THE CITY COUNCIL OF WATERLOO, IOWA
WORK SESSION TO BE HELD AT
Harold E. Getty Council Chambers
Monday, February 5, 2024
4:45 PM

RULES FOR WORK SESSION PUBLIC COMMENT

Iowa Code Chapter 21 gives the public the right to attend council meetings, but it does not require cities to allow public participation except during public hearings.The city council shall not receive any public comment during a work session.

Roll Call

Agenda, as proposed or amended

Approval of Minutes of January 16, 2024, as proposed or amended.

4:45 p.m. **Discussion of an amendment to the City of Waterloo Travel Policy.**

Submitted by: Bridgett Wood, Finance Director

Approx. 4:55 p.m. **Discussion of a resolution titled, "Resolution supporting a permanent ceasefire in Palestine and Israel, the return of all hostages, and the delivery of humanitarian aid; and affirming opposition to antisemitism, Islamophobia and anti-arab bigotry with the aim of achieving a just and lasting political solution."**

Submitted by: Abraham L. Funchess Jr., Human Rights Commission Director

ADJOURNMENT

Kelley Felchle
City Clerk

January 16, 2024

COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Harold E. Getty Council Chambers
4:10 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Agenda, as proposed or amended

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

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of January 2, 2024, as proposed or amended.

Boesen/Chiles
that the minutes of January 2, 2024 as proposed, be approved. Voice vote-Ayes: Seven. Motion carried.

Discussion of an amendment to the Plumbing Code.

Noel Anderson, Community Planning and Development Director, provided an overview of the amendment and explained that it only applies to a new build or purchase of a home that requires major renovations. Council shared their questions and concerns with Noel Anderson.

Discussion of the FY2025 budget.

Bridgett Wood, Finance Director, shared a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed the current FY24 revenue, balances and FY25 budget process and timeline. Council and Bridgett Wood discussed upcoming challenges with the House File 718 changes for cities, FY25 rollback update and property valuations.

ADJOURNMENT

Boesen/Feuss
that the council adjourn at 4:45 p.m. Voice vote-Ayes: Seven. Motion carried.

Notes for this meeting were taken by Mayor Quentin Hart.

_____
Kelley Felchle
City Clerk

Resolution No. _____

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A PERMANENT CEASEFIRE IN PALESTINE AND ISRAEL, THE RETURN OF ALL HOSTAGES, AND THE DELIVERY OF HUMANITARIAN AID; AND AFFIRMING OPPOSITION TO ANTISEMITISM, ISLAMOPHOBIA AND ANTI-ARAB BIGOTRY WITH THE AIM OF ACHIEVING A JUST AND LASTING POLITICAL SOLUTION.

Whereas, all human life is precious, and the targeting of civilians is a violation of international humanitarian law; and

Whereas, approximately 1,200 Israelis were killed on October 7th, over 22,000 Palestinians have been killed of which 9,100 were children, with over 57,000 wounded, and people of other nationalities have been killed between October 7th, 2023 and January 4, 2024, and where included among those lives lost are 136 United Nations staff, over 300 healthcare workers, and 77 journalists; and

Whereas, continued hostilities have forced 85% of Palestinians in Gaza and 5-10% of Israelis to flee their homes; and

Whereas, hundreds of thousands of lives are at imminent risk without an immediate permanent ceasefire, restoration of basic necessities, and delivery of adequate and unconditional humanitarian aid without delay to Palestinian civilian noncombatants; and

Whereas, more than one hundred Israeli hostages are held by Hamas and more than 7,000 Palestinian hostages are held without due process under Israeli martial law; and

Whereas, the United States government and our elected leaders hold immense diplomatic power to save Palestinian and Israeli lives, and US law requires that foreign military aid not be used in the contravention of international law; and

Whereas, the United States provides ongoing military aid to Israel, of which approximately $26,423,945 came from Iowa taxpayers in 2022; and

Whereas, the majority of nations in the UN have voted in favor of a ceasefire resolution, and millions of people worldwide, including residents of Waterloo, have joined in peaceful protests since October 7 to amplify this call; and

Whereas, Islamophobia, anti-Palestinian/anti-Arab bigotry, and antisemitism have risen significantly across the United States, and around the world, with direct impacts on communities – from synagogues and mosques to schools, universities, homes, offices, and places where communities gather, as well as at protests and rallies; and

Whereas, all of these forms of bigotry, violence, and oppression serve to divide our communities and weaken our efforts to achieve collective safety, justice, and true multi-ethnic, multi-racial, multi-religious democracy here and everywhere.
Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Waterloo that:

1. The City of Waterloo unequivocally condemns the killing of civilians in Gaza and West Bank by the state of Israel; and

2. The City of Waterloo affirms its commitment to combat anti-Palestinian/anti-Arab bigotry, antisemitism, and Islamophobia; and

3. The City of Waterloo affirms its support for all people in Palestine and Israel to live in peace, justice, and security; and

4. The City of Waterloo affirms its support for the rights of all people, including residents of Waterloo, to live, learn, work, play, worship, and engage in peaceful protest, all without intimidation, coercion, or the threat of violence; and

5. The City of Waterloo asks our congressional delegation to support all resolutions and legislation that match the values stated throughout this Waterloo resolution, especially those that aim to alleviate the urgent humanitarian disaster in Gaza, and the release of Israeli hostages, such as US House Resolution No. 786; and

6. The City of Waterloo affirms first-amendment rights of citizens to criticize government or government policy, and affirms that criticism of governments in Israel and Palestine is not inherently antisemitic or anti-Arab; and

7. The City of Waterloo supports the delivery of immediate, unconditional, and sufficient humanitarian aid to the noncombatant people of Gaza; and

8. The City of Waterloo resolves that the Waterloo Clerk's Office will provide a copy of this resolution to the members of the Iowa State legislature, the Iowa State Governor, the United States Congressional delegations from Iowa, and the President of the United States.

Passed and approved this _____ day of _____, 2024.