

Minutes of the 4-6-15 Hampton City Council Workshop

The Hampton City Council held a workshop at 6:00 pm in city council chambers. Members present; Lukensmeyer, Davies, Freie, Pralle. Absent; Harms and Hickman. Also present were Mayor Boehmler, City Manager Ron Dunt, Public Works Director Doug Tarr and Police Chief Bob Schaefer.

Public Comment: None.

Mayor Boehmler then invited Mark Siciliano, 515 1st St. SW, to address the council and answer questions regarding his interest in being appointed to the Ward 1 City Council position. Mayor Boehmler then invited Meghan Freie, 415 6th St. SW, to address the council and answer questions regarding her interest in being appointed to the Ward 1 City Council position. No action taken.

Karen Mitchell, FCDA then deferred comment to KL Holdings representatives Landon Plagge and Kyle Pralle to update the council on the downtown development project. Plagge explained that due to negative response from some downtown members of the community and more primarily, estimated cost overruns associated with site excavations, KL Holdings has decided to withdraw from the downtown development project. Plagge expressed their thanks to FCDA Director Karen Mitchell and Main Street Hampton for their assistance and to the City of Hampton for their support through the process. KL Holdings offered to deed the 101 property to the city of Hampton at no cost to allow the city to construct a parking lot on the site. After council questioning, Mayor Boehmler expressed his disappointment that KL Holdings would no longer be pursuing the project and he asked KL Holdings to delay their notification to the state so that he can exhaust all efforts to seek other investors who may be willing to step forward to make this project a reality. Mayor Boehmler asked to meet with KL Holdings to discuss what options may be available. Further discussion will take place at Thursday's council meeting.

Hampton Kiwanis representative Ron Schermer asked the council to reconsider its position on the potential use of any excess funds raised for the HAPPY project. The Kiwanis Club feels that any and all funds raised should be utilized for additional playground structure or related "enhancements" to the playground itself and not towards other park infrastructure. Mayor Boehmler requested that Kiwanis draft some verbiage to present to the council for consideration at a future meeting.

Ron gave a history of the recent accounting software conversion from the current software company to their new product, "Fund Balance". He stated that after a several months of utilizing the new product, it is not satisfactory for many reasons. The current program is not adequately providing the necessary functions and reports vital to efficiently track data, and company training and follow-up support has not been acceptable. The last time the city replaced its accounting software was 2002. Given these issues since the conversion, Ron has researched alternatives and recommends for the council to consider switching to another software program called "Summit" provided by a well-known reputable company, Data Technologies. Data Technologies is the most widely used municipal accounting software program in Iowa. It has a strong reputation and has many satisfied municipal customers. Deputy City Clerk Robbi Stevens

gave testimonial examples of the current inefficiencies and shortcomings of the current program, as well as recommending the need for a change. Jeff Grill, Data Technologies, reinforced the concerns that staff is currently experiencing. He provided some company background and touched upon the major positive aspects of their Summit software, which he predicts would resolve the city's frustrations with the current software. In summary, Ron viewed this as a "Capital Expenditure" of the utmost importance and urged the council to consider the investment of \$35,000-\$40,000 as a necessary expense to provide staff with the tools to accurately and efficiently do their jobs.

Mayor Boehmler announced that he is setting up a mobile tour for the city council, members of the media and the public. His plan is to have the council set a date for a tour of the community to witness, discuss and identify areas or matters in the community that may need some focus in the coming year.

Mayor Boehmler reminded the council of the Image of Pride Award program which begins in May and runs through October. He explained that this year the nominations would be directed through each respective council ward starting with At-Large Councilman Lukensmeyer. The public is encouraged to submit nominations of deserving properties.

Ron explained that he had researched any potential insurance liability associated with the aquatic center providing a locally based swim lesson program to streamline the process and improve efficiencies. There seems to be no liability concerns with such a program so Bradley Waddle will draft a swim lesson program for use during the 2015 summer.

The council then went into closed session at 7:40 p.m. in accordance with Iowa Code Section 21.9 to discuss strategy in matters relating to employment conditions of employee not covered by collective bargaining agreement.

The council opened the session at 7:52 p.m. No action was taken as this was a workshop.

Mayor adjourned the workshop meeting at 7:53 p.m.