

October 16, 2023

COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Harold E. Getty Council Chambers

Roll Call.

Mayor Pro Tem Ray Feuss in the Chair. Members present: Mr. Boesen, Mr. Nichols, Ms. Creighton-Smith, Mr. Chiles, Mr. Grieder, Ms. Wilder and Mr. Feuss.

Approval of agenda, as proposed or amended.

Grieder/Nichols
that the agenda, as proposed, be approved. Voice vote-Ayes: Seven Motion carried.

Approval of October 2, 2023 Minutes as proposed or amended.

Grieder/Nichols
that the minutes of the October 2, 2023, Council Worksession be approved as proposed. Voice vote-Ayes: Seven. Motion carried.

Discussion of an amendment to the snow removal ordinance.

Maria Downing, Code Enforcement Officer, and Randy Bennett Public Works Division Manager, provided an overview and background information on snow removal procedures for the downtown business district. Maria Downing explained the ordinance change would encourage downtown business owners to push the snow toward the parking area for easier removal by the Street Department.

Mr. Boesen questioned how snow removal for unoccupied businesses would be handled.

Maria Downing explained those businesses would be identified and put on a list for regular snow removal by the Street Department and the owners billed for those services.

Mr. Boesen questioned snow removal on east and west Park Avenue with the bike lanes and if there is enough room for the loaders to remove the piled snow.

Randy Bennett explained equipment used to get into smaller areas and the process of using multiple shifts to clean up after parked cars are moved throughout the day.

Mr. Chiles questioned educating citizens and business owners to remove vehicles and towing during snow events.

Randy Bennett explained notices are given with the help of Jessica Rucker, Executive Director, Main Street Waterloo, to help inform downtown business owners about snow removal.

Mr. Chiles questioned if the removal of meters will aid in snow removal and cost savings.

Randy Bennett commented that any time obstructions can be removed it is helpful and saves money.

Update from University of Northern Iowa Center for Energy and Environmental Education.

Kamyar Enshayan, of the University of Northern Iowa Center for Energy and Environmental Education, updated the council regarding Community Garden Plots created this year in the Highland neighborhood. Kathryn Gilbery, Adriana Garcia Ledezma, Layna Mee, and Julie Molisho, representing Black Hawk County Health, and Eden Rowland representing Green Iowa Ameri Corps also contributed to an overview of the program.

The program was started in February of 2023 with access to fruit and vegetables and land to cultivate based on citizen interest. Forty 48'x48' plots were prepared for spring planting. Presenters stated the biggest infrastructure cost was around \$10,000.00 to establish a water line but that many more are needed as the program expands. Grant funds were used for this expense. The presenters hope the council will agree to share in the expense for establishing additional water supplies as more garden space is identified and additional gardens are established throughout the community.

Mr. Grieder commented he is very impressed with the program, that this addresses a community need and access to fresh food, welcomes diversity in communities, and requested tours for the council next year.

Ms. Wilder commented she is in awe of the team and congratulated them for making a community impact.

Mr. Chiles commented he likes the idea of expanding the program and the progression of selling items from the gardens.

The presenters explained the gardeners pay \$30.00 each, which pays for water use. Installation was their cost, and now they are looking to the city to help expand more water.

Mr. Chiles offered to help with grant writing to support efforts. He also requested to see a plan of parks planned for next year.

Ms. Creighton-Smith commented green spaces are needed in the city and suggested speaking with Quan Campbell to sell at the Urban Farmer's Market.

Mr. Boesen questioned if gardeners need to reapply for plots next year and how plot sites are determined.

The Presenters explained they shared the concept with the Highland Community this year to see if families were interested and that they will contact this year's participants to see if they want plots again next year.

There was discussion regarding identifying future potential plots around city parks and community schools.

Mr. Feuss commented that the group is accomplishing three of the Flying the W goals and applauds their efforts.

The Presenter indicated they will meet with the council to update them on plans for 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

Grieder/Nichols

that the council adjourns at 5:06 p.m. Voice vote-Ayes: Seven. Motion carried.

Kelley Felchle
City Clerk