

November 6, 2023

COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Harold E. Getty Council Chambers
4:40 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Agenda, as proposed or amended

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

Approval of Minutes of October 16, 2023 as proposed or amended.

Grieder/Wilder
that the minutes of October 16, 2023, as proposed or amended, be approved. Voice vote-Ayes: Six. Motion carried.

Discussion recommendations from Waterloo Safe Neighborhoods Commission.

Mr. Grieder asked that commission members introduce themselves.

Kaitlin Emrich, Black Hawk County Health Director
Abraham Funchess, Waterloo Human Rights Director
Gwen Bramlet-Hecker, Riverview Center Executive Director

Mr. Nichols arrived at 4:42 p.m.

Mr. Grieder provided an overview of the research, issues, and activities of the commission. He addressed criticism the commission faced, explained some of the recommendations of the commission, and sources of federal funding available to support the recommendations of the commission.

Abraham Funchess, Human Rights Director, shared that he wants to highlight the recommendation of increasing lighting in certain pockets of the community.

Mr. Chiles commented that a light study is being conducted in the downtown area. He would like to see that expanded into other areas of the community.

Mr. Nichols questioned if there are some alcohol outlet density benchmarks that the city could use as a guide.

Mr. Grieder shared that Iowa State University presented data to the city about alcohol sales density.

Mayor Hart shared that when he was on council the city established alcohol overlay districts in

the community. He added that the Planning and Zoning Department can do a review on the overlay districts to see if expansion or modification is needed. He further explained the requirements of the overlay district and the effective changes that were brought as a result of its implementation.

Mr. Boesen questioned how the overlay districts are monitored annually.

Noel Anderson, Community Planning and Development Director, provided an overview of the audits conducted.

Mr. Boesen commented that a lot of the recommendations made will require staffing and budgeting. He questioned the source of the statistics regarding kids who are not afraid to go to federal prison.

Mr. Grieder explained that this is what he was told through personal conversations.

Ms. Creighton-Smith commented that through her experience working with Juvenile Justice and other similar organizations, there are many marginalized young people who do not believe they will live past eighteen years of age. The approach to managing this is to provide them with markers, such as a drivers license, to help them look beyond eighteen. She stated that there are many sources where these statistics are available.

Mr. Boesen thanked the commission for their service and dedication to working on this problem.

Ms. Creighton-Smith questioned where training in evidence-based practices would come from.

Gwen Bramlet-Hecker, Riverview Center, stated that training would be at the Center for Violence Prevention at UNI. She also commented that they would be another resource for data regarding young people and the thoughts of hopelessness. She further shared that the Otto Shoitiz Foundation does collaborate with private and nonprofit partnerships to address this specific type of project. The Waterloo Community Foundation has also shared an interest in looking into funding programs for youths.

Mayor Hart thanked the task force and Mr. Grieder for working to curb youth violence in our local community.

ADJOURNMENT

Feuss/Chiles

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

Kelley Felchle
City Clerk