

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – TOWN HALL MEETING
Webster City, Iowa July 24, 2017

The City Council met in special session for a Town Hall Meeting at the Middle School Commons, Webster City, Iowa at 7:00 p.m. on July 24, 2017, upon call of the Mayor and the advance agenda.

1. The meeting was called to order by Mayor John Hawkins and roll being called there were present John Hawkins, Mayor in the chair, and the following Council Members: Matt McKinney, Brian Miller, Jim Talbot and Logan Welch.
2. It was moved by Miller and seconded by Welch to approve the agenda.
ROLL CALL: Hawkins, McKinney, Miller, Talbot and Welch voting aye.
3. Mayor John Hawkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Also in attendance were City Manager Daniel Ortiz-Hernandez and City Clerk Karyl Bonjour. There were approximately 35 other community members in attendance including Adri Siestra from the Daily Freeman Journal. Pat Powers, KQWC, arrived at approximately 7:23 p.m.

4. City Manager Ortiz-Hernandez provided an update on the following projects that are in progress around Webster City:
 1. James Street (Old Hwy. 20) – near completion, paving is done and the July 28th completion date should be met.
 2. Pedestrian Bridge/Sidewalk on East Second Street – final walk through is scheduled for July 26th. Maintenance of the sidewalk and bridge was also discussed.
 3. Brewer Creek Additions 5 & 6 are moving forward. Paving should begin in the near future. Completion date for 5th Addition is September 1, 2017 and completion date for 6th Addition is scheduled for November 1, 2017. Final plats were approved by Council at the July 17, 2017 Council Meeting and staff is currently working on pricing of the lots.
 4. The intersection of Ohio Street and Des Moines Street should be completed in the next couple of weeks and then work will begin at the intersection of Des Moines Street and Fairmeadow Drive.
5. Mayor Hawkins moved the Town Hall meeting forward on the topic of Fireworks. The City Council passed an Ordinance that mirrors the guidelines the State Legislature has set in regard to dates and times fireworks can be used. Several members of the audience commented on the use of fireworks within City Limits. Upon a show of hands, the majority were in agreement to change the current guidelines for the use and shorten the time frame allowed. It was agreed that informing residents of the City guidelines is a challenge with the State guidelines overshadowing City Ordinances.

Fire Chief Chuck Stansfield was present and mentioned due to the fact that the State Legislature was so late in approving the changes, cities got hit really hard and fast with this and there was not adequate time to educate the public. He informed that the Fire Department will participate in the education of several aspects of fireworks use once the City has determined any changes they plan to make prior to the next firework season.

Consensus of Council was that they will take another look at the Ordinance to possibly address citizen concerns.

Audience member, Becky Kepler, encouraged residents to contact their State Legislators as well if they would like to see changes made.

City Council Meeting Minutes, Town Hall Meeting, July 24, 2017

6. At this time, Mayor Hawkins opened the meeting up to other items those in attendance would like to discuss. The following items were covered:

a. An update on Nuisances was given by City Manager Ortiz-Hernandez. The City of Webster City is using the proper process to address Nuisances, whether the property is abandoned or by Municipal Infraction, but sometimes are held up due to obtaining court dates once that point is reached.

Several in attendance spoke on concerns of specific properties in the City limits that could possibly be a health hazard as well as meeting requirements of a nuisance property. It was suggested to look at the current Ordinance and possibly strengthening the verbiage to address a property for health hazards as well.

b. Reminder was given that items are not allowed to be placed on the curb, other than the normal items for garbage and recycling pickup. The Police Department is addressing homeowners when items are found on the curb of their property.

c. Legality of ATV or golf cart use on City Streets was questioned.

d. Possible placement of garbage cans at Brewer Creek.

e. Determination process of street repair/replacement.

Brian Miller gave a brief update on the Farmer's Market being held each Saturday on Superior Street. He mentioned this week (July 29th), it will be held at the Availa Bank plaza downtown to coincide with Crazy Days in Webster City.

Ortiz-Hernandez reminded citizens of the annual Fair Parade taking place tomorrow evening and to clear the staging area and parade route of parked vehicles.

It was moved by Talbot and seconded by Miller that Council Adjourn.

ROLL CALL: McKinney, Miller, Talbot, Welch and Hawkins voting aye.

The Town Hall Meeting was taped.

The July 24th, 2017 Town Hall Meeting was adjourned at 8:21p.m.