

SPECIAL WORK SESSION NO. 21
Bridge View Center, 102 Church St.

June 11, 2024
5:30 O'Clock P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M.

Present were Council Member Hoffman, McAntire, Caviness, Bossou, Galloway and Mayor Johnson.

Bossou moved, seconded by McAntire to approve Agenda as presented. All ayes.

Items discussed at the work session are listed on the agenda and on file in the office of the City Clerk. No action was taken.

City Admin. Rath began, City's Fire Protection & Prevention Code; Amendments to the 2021 International Fire Code. When adopted; Ord. No. 3204-2022, (2021 IFC) 9/6/22, information disclosed did not mention removal of amendment that allowed some exemptions. Com. Dev. Dir. Simonson presented; long term, what is the best way to get all bldgs. sprinkled; that should be our goal to create a feasible plan together. Short term, this has become a barrier in expansion of downtown area so there is urgency in trying to find a solution in the interim.

Interim Fire Chief Short reported there's enough factors with safety that he does not support any amendments to 2021 IFC. Discussed & researched with peers in other cities. Other things to consider; fire dept. response capabilities to a downtown fire due to further constraints (alley width, parking front & back of bldg., etc.) 96% of fires were confined to the room they originated in being sprinkled (National Fire Protection Agency). Without sprinklers, fighting a fire would take longer, cause more damage, be more dangerous and have a greater potential for structural failure.

Marc Roe, Dir. GoPIP and Fred Zesiger, Dir. Main Street Ottumwa, shared their views on how this has been crippling for economic development.

Council discussed topic in great detail. Want to see recommendation presented for council action.

Rath then discussed legalizing Use of Golf Carts on City Streets. IA Code §321.247 discusses golf cart operation on city streets; council has it in their purview to allow golf carts on city streets and can mimic state code, allowing operation from sunrise to sunset and equipped with a slow moving vehicle sign and bicycle safety flag. Jerry Phillips provided examples of city codes and permit applications. Mayor asked if Police Dept. would be inundated with enforcement issues should this be added to our code. Council requests this presented for action. Rath will work with attorney on ordinance and will present for legislative action at a later mtg.

There being no further discussion, Caviness moved, seconded by McAntire to adjourn. All ayes.

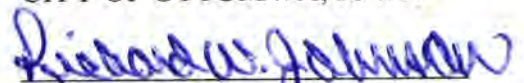
Adjournment was at 7:32 P.M.

ATTEST:



Christina Reinhard, CMC, City Clerk
Published in Ottumwa Courier on 6/20/2024.

CITY OF OTTUMWA, IOWA


Richard W. Johnson, Mayor