

## **Minutes of the October 21, 2024, Hampton City Council Workshop**

The Hampton City Council 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 and YouTube. Council members in attendance were Kevin Blanford, James Davies, Jerre Greffe, Barry Lamos, and Patrick Palmer. Bill Hodge was absent. Also present were City Manager Ron Dunt, Police Chief Mark Morrison, and Public Works Director Doug Tarr. Mayor Birdsall invited those present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag.

Mayor Birdsall offered time for public comment. Seth Johnson of Hampton expressed his concerns regarding several topics including nuisance notices and home maintenance.

Public Works Director Tarr and Police Chief Morrison updated the council on nuisance properties and answered various questions from the council. Chief Morrison reported they had 5 notices last week and 3 citations written. They also have 2 court-ordered cleanups they hope to do in early November. Public Works Director Tarr reported that RFP's are out for asbestos removal at 25 6<sup>th</sup> St SW. RFP's are due by 5:00 pm on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Demo is planned for this winter.

Paul Kruse presented information regarding the Iowa Public Agency Investment Trust. I-PAIT is another option for investing city funds. Dunt stated that with the state legislature's intentions to further reduce city's ability to use property taxes, we need to look at all tools available for revenue for the city. The council's consensus was to place the resolution on the Thursday, October 24 agenda.

Suzy Knipfel, Library Director, gave her quarterly update to the council. The head of the Library Foundation will be meeting with the county supervisors to answer questions and clear up confusion. Lamos questioned how much money the library foundation has. Knipfel estimates the library foundation has approximately \$900,000. The elevator is in need of a control panel update which will cost around \$20,000. The library has applied for a Barkema Grant for the repairs and the foundation would pay for the remaining amount. The library is also in need of some exterior work and Knipfel has been working to get quotes for tuckpointing, new steps on the north side of the building, and a retaining wall on the north side of the building. She has applied for some grants to assist with the cost. The library will be hosting cyber security events on October 30 at 10:30 am and 5:00 pm. The open house is scheduled for December 10 and will include a "Staying Safe Online" presentation by Pat Palmer.

Chief Morrison gave an update on speeding concerns on 6<sup>th</sup> St SW. The speed trailer was there October 9-17. The posted speed is 25mph and the average speed during the period was 21.61. Out of the 991 vehicles that traveled through the area, 3 would have been given citations. The council consensus was to keep monitoring speed with extra patrols and using the speed trailer.

Mark Crawford, Crawford Engineering, discussed the bridge on 6<sup>th</sup> Street NW. It is a 22 ft long timber bridge built in 1940 with a posted 11-ton weight limit. Crawford presented 6 options for the bridge. Crawford will do more research on options for the bridge and report back to the council.

Public Works Director Tarr, discussed a request for zoning change from Mark McSweeney for property located at 1013 4<sup>th</sup> Street SE. The Planning and Zoning Commission met on October 16 and is recommending to the council that the zoning be changed from Light Industrial to A-T.

Mayor Birdsall adjourned the workshop at 7:00 p.m.