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Public Notice

**Waverly City Council Minutes
Budget Work Study Session
Meeting
Civic Center at City Hall
January 24, 2026
8:30 A.M.**

A. CALL TO ORDER.
A budget study session meeting of the Waverly City Council was held on January 26, 2026 at 8:30 A. M. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Happel presided, and the following Council Members were present: Harman, Jones, Kangas, Mackey, Rathe, and Wolf. Absent: Meyers.
B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Moved Wolff, seconded by Jones to approve the agenda as presented.
Motion passed. Yes: 6 No: 0 Absent: 1
C. STUDY SESSION.
1. Review of 2026-27 Proposed City Budget with possible action(s) for specific items to remain or be added to the budget for FY 2026-2027.
•Council reviewed departmental budgets, (Police, Fire, Ambulance, Airport, Public Works, Library, Leisure Services, Economic Development, Community Development, Inspections and Zoning, Legal Services, Mayor/Council/City Administrator, City Clerk, Finance and Human Resources, Legal, Council and City Administrator, City Clerk, and Accounting and Human Resources. Council then reviewed the Health and Social Services, Special Revenue Funds, Debt Services, Water Division, Water Pollution Control (W.P.C.), Sewer Line Maintenance, and Solid Waste. Council finished the day by reviewing possible capital projects with the intent of finishing the discussion at the next budget work session scheduled for February 7th.
D. ADJOURNMENT
Moved by Kangas, seconded by Rathe to adjourn. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 1:50 P.M.
Yes: 6 No: 0 Absent: 1
Kristin Happel, Mayor
ATTEST:
Carla Guyer, City Clerk
Published in the Bremer County Independent on February 3, 2026.

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Public Notice

**City of Waverly City Council
Study Session Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2026 ~ 7:00 p.m.**

A. Mayor Anderson called the meeting to order. A Study Session meeting of the Waverly City Council was held on January 26, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Happel presided.
Council members present: Harman, Jones, Kangas, Mackey, Meyers, Rathe, and Wolf. Absent: None.
B. Mayor Happel led in the Pledge of Allegiance.
C. Moved by Mackey, seconded by Jones to approve the agenda as presented.
Motion passed. Yes: 7 No: 0 Absent: 0
D. Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation
1. Council recognized Beth Hesla for her service on the Waverly Historic Preservation Commission for September 9, 2024 – November 31, 2025.
E. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda
• There were none.
F. Study Session Calendar
1. Waverly Chamber of Commerce and Main Street Quarterly Update to Council.
• Chelsea Petersen provided an update on recent activities of the Chamber of Commerce and Main Street, including Christmas Greetings on Main. She expressed appreciation for Paul Cheville and the rest of the Parks Department and Public Works Department for their significant contributions to the event's success. Petersen reported that staff have fully transitioned into implementation mode for 2026. The organization is nearing completion of its new website, which will significantly enhance access to information on shopping, dining, and recreational opportunities in Waverly. She noted strong engagement from the Business Development and Retail Promotions Committee, whose work focuses on business support, downtown vitality, and strategic alignment of promotions and events to increase foot traffic and activity. Petersen highlighted recent market, housing, and tourism data from Main Street Iowa, which confirms that Waverly remains a strong and stable regional hub. The data shows steady, sustainable growth and points to opportunities for reinvestment, retention, and quality of life enhancements rather than rapid expansion. Spending trends reflect increases in food away from home purchases, entertainment, travel, and household services—areas that align with downtown investment and visitor experience priorities. Housing data indicates strong homeownership, rising home values, and ongoing demand for quality rental housing, particularly near downtown and major employment areas. Petersen noted that construction has begun at 123 East Bremer, the site of the Challenge Grant project. She also discussed the community's primary household segments, which tend to value convenience, quality, and a welcoming environment. A significant share of customers and visitors comes from surrounding rural areas, making clear wayfinding, signage, and ease of navigation increasingly important. The Chamber and Main Street are applying for the First Impressions Program through the Iowa State Extension Office. The program brings trained evaluators to Waverly as first time visitors and secret shoppers, producing a detailed third party report with recommendations to strengthen hospitality, infrastructure, signage, visitor services, and overall community appeal. Petersen continued by discussing the First Impressions Program through the

Iowa State Extension Office. She explained that the program includes extensive pre visit research conducted by trained evaluators, who review the community's websites and available information prior to making unannounced visits at various times and locations throughout the community. The resulting third party report includes actionable recommendations related to hospitality, infrastructure, signage, visitor services, and overall community appeal. Communities across the Midwest use these findings to prioritize projects, strengthen grant applications, and guide future investment decisions. If Waverly is selected, a task force would be formed consisting of city staff, chamber representatives, business owners, and other stakeholders. Petersen noted that Independence participated in the program in 2024 and received highly valuable feedback. She expressed confidence that the program would be beneficial for Waverly, particularly as the community looks to build momentum following the bridge reopening.
2. Update on new Aquatic Center.
• Leisure Services Director Garret Riordan provided an update on the new aquatic center. He presented several photos illustrating recent progress. The first images showed the concession stand, guard room, and admittance area building, which will reflect the final color scheme of the overall facility. Riordan then reviewed photos of the footings and foundational work for the locker rooms, restrooms, and chemical rooms. He noted that wall construction has begun and that the next steps include backfilling portions of the site and beginning installation of block walls, including interior walls separating the locker room areas. Additional photos depicted the deep end of the pool, which now appears more defined with tarps and coverings removed. The council viewed images of the 4 foot area facing east toward the zero depth entry zone, as well as the slide area and corresponding entry and exit steps. Riordan reported that three additional concrete pours remain. These pours are anticipated to be completed later this week or early next week. Once finished, the entire pool surface will be fully poured.
3. Discussion of Sidewalk Maintenance Policy.
• The sidewalk along 10th Avenue SW is privately owned, even though it is listed as part of the Rolling Prairie Trail. Under Iowa Code 364.12(2)(b), the abutting property owner is responsible for removing snow and ice on sidewalks located on private property. For decades, the city has inconsistently cleared certain privately owned sidewalks due to old habits, informal agreements, or outdated practices. Staff are now working to phase out clearing any privately owned sidewalks to avoid legal and liability issues. Some see this segment as more of a trail connection than a business serving sidewalk. Council noted that designation does not override ownership—public property is maintained by the city, private by owners. If the city cleared this private sidewalk segment, other businesses (e.g., downtown) could request the same. The city cannot legally use public funds to maintain private property without violating state constitutional rules on public dollars for private gain. The Parks Department has limited staff handling many responsibilities: cemetery roads, parking lots, trails, flood buyout lots, etc. Adding more sidewalk segments would stretch resources. Staff clarified that a "reasonable amount of time" is generally interpreted as about 48 hours, depending on storm conditions. The council will continue discussions. Staff will work on clarifying ordinance language and creating a uniform policy detailing: which areas the city will maintain, which areas are the responsibility of property owners, and clear, consistent standards for enforcement.

