

The City Council of the City of Anamosa met in a Work Session December 20, 2010 in the Meeting Room at the Lawrence Community Center at 6:00 p.m. with Cody Shaffer, Bill Feldmann (arrived at 6:10 p.m.), Chuck Smith, Andy Bowers, Brady Reynolds and Mike Dearborn present. Absent: None. Mayor Dale Barnes presided. Also present were Alan Johnson, City Administrator; Tammy Coons, City Clerk; and Larry Driscoll, Public Works Director. Guests Present - Addressing the Council: Betty Weimer. Mayor Dale Barnes called the Work Session to order at 6:00 p.m. with a quorum present.

#### **Recommendations from the Anamosa Vision Committee**

Alan Johnson stated that the purpose of this work session was to discuss the previous recommendations presented to the Council from the Anamosa Vision Committee to determine if any of the recommendations need to be considered at the upcoming Council Goal Setting Session on January 5, 2011.

Council Member Bill Feldmann arrived at 6:10 p.m.

#### **Parking**

Mike Dearborn suggested the possibility of making Booth Street a one-way street going south and changing the parking to angled parking to create additional parking for the downtown area. Discussion followed on Mike's suggestion and also on other potential areas for additional parking. (i.e. – the Main Street lot next to Wapsi Physical Therapy and behind the north side of the 100 block of Main Street.) Andy Bowers stated, in his opinion, lack of parking is not an issue with the number of businesses that currently operate on Main Street. He stated that the priority is attracting more businesses to locate in the downtown area. More discussion followed. It was the general consensus of the Council that lack of parking is not an issue at this time. Betty Weimer suggested providing better walkways and signage for the current City parking lots. Discussion followed on possibly painting the north-south alley next to the movie theatre white, adding additional lighting and/or painting the buildings adjacent to the alley, maybe even painting a mural on the buildings. More discussion followed.

#### **Facade Grant Program**

Discussion was held on the possibility of creating a facade grant program to improve the appearance of the buildings in downtown Anamosa and potential funding sources. Discussion was also held on the previous facade grant program.

#### **Fire & Safety Inspections**

Discussion was held on addressing the safety and appearance of buildings in Anamosa. Betty Weimer voiced concerns on the appearance of some buildings on Main Street. Alan Johnson stated that the current City ordinances can address some of the issues as they relate to the "dangerous building" section of the Code. It was mentioned that the City Council had, in the past, held public meetings on the possible adoption of building codes that could potentially address some of the fire and safety issues, but the public response to this had not been very positive.

#### **City Disaster Plan**

Betty stated that the Committee had reviewed the current disaster plan and the Committee would like to provide this information to the public and to businesses. She also stated that identifying the emergency shelters would be a benefit to the public. Mike Dearborn stated that after his review of the plan he noted that there were several information areas that needed to be updated. Alan stated that the emergency plan is usually updated by the Emergency Services Clerk and then forwarded to the Council for review and approval.

#### **Trail Promotion and Safe Pedestrian Route to JRMC**

Discussion was held on the City's past attempts to receive grants to install a sidewalk/trail along Highway 64 out to JRMC and Strawberry Hill apartments. The City had applied several times for several different grants and was previously denied. More discussion followed on the possibility of the City installing a sidewalk along Highway 64 and the possible cost sharing of businesses adjacent to the proposed sidewalk area.

#### **Reopening the Movie Theatre**

Discussion was held on the possibility of the movie theatre reopening and the associated costs and issues.

**Adjournment**

Motion by Feldmann, second by Bowers to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

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Dale Barnes, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Tammy Coons, City Clerk