

City of Van Meter, Iowa

City Council Workshop Minutes – September 23, 2024

1) The Van Meter City Council met for a workshop on Monday, September 23, 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, Quin Pelz and Penny Westfall.

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

Public present: Dallas County Sherriff Adam Infante, Approximately 60 members of the public were in attendance.

2) Grolmus moved, supported by Westfall, to approve the agenda. Mayor Herman stated that a workshop is not a regular business meeting. The agenda does not reflect a Pledge of Allegiance, Introductions, Civility Statement, Citizen Hearing/Public Comment, Consent Agenda or Staff & Committee Reports. On roll call, the votes were as follows: Akers – YES; Brott – NO; Grolmus – YES; Pelz – YES; Westfall - YES. **YES (4) NO (1) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT (0)**

3) The City Council engaged in a discussion with Dallas County Sherriff Adam Infante about what a contract law enforcement service looks like. Councilmember Westfall read a written statement regarding her support of the Van Meter Police Department and her desire to not entertain the contract law enforcement option. Mayor Herman stated that this discussion was for informational purposes and not for action. Mayor Herman also stated that the discussion was a result of an initiative started at the beginning of his term to evaluate the efficiencies and cost effectiveness of all City departments, not just the Police Department. The City had reviewed what a current 28E agreement looks like from a nearby city. However, Sheriff Infante noted that when the contract is renegotiated in the near future, it will not look the way it does now. There was discussion regarding pros and cons and the County’s desire (or not) to provide a contract law enforcement services to the City of Van Meter. The Council & Mayor thanked Sheriff Infante for taking the time to attend the meeting and discuss with Council.

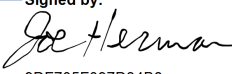
4) City Clerk Drake described the process of proceeding with a bond referendum and the process for a reverse referendum as it relates to proposed renovation activities at 601 Main Street (the future home of the Van Meter Public Library, Police Department and Fire Department).

5) Brott moved, supported by Grolmus, to enter into closed session pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 21.5(1)(c) at 6:34pm. On roll call, the votes were as follows: Akers – YES; Brott – YES; Grolmus – YES; Pelz – YES; Westfall – YES. **YES (5) NO (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT (0)** Brott moved, supported by Grolmus, to exit closed session at 7:57pm. On roll call, the votes were as follows: Akers – YES; Brott – YES; Grolmus – YES; Pelz – YES; Westfall – YES.

YES (5) NO (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT (0)

6) Grolmus moved, supported by Akers, to direct City Staff and the City Attorney to proceed as discussed in closed session pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 21.5(1)(c). On roll call the votes were as follows: Akers – YES; Brott – YES; Grolmus – YES; Pelz – YES; Westfall - YES. **YES (5) NO (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT (0)**

7) Brott moved, supported by Grolmus, to adjourn. On roll call the votes were as follows: Akers – YES; Brott – YES; Grolmus – YES; Pelz – YES; Westfall - YES. **YES (5) NO (0) ABSTAIN (0) ABSENT (0)** Mayor Herman adjourned the meeting at 7:58pm.

Signed by:

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Joe Herman, Mayor

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Jessica Drake, City Clerk