

November 2, 2020

City Council Budget Workshop Minutes

The November 2, 2020 City Council Heart & Soul Workshop meeting was called to order at 5:00PM by Mayor Staner. Hosch, Knepper, Kelchen, Rausch and Delaney answered roll call. Also, present was Jason Neises from the Community Foundation.

A motion was made by Kelchen, second by Rausch to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Jason Neises from the Community Foundation was present. The City Council went through each action item that the City Council should be the lead partner on. Each item was discussed and possible partners and funding sources were discussed. Some of the items have already been mentioned and/or are being worked on currently. The others will be added to our 1-5 year plan. The downtown murals are in the process currently, with funding options being researched. The dog park was mentioned and a couple of possible locations were discussed. This is an item that could potentially be completed in a year or so. The enhanced use of the river, including access points were discussed. It was mentioned working with the campground on allowing people to get out of the river at the campground. The area to the north of the old locker building was discussed. This would make a great greenspace. We could add a gazebo and place some tables. If we do any building, we need to place a plaque, "In Memory of Herb Green".

Creating a Public Safety Commission was discussed. This would be a citizen group to identify areas of safety concerns and then bring to City Council. Crosswalks was discussed. These can't be placed wherever people would like them, there are regulations that identify where they can and can't be located. Lighting on Mulberry Drive was discussed. Maquoketa Valley REC is the electric company that erects these lights. With more housing being added, it makes sense to add more lighting.

The calendar on the website being linked to school, community, city activities was discussed. This will keep people updated on events and activities in the community. A person needs to be in charge of this, perhaps the Chamber Director. This will get discussed with her. Also, telling people when City Council meetings are on Facebook and including the link to view the meeting online. Moving forward with the new library and improvements to the downtown were discussed. We need to have a vision plan for the downtown including parking. We had just started a Downtown Committee when COVID hit and we will continue to meet and ask that some business owners also join the committee.

The City Council discussed the idea of a community center/rec center. It was also discussed building a multi-sport complex with removable fences. We need to bring people to Cascade and then they will spend money here. The complex could be named after who donates the land and the different diamonds or areas would be named after who donates the most funds.

It was great discussion. These action ideas will be reviewed each year at budget time by the City Council and will get put into a comprehensive plan. Each year items that have been addressed will be celebrated.

With no other business, Kelchen moved and Rausch seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:15p.m. Motion carried.

Deanna McCusker
City Administrator