

A work session of the Grundy Center City Council was called to order at 5:31 p.m. on Monday, October 17, 2016, in the Council Chambers by Mayor Buhrow. Present: Stefl, Ammerman, Miller and Kiewiet. Absent: Hamann

Stefl moved and Kiewiet seconded the approval of the meeting agenda as written. Motion carried four ayes.

Mayor Buhrow opened the first discussion about Chapter 141 – Driveway Regulations and Chapter Chapter 136 – Sidewalk Regulations. Dan Bangasser, Public Works Director, mentioned he currently has five property owners wishing to pour concrete for their driveways and not install the expansion joints for a four foot wide sidewalk. All of these five properties are in areas of town where there are no current sidewalks. Bangasser explained that when driving around these areas, there would be more issues to consider such as removing trees, utilities poles, PED's, etc. before enforcement of installing a sidewalk could occur. Kiewiet mentioned that maybe adding a stipulation that if a current sidewalk is within 300 ft. on either side of the new driveway, then the sidewalk must be formed and poured in to the new driveway. Final orders were given to Sawyer and Bangasser to amend the current ordinance to say, if a sidewalk currently exists adjacent to the driveway then a sidewalk must be formed into the new driveway as well. If there is no sidewalk currently, there is no need to form the sidewalk into the new driveway. No formal action was taken at this time.

Mayor Buhrow opened the next discussion on the financing of the wastewater ultraviolet disinfection project. At the last council meeting, Stefl mentioned the possibility of lowering the amount financed and to pay for some of this project out of reserves. Discussion led to what amount of interest could be saved by paying out of reserves. Bangasser suggested we call for more answers to our questions. No formal action was taken at this time.

Mayor Buhrow then opened the next discussion about the 801 7th Street property. Jim Thompson, Main Street Iowa, confirmed with the Council that they were still onboard with a "town meeting" being held regarding this property. He explained that the Council has a very tough job. There are three options to consider; first, demolishing this property and expense the costs just as a liability; second, all for further action for possibly renovating this property with the expenses to be reimbursed with future property tax revenue; third, once the property is brought to a state where it is attractive to a potential developer, then include possible TIF rebate, etc. for the property. The "town meeting", this will be used to educate the community on these three options. Kiewiet mentioned that it was the Council has been elected to make decisions that are financially feasible for the residents. No formal action was taken at this time.

Stefl moved and Miller seconded adjournment of the work session at 6:28pm. Motion carried four ayes.

Brian Buhrow, Mayor

Attest: Kristy Sawyer, City Clerk