

**Study Session Meeting Minutes**

March 23, 2009 ~ 7:00 p.m.

**A. CALL TO ORDER.**

A Study Session of the Waverly City Council was held on March 23, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Ackerman presided. Council members present were: Gary Grace, Fred Ribich, Cyndi Ecker, Gary Boorum, Jim Vowels, Gene Lieb, and Duane Liddle. Absent: None

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: 7**

**No: 0**

**Absent: 0**

**B. PUBLIC HEARINGS.**

**C. VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

Deb Dana voiced her concern with taxes on her inhabitable home. Staff informed Deb Dana that the Council approved moving and living expenses that would amount to \$8,000 to \$10,000 that could help her with her taxes. The County Assessor has decreased valuations for homes in need of immediate removal.

Staff will get the total number of partially and totally damaged homes to Ron Camaratta.

Library Director Sarah Meyer-Ryerson asked flood victims to contact the Bremer County Recovery Coalition at 352-8701 to see if they would qualify for grant assistance. The Grant would provide assistance to households affected by the disaster of up to \$2,500 for their unmet needs.

**D. TABLED ITEMS.**

**E. CONSENT AGENDA.**

1. Pay Request from RDG Planning and Design for the Fairgrounds/Ball Diamond Complex in the amount of \$1,664.50.

2. Class C Liquor License for the Waverly Golf & Country Club.

**Moved By: Ecker**

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

**Yes: 7**

**No: 0**

**Absent:0**

**F. REGULAR BUSINESS.**

1. **Resolution 09-31, A Resolution Authorizing the City of Waverly to Register on the "Earth Hour" web site and Proclaiming March 28, 2009 from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. as Earth Hour for the City of Waverly.**

Taryn Gritzner who presented the proposal of "Earth Hour" to the City Council will be on KWWL TV on Saturday morning to encourage people to switch off their lights for one hour on March 28<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 to 9:30 P. M. Waverly is the first city in Iowa to register for "Earth Hour."

**Moved By: Vowels**

Resolution 09-31, A Resolution Authorizing the City of Waverly to Register on the "Earth Hour" web site and Proclaiming March 28, 2009 from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. as Earth Hour for the City of Waverly is hereby approved.

**Yes: 7**

**No: 0**

**Absent: 0**

2. **Resolution 09-32, A Resolution Approving Community Disaster Grant Applications.**

City Administrator Crayne stated that the City did not purchase flood insurance for the Civic Center because it was one foot above the 100 year flood level. FEMA denied flood cost reimbursement because NE corner of the Civic Center was not landscaped above the 100 year flood level. The school announced that they had received FEMA funding for the relocation and rebuilding of the Irving portion of the new 5th through 8<sup>th</sup> building. The City is requesting \$295,268.58 in Community Disaster Grant funding for various facilities as well as funding for the Bremer County Recovery Coalition and Wartburg study. Hazard Mitigation funding will become available for other projects including the AMVETS, Peace United Church and Church of the Nazarene. Hazard Mitigation Grant applications are due in November but are accepted on a first come first serve basis.

**Moved By: Ribich**

Resolution 09-32, A Resolution Approving Community Disaster Grant Applications is hereby approved.

**Yes: 7**

**No: 0**

**Absent: 0**

3. **Resolution 09-33, A Resolution Authorizing the City of Waverly to serve as fiscal/program sponsor the Waverly Chamber of Commerce to enable access to Bremer County Community Foundation Financing to acquire Art in the Park – Shooting Star located in South Riverside Park.**

Cindy Canney informed the Council that the Waverly Chamber of Commerce does not hold a 501C status so the City is sponsoring the Chamber to access Bremer Community Foundation Financing to acquire Art in the Park-Shooting Star.

**Moved By: Ribich**

Resolution 09-33, A Resolution Authorizing the City of Waverly to serve as fiscal/program sponsor the Waverly Chamber of Commerce to enable access to Bremer County Community Foundation Financing to acquire Art in the Park – Shooting Star located in South Riverside Park is hereby approved.

