

GLENWOOD CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
December 8, 2018

The Glenwood City Council held a work session on Saturday, December 8, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Ron Kohn called the meeting to order with the following present: Council Members: Holly Jackson; Laurie Smithers; Dan McComb; Jeremy Rodman; City Employees: Angie Winquist; Tara Painter; and Amber Farnan. Guests: Adam Braun; Elizebith Young; Bob Wray; Tony Winton; Sandi Winton; Lyn Mintle; Tim Becker; Michelle Wright; John & Ronda Nebel; Donnie Kates; Terry Craig; Jim Lincoln; James Clark; Aaron Ling; John McDade; Zac Dashner; Julie Kalambokidis; Matt Gray; Jordan Crave; and Brandon Wear.

This work session was used as information gathering, visitors wrote down their concerns for different departments of the city.

Fire Department concerns were new fire station, ladder truck, pumper truck and gear. Possible fire department committee may be formed to look into options for a new building and truck funding options. GO Bonds were discussed – a new building would require a vote from the public. A new building could cost \$5-7 million; a new ladder truck \$1-1.5 million; and a tanker around \$250-300,000. Discussions were held on where a new building would be built – discussed the current location. The Department has secured a number of grants which have helped them replace old bunker gear and recruit and retain volunteers. Have a matching grant request to FEMA for the tanker truck, this would be a 5% match for the City. The City and Fire Department are also working on updating 28E agreements with the surrounding townships.

Police Department concerns proactively taking care of police cars, making sure they have the right equipment and salaries. Discussed raising police officers' pay to incentivize them to stay in Glenwood, instead of moving to bigger departments. Discussed training costs for new officers and reimbursement agreement. The PD will be implementing a maintenance program with a replacement schedule; they are in need of one new vehicle at present. PD works with Mills County for radios and IT. Our officers and Mills County deputies back each other up when needed; there is a good working relationship there.

Parks Department – concerns about Hiley Park not having a 911 address, vandalism and possible illegal activity happening there. Kiwanis has been putting money into Hiley Park, they have provided equipment, a bench and basketball hoop. The Mayor spoke about Glenwood Lake Parking needing a new building for our park & rec guys to work in during the winter, the current building does not have heat. Looking into possible grant funding. Jackson stated that there is a FEMA grant that may help with the project if we added a storm shelter for the public. The Trails Board is working on adding trails in the area, they are close to building phase; bridges are one challenge it faces, working to make Glenwood more walkable.

Street Department/Public Works; brick streets were discussed, townspeople would like to see them saved; discussions were had on costs to keep them and maintain them; there is the possibility that Coolidge may be paved and bricks saved for maintenance on other streets. More research needs to be done on the actual costs of maintaining brick streets vs. maintaining paved streets. Concerns about the weight of Red River Waste trucks were also discussed. The current state of sidewalks was discussed, there are no sidewalks that lead to the high school from Sharp Street, on the West side of town there are not many sidewalks for kids to get to the West School. The City does have a sidewalk share agreement, where property owners can be partially reimbursed for replacing sidewalks.

Sewer expansion for Marian Heights was discussed, the City is looking into some grants that may help those homeowners hook up to city sewer, when they were annexed sewer access was not in that agreement.

Snow removal – Citizens wondered if there were any plan or route to how snow is removed. Stephen Hunt would like to see the GLP parking lot hit when the plows head East on Sharp Street.

Concern was voiced on Code Enforcement Officer handing out red tags for sidewalks before the city was done plowing streets.

Use of manpower, safety of street crewman and customer relations were discussed. Citizens would like to see the street crewman take more safety precautions; they also wanted to make sure that the correct amount of crewman were used for each job. Another concern was the interaction of the crewman with citizens, a couple of citizens stated they were treated with sarcasm when

addressing the crewman. Council explained that job descriptions are being updated as we go and will look into some of the concerns that were raised with the crewmen.

Our current street sweeper is in need of replacement, if a GO Bond was sought, a new street sweeper would be included. Currently we are repairing it as we go. Street sweeping is important as it keeps leaves and other debris out of the storm sewers.

The Sharp Street bridge will be inspected next year and will eventually need to be replaced or repaired – Rodman wanted to citizens to be aware of this upcoming expense – can look into adding sidewalks to the High School at that time.

Library concerns are expansion, maintenance issues, more computers, hours and wages. Tara Painter stated the Library needs to be expanded, in the afternoons it is very full, there are many students who come there to use computers and hang out – they may need their own space. Computer use has increased by around 1,300 people a year, adding more computers would allow more citizens to use computers without having to wait for one to come available. The current roof needs to be tuck pointed and there are other repairs that need to be done the \$15,000 maintenance budget they receive each year from the City does not cover all their maintenance needs.

Terry Craig would like to see wages go up so they can attract better talent and retain good employees – she stated wages in all city departments need to be raised for the same purpose. She wants to see people stay in Glenwood for their employment. Painter stated she has to help patrons with computer issues, as she is the only one with computer expertise that is needed, feels better wages would attract more talent.

Discussion on a maintenance/repair/replacement schedule was had, Code Enforcement will have a hand in making a maintenance/replacement schedule so the City can start to plan for certain repairs and begin putting money aside for them. They would also like to see more money go into reserves for emergency purposes.

Lyn Mintle suggested taking new TIF revenue and putting it into a maintenance fund.

Economic Development was discussed. Terry Craig mentioned she felt as a business owner on South Locust that she was forgotten, too much attention on the businesses on the square. Discussions was had on beautification of Locust and Sharp streets as they are the main roads in town. Jackson stated that Mills County Development Board & Director were working for Glenwood as well. Discussed the comprehensive plan and that it needs an amendment. The importance of fiber optics was also discussed, the citizens felt this was needed to attract more businesses.

Citizens felt that Locust Street needed to be re-milled.

Annexation was discussed, MCombs stated that until our city becomes solvent, the state of Iowa will not allow us to annex. Annexing residential areas does cost money – hooking them up to city sewer and other benefits we would need to expand to them.

Selection of department heads – Smithers would like to see a succession plan in place, training someone to become a department head before they leave the city – if possible. Having a plan for succession would help the city moving forward.

Downtown revite of the square – Jackson – can look into grants, however we would need current businesses to be on board and they would have to be willing to put some money toward it as well.

Hunt – questioned if we had looked into becoming a certified government, there are additional grant funding available for those cities who are a certified government.

Discussion about lights around the square and eventually adding more to lead people through town – down Locust street. Malvern has a private group with financial backing from their bank to help them. Sandi Winton spoke about Christmas lights and how they started at the park and then moved to the square – had fundraisers and volunteers at one point. Can look into starting it again.

The Tree Board has identified trees that need to be removed, due to disease.

Citizens spoke in favor of building codes that would help identify buildings that needed repairs or homes that were not suitable for habitation. Worry about landlords who do not take good care of the homes they rent out was the biggest push for building codes.

Craig mentioned she was weary of having a company come in and do the inspections, would like it done in-house, if possible.

Discussion was had about electrical work and that you could have a state inspector come down to look at electrical work, or call on a property that they felt were not up to the state electric code.

Matt Gray stated that building codes would help ensure that our citizens and people that come into our community stay safe.

Ron Kohn

Ron Kohn, Mayor

Attest:

Amber Farnan

Amber Farnan, City Clerk

