

Minutes of the March 11, 2024 Hampton City Council Budget Workshop

The Hampton City Council Budget Workshop was called to order at the Hampton City Council Chambers by Mayor Steve Birdsall at 6:00 p.m. The workshop was also offered electronically through Zoom. Council members in attendance were Kevin Blanford, James Davies, Bill Hodge, Jerre Grefe, Barry Lamos, and Patrick Palmer. Also, present were Police Chief Mark Morrison, Public Works Director Doug Tarr, and City Manager Ron Dunt. Mayor Birdsall invited those present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag.

Mayor Birdsall offered time for public comment. Brent Hansen from the Hampton Fire Department thanked the city for their continued partnership with the Fire Department. Hansen answered questions from the council and noted he plans to attend future meetings as his schedule allows.

Police Chief Mark Morrison reported they had four court cases continued last week, and he is continuing to work with Public Works Director Doug Tarr to address nuisances. Public Works Director Tarr reported he also had court cases continued. Tarr has been working with the Chamber and informed the council that city cleanup days will be April 12, 13, 15, 17, 19, and 20, and answered various questions from the council.

Sally Crandall from the Hampton Dog Park committee reported that people have lost interest and the committee has decided to dissolve. The committee has collected a little over \$2,000 that will be given to the city with requests it go towards dog signage, dog waste bags, etc. within the city.

Council member Palmer informed the council a long time ago there used to be a sign at Band Shell Park that said no dogs allowed. He feels that dogs should be allowed in the park as long as they are on a leash. Tarr informed the council the current code says pets must be on a leash, controlled or at heel. The council discussed possibly using some of the dog park funds for dog waste bags and signage at city parks and cemetery.

Chamber Director Bill Hittle asked the council to address the request from Franklin REC to leave the arches in the park that were put up for the Light Up the Night event. He reported REC plans to add two additional arches to the remaining two walkways and would make the current arches more permanent. The consensus of the council was to allow the arches to remain in the park.

The council discussed parking on the north side of the 300 block of 1st Ave NW. Council member Palmer, council member Blanford, and the business owner created a video of what it would look like with a vehicle parked on the north side of 1st Ave NW where there is currently no parking. The consensus of the council was there was not enough space at that intersection and would leave the no parking area as is.

City Manager Dunt provided the council with a recap of the various discussions regarding private swimming pool regulations and provided the council with a suggested pool safety advertisement. After discussion, the consensus of the council was to require a free zoning permit for above-the-ground private swimming pools over 24 inches in height and distribute the pool safety advertisement. City Manager Dunt will work on drafting an updated zoning permit.

City Manager Dunt informed the council he met with the state regarding 4 & 6th 1 St NW, and the city will obtain a grant to stabilize the property and repair the roof. He reminded the council the city would not be remodeling the property, only making it stable for a new property owner to remodel on their own. He also reported he and Public Works Director Tarr met with Ron's Roofing to evaluate the roof and reported there were no issues that would impact either of the neighboring properties.

Steve Huling informed the council he has \$500 collected and another \$600 pledged from reliable sources for pickleball nets. He also stated he currently has one windscreen and would like to personally purchase another one. After discussion, the consensus of the council was to order the nets.

City Manager Dunt received an update last week from the State Revolving Fund (SRF) regarding the loan for the drinking water plant improvement project. After analysis, the city has met the criteria to have 25% of the loan forgiven after the completion of the project.

City Manager Dunt reported the city received an annual dividend from Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities of \$14,177.

Council member Lamos inquired about the bid process for the upcoming curb and gutter project. Chamber Director Hittle informed the council the chamber is adding to the city cleanup on Earth Day, April 22nd to clean up parks, bike trails, downtown, etc. He has some businesses already confirmed and is seeking out more volunteers.

The workshop concluded at 7:07 p.m.