**Yes: 7**

**No: 0**

**Absent: 0**

**G. STUDY SESSION.**

1. **Cedar River Valley Presentation.**

Steve Main gave a presentation on the Cedar River Valley and the 2008 Flood Event. The Cedar River flowed at a rate of 43,560 feet per acre during the disaster. Mr. Main reviewed the regional record flood levels of the Flood 2008. Some of the direct causes of the 2008 flood were:

- Fall 2007 soil moisture high
- Heavy winter snow accumulation
- Late spring
- Spring rains-saturated soils with a high water table

- Widespread heavy rains in drainage basin

Tiling farm fields and conversion of CRP land to corn fields continues to add to rising river levels. Mr. Main also stated that environmentalists say that disasters are on the increase and there will be more problems for the next 50 years.

A summary of the changing environmental situation in Waverly includes:

- Flood height is rising in an environmental context with greater chance for disaster. This reflects more turbulent climatic conditions in the world (including rainfall, snowfall, and windstorms).
- Downtown Waverly is built in a floodplain shaped by prehistoric flooding by the Cedar River.
- Land use changes in the Cedar River watershed promote rather than reduce run-off.
- Establish wetlands at the lower end of farm drainages – to reduce peak flood height downstream and remove agrichemicals from streams.

Dredging the river would not benefit the City because each foot of depth would only hold 1 minute of flow and the river sediment would probably be toxic.

## 2. **Review of Emergency Demolition Program.**

Community Development and Zoning Official Ben Kohout informed Council that there are ten homes that have been targeted for removal due to their existing conditions creating a public hazard and nuisance. Seven of the ten homes are on the buyout list and three are not interested. The emergency demolition program is voluntary. The City has hired Butch Kehe to develop an emergency demolition program and he will not be a bidder on said demolitions. All demolition costs are covered by FEMA and the State. Councilmember Liddle expressed concern for residents achieving replacement housing following buyout of their properties. Staff had proposed that Council compensate properties for raising and staying on their properties but proposal did not meet a Council priority. The three properties not on the buyout program can rebuild above 100 year flood event. Property owners can have a crawl space under their homes or can have a basement constructed above the 100 year flood level. The basement after constructed has to be certified by an engineer to be above the 100 year flood level. Butch Kehe stated that removing basements from flooded areas eliminates storage capacity. Staff will make the decision on when proposals should be sent to contractors for the demolitions.

## H. **BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.**

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

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

Councilmember Cyndi Ecker stated that the City of Waverly is so fortunate that the WSR Administration and the School Board were able to find a home for the students and staff of the Irving School. The Mall is a short-term solution. Funding approved by FEMA to rebuild the Irving portion of the new 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade campus came at the right time to move forward with the new school.

“Education in Waverly should be one of our top priorities” and Councilperson Ecker encourages citizens to vote for the new school bond issue on April 7<sup>th</sup>.

Economic Director Jason Passmore stated that the Council had already approved moving and relocation expenses up to \$10,000 for flood residences on the buyout and demolition programs. More grants will become available through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for flood projects in the future.

Councilmember Jim Vowels thanked Public Services Superintendent Sullivan and his staff for all their cleanup efforts. Compared to Cedar Rapids, Waverly looks great.

The new senior low to moderate income housing “Stonehaven Green” is still moving forward.

City Engineer Mike Cherry informed Council that the National Weather Service will project high water river levels for Waverly on their website and the media uses their predictions. The City of Waverly’s website also has flood maps that will show inundated areas of town as the river rises.

**J. ADJOURNMENT.**

**Moved By: Boorum**

That the City Council Meeting be adjourned.

**Yes: 7**

**No: 0**

**Absent: 0**

**Council adjourned at 8:17 P. M.**

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Ivan Ackerman, Mayor

Attest:

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Jo Ellen Raap, City Clerk