

City of Van Meter, Iowa

City Council Minutes – July 22, 2024

1) The Van Meter City Council met for a special meeting on Monday, July 22, 2024, at the Van Meter United Methodist Church located at 100 Hazel Street, Van Meter, IA 50261. Mayor Herman called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. The following council members were present upon roll call: Joel Akers, Travis Brott, Blake Grolmus and Penny Westfall. Councilman Pelz was absent.

Staff present: Library Director Jonatha Basye, Police Chief Mike Brown, Fire Chief Mark Schmitt, City Clerk Jessica Drake and City Administrator Liz Faust.

2) Grolmus moved, supported by Akers, to approve the agenda. On roll call the votes were as follows: Akers – YES; Brott – YES; Grolmus – YES; Westfall - YES.

3) Police Chief Brown and City Clerk Drake led a discussion about current fees vs proposed fees. State code sets the fees for scheduled violations. Staff recommends increasing the following fees: Parking Violations to \$20, Snow Removal Parking Violations to \$30, and Handicap Parking Violations to \$200. Staff recommends changing the dog at large/no leash from a municipal infraction fee of \$750 to \$25 for first offense, \$50 for second and \$250 for third. Council had set the public hearing at the July 8 meeting for August 12 regarding proposed fee changes.

4) City Clerk Drake led a discussion the upcoming public hearing regarding the addition of Chapter 57 Urban Chickens to the Code of Ordinances and provided a sample permit application for review. Council had set the public hearing at the July 8 meeting for August 12 regarding proposed fee changes.

5) City Administrator Faust and Mayor Herman led a discussion regarding next steps regarding Vision Park.

6) Council members executed the Council Member Handbook Signature pages from the handbook that was approved in May with an effective date of July 1, 2024.

7) Staff discussed the current process for code enforcement & nuisance abatement & recommended termination of the services agreement with Iowa Inspections LLC and for staff to perform code enforcement internally. Grolmus moved, supported by Akers, to provide written notice of termination to Iowa Inspections and for staff to take necessary steps to define an internal process for Code Enforcement & Nuisance Abatement. On roll call the votes were as follows: Akers – YES; Brott – YES; Grolmus – YES; Westfall - YES.

8) Council engaged in a discussion regarding the recent property acquisition of 601 Main Street and next steps including but not limited to starting the RFP process for architects, appointing a planning committee and department head input process. Staff will bring forward more information in August.

9) Brott moved, supported by Grolmus, to adjourn the meeting. On roll call the votes were as follows: Akers – YES; Brott – YES; Grolmus – YES; Westfall - YES.. Mayor Herman adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.

  
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Mayor

  
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City Clerk Jessica Drake