July 6, 2026

COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Harold E. Getty Council Chambers
3:45 p.m.

Pre-Meeting Items

Roll Call.

Members present: Mayor Dave Boesen in the Chair. Mr. Schmitt, Mr. Morrow, Ms. Berry, Mr. Salamanca and Mr. Simon. Ms. Creighton-Smith and Mr. Martin were absent.

Agenda, as proposed or amended.

Simon/Schmitt
that the agenda as proposed be approved. Voice vote-Ayes: Five. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of the June 15, 2026, Council Work Session as proposed or amended.

Simon/Schmitt
that the minutes of the June 15, 2026, Council Work Session, as proposed be approved. Voice vote-Ayes: Five. Motion carried.

Work Session Items

Discussion of Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Jamie Knutson, City Engineer, introduced Vincent Ruggiere, from INRCOG, who will present the city's portion of the Black Hawk County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Jamie added that the plan update is needed to help secure funding in the future.

Vincent Ruggiere, INRCOG, 229 E. Park Ave., provided an overview of the process for adopting the Hazard Mitigation Plan. He shared that once the plan is adopted by all jurisdictions, it is sent to FEMA for a 45-day review.

Mayor and council members discussed the Hazard Mitigation Plan with Mr. Ruggiere.

Discussion of Axon software contract.

Chief Duncan provided a brief introduction of the topic.

Aaron McClelland, Assistant Chief, explained that the city entered into an agreement with Axon in 2021 and when it was first implemented, staff was highly critical. He noted that adding Axon has saved the city money both liability wise and accountability wise, because they are able to be more transparent and hold their officers accountable. He shared that another major technological change is drones. Drones are typically deployed by a tactical team. They are looking to add a tactical drone team that would deploy for high risk situations, where one set of drones costs $137,000 and shared a slide presentation of the cost over a ten-year period.

Mayor Boesen asked for an explanation of how technology upgrades work under the agreement.

Aaron McClelland explained that the company would provide us with the newest technology equipment three times over the life of the contract. This includes new tasers, new camera equipment, and Axon would come on site to do the installation of the new equipment.

Mayor Boesen asked for an explanation of the signaling.

Aaron McClelland explained that there are certain actions that trigger the cameras to automatically turn on.

Mr. Morrow questioned the terms of the agreement.

Aaron McClelland commented that we need to act before the end of September or the proposed agreement expires.

Mr. Salamanca questioned if the Waterloo PD could absorb the entire cost of the agreement.

Aaron McClellan confirmed.

Ms. Berry questioned if the new technology tasers include a feature to prevent any accidental discharge.

Aaron McClelland explained that when you put a tool into a human's hands, there is always a possibility that those things could happen. He further shared that training and accountability are the department's focus and noted that Waterloo is the most highly trained department in the state of Iowa.

Mr. Schmitt questioned if there was a possibility that the technology might cost less instead of more over the years.

Aaron McClelland stated he did not and explained that the reason that type of thing happens is because of competition, noting that Axon is the only company out there with this technology.

Mr. Simon clarified costs, funding and potential add-ons.

<u>Discussion of software changes for Waterloo Fire Rescue.</u>

Brock Weliver, Fire Marshall, provided an overview of the current software utilized by the department. He explained that Waterloo Fire has ten software platforms that do not communicate with one another or integrate effectively. The proposal is to move to a single integrated software system to handle all the department's needs.

Mr. Morrow questioned if the data would transfer to the new software effectively and if the new company provided a team to help with the process.

Brock Weliver shared that he did not anticipate any issues. He further shared that there would be a one-time implementation fee for the first year of approximately $12,000.

Mr. Simon questioned the source of funds for the purchase.

Brock Weliver shared that the department would absorb the cost by eliminating existing software and increasing fees. They are still looking to identify funding for the $12,000 implementation fee.

Mr. Boesen commented that his concern is the intent to charge a fee for inspecting fire extinguishers, lighting and exits when in the past that was part of the inspection.

Brock Weliver shared that those are not currently included in their inspection costs and another way to look at it is that they have not increased their fees in many years.

ADJOURNMENT

Salamanca/Simon
that the council adjourn at 4:45 p.m. Voice vote-Ayes: Five. Motion carried.

Kelley Felchle
City Clerk