

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
JANUARY 5, 2009  
MINUTES

Mayor Beach opened the meeting with the call to order and the pledge of allegiance.

Members present were: Backoff, Grabenbauer, Hoop, Maxwell, Wenner and Wirin. Schubert was absent.

Consent agenda items were read.

Michelle Spohnheimer notified the Council that a grant from the Martha Ellen Tye Foundation for \$10,000 was the largest donation received toward the \$40,000 fund for assisting low-income home-owners with property maintenance issues. The fund goal has now been reached and the program will be ready shortly.

Mike Fields discussed the reasons for recommending the new farm lease of the 262 acres adjacent to the wastewater treatment plant be awarded to Ron Burns. He explained that the farming of this parcel requires special conditions because of the use of the land by the city for disposal of biosolids. Rent will be based on ISU's annual "Cash Rental Rates for Iowa" for medium quality land. An additional \$20/acre will be charged due to the fertilizer value added by our biosolids applications. However, the city will deduct from the rent of affected acres if our application delays planting beyond certain dates.

Fields discussed recommendations for changes to Trucked Waste rates for material from septic tanks, portable toilets, and grease traps. Jerry Lansing, the owner of AAA Septic Service expressed satisfaction with the proposed rates and with the concept of metering of loads being acceptable.

Lynn Couch reviewed the IDOT agreement for funding of the Highland Acres Road project. Funding will be at a rate of 80% federal funding up to a limit of \$600,000. The local share for the project is in the CIP.

There was further discussion of the rent request from the Senior Citizens Center. The Council agreed that representatives of the Center will be notified the next time the request is on the Council agenda.

Council set February 10, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to noon as the time for Goal Review session.

Cindy Kendall reviewed the proposed Capital Improvement Plan and answered questions from the Council.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Hierstein, City Administrator