the owner of the church that burned down this past winter and the clean-up process should begin relatively soon.
- Guest Councilperson Birgen noted there will be a meeting of a relatively new social group. A board game club has been founded in Waverly called The Friendly Meeple.com group that meets at the Waverly Public Library and recently rented a space at the Complex. This Saturday morning is International Table Top Board Game Day. You can learn more at friendlymeeple.com.

H. Mayor's Comments

- Mayor Infelt encouraged continued support for the downtown businesses during the Bremer Avenue Reconstruction project. Mayor Infelt also noted that Ladies Night Out seemed to be a success.

I. Moved by Kangas, seconded by Lampe to adjourn. Motion passed and Council meeting adjourned at 8:34 P.M. **Yes: 5 No: 0 Absent: 2**

Charles D. Infelt, Mayor

ATTEST:

Carla Guyer, City Clerk