

OTTUMWA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING NO. 14
Westgate Towers, 910 West 2nd St.
Community Room, Ground Level

April 18, 2019
6:00 O'Clock P.M.

The meeting convened at 6:00 P.M.

Present were Council Member Berg, Dalbey, Stevens and Mayor Lazio. Council Member Roe and Streeby were absent. Also present were City Admin. Morris, Parks & Rec. Dir. Rathje, Public Works Dir. Seals, Police Chief McAndrew, Dir. of Hlth. Insp. & Planning Flanagan and City Clerk Reinhard.

Mayor Lazio stated this is a Community Meeting for the purpose of engaging citizens to find out their likes, dislikes, comments, and ideas about the City and City operations. We will start off with the following topics: BVC Hotel, Albia Rd. Roundabout and Quiet Zones.

Dir. of Hlth. Insp. & Planning Flanagan reported the following on the BVC Hotel project:

- Currently working with the developer to design a 96 room Springhill Suites hotel to aid in our competitiveness in the convention market to host more events in Ottumwa.
- POLCO survey has been centered on this project.
- We are hopeful that this project will come to fruition – council vote is May 21, 2019.
- Other projects: Washington Street apartments – 50 units for lower income housing; BUILD Grant to move forward with River Renaissance which will include pedestrian amenities and townhomes.

Public Works Dir. Seals reported the following:

- Current projects through the Engineering Dept. – East Main Reconstruction (from Jefferson to Vine) in phase 3 with weather cooperation hope to pave next week, and then move to final phase of the project.
- Albia Rd. Roundabout was opened up in the winter for ease of travel, and contractor is back working on current phase.
- Quiet Zone – delays through BNSF but the City will have 30 days after final application is submitted to go quiet with our trains in city limits.
- Alta Vista Reconstruction will begin next spring.

Citizen Concerns/Comments:

- Hopeful that the Council keeps in mind the business owners when they have to close during construction projects, this can be altering to their businesses. Try to be realistic with timeframes on projects – when you say it will take around 6 months, and it ends up over one year, this can be disheartening.
- Noise pollution/nuisance concern – BNSF trains sit idle between Paris St. and S. Graves St. for hours, days sometimes. The low rumble of the trains can be heard and felt throughout the neighborhood. Not only do these idling trains pose as a constant noise pollution, they are also known to let off a fowl and toxic odor, diminishing our air quality. Attempted contact with BNSF to no avail, so bringing to the City's attention to see if anything can be done.
- Dump trucks drive by with debris/trash flying out of the back – this leaves trash in ditches, yards that requires attention.

April 21-27 is Make Ottumwa Shine Week – asking all citizens to do as much as they can to help clean up their yards and community. #trashtag – some OHS students are tapping into the fun with this project.

We have been more diligent on derelict houses, unkept properties, junk in yards, tall grass.

The Property tax reform bill HF773 is gaining speed through the legislature and if it passes, will present the city with more hurdles due to property tax values and how it affects our general fund.

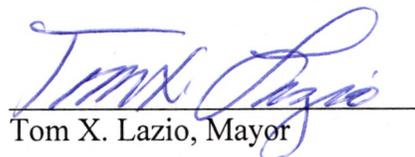
Everything we do as council is directly related to the City budget and its constraints. We don't want to miss an opportunity with the BVC hotel – try to increase revenues to help improve our budget.

Looking at parking during the design of BVC hotel and trying to increase the number of parking spots available after completion.

Main Street Organization – Dir. Fred Zesiger tries to coordinate with business owners weekly to keep them “in the know” of city projects and things that can affect their businesses. Perception is key – we want to help businesses stay positive about construction in their areas – this means growth and added potential for economic impact.

There being no further business, Dalbey moved, seconded by Stevens that the meeting adjourn. All ayes. Adjournment was at 6:55 P.M.

CITY OF OTTUMWA, IOWA


Tom X. Lazio, Mayor

ATTEST:



Christina Reinhard, City Clerk