• Jeff Beck of Assured Partners explained that a weekend snowstorm left the sidewalk icy and packed down by runners and pedestrians before his contracted service could clear it on Monday, leading to a complaint from a resident. The sidewalk is heavily used by the public—including children walking to school—and is promoted on the City's website as part of the recreational trail system. Snow that falls over weekends or holidays is difficult for businesses to clear promptly due to normal business hours. Their snow removal equipment is intended for parking lots, not sidewalks, creating safety issues and the potential for damaging the trail-type surface. Businesses are willing to maintain the sidewalk if required, but inconsistent storm timing, high usage, and equipment concerns make it difficult to manage safely and effectively.
• Bridget Bollman of Pollastrini & Bollman Eye Care emphasized the danger of using a small tractor or mower type plow on a 45 mph roadway, especially during school traffic and near the blind corner under the railroad viaduct. She noted that the segment is publicly promoted as part of the Waverly Rail Trail on the City website, Iowa DOT, and Travel Iowa, yet adjacent businesses feel solely responsible for clearing it. Bollman shared that the city's smaller plow had cleared areas near other properties but skipped the segment near her business.
G. Reports from Boards and Commissions
1. Planning and Zoning Commission Minutes; December 4, 2025; Re-created into record.
H. Staff Updates
• There were none.
I. City Council Comments
• Councilperson Kangas reminded everyone that Monday, February 2 is Iowa caucus night, which may affect attendance at local government meetings. He suggested a potential compromise for winter trail use—plowing only part of the trail to support both cleared trail users and winter recreation like snowshoeing and skiing. Staff clarified that the out of town sections of the rail trail and the Brookwood trail are not plowed, preserving options for winter activities. The city receives complaints both when trails are plowed and when they are not. Councilperson Wolff asked that people please clear curb cuts and curb ramps. Wheelchair users, people using strollers, and people using walkers get stuck when these areas are not cleared. She encouraged salting and additional clearing once storms have passed. Wolff will also conduct a listening session at the library on Saturday, January 31st from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
• Guest council Armstrong thanked the council for the opportunity to serve and she said the experience was educational and plans to attend future meetings as a resident.
J. Mayor's Comments
• Mayor Happel encouraged community involvement noting that there are some city commissions that have open seats and local organizations like Unity Way and All in Mentoring are seeking volunteers. She encouraged residents who want changes in the city to "be the change" by participating.
K. Moved by Jones, seconded by Meyers to adjourn. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.
Kristin Happel, Mayor
ATTEST:
Carla Guyer, City Clerk
Published in the Bremer County Independent on February 3, 2026.

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1.88 lb.
 Bone-in pork shoulder roast
 Hormel Always Tender



1.99 ea.
 with purchase of 3 Frito-Lay Lay's or Kettle Cooked chips 5 to 9.62 oz.



2.97
 Nabisco Ritz crackers
 8 to 13.7 oz.



4.99
 Brew Pub Lotzza Motzza pizza
 20 to 26.82 oz.



3.99 ea.
 with purchase of 4 Pepsi soda 12 pk. cans 12 fl. oz., 8 pk. bottles 12 fl. oz., 6 pk. bottles 16.9 fl. oz. or 10 pk. mini cans 7.5 fl. oz.



1.98
 On the Border cafe style tortilla chips 15 oz.



2.99
 Hillshire Farm Lit'l Smokies, sausage rope or links
 12 to 14 oz.



5/\$10
 Kraft natural cheese shredded, chunk or crumbles, 5 to 8 oz. (limit 5)



1.99
 Sweet Baby Ray's barbecue sauce
 18 oz.



1.99
 Planters peanuts
 16 or 16.5 oz.



3.98 lb.
 Hy-Vee True chicken wingettes previously frozen



5.99
 14" MIA Italian single topping pizza traditional or Tuscano 22 to 38 oz.



14.00
 Market Grille full slab ribs
 24 oz.



3.99
 Bakery-fresh mini cookies 18 ct.



25.99
 Michelob Ultra
 24 pk. bottles or cans 12 fl. oz.

HyVee COUPON LU#95154



FREE DELIVERY
 Any Floral order placed between February 2nd - February 9th, 2026

No Limit per coupon. Limit 1 coupon per customer. Valid February 2 - 9, 2026 at Waverly Hy-Vee store. Offer valid in-store only.

HyVee COUPON LU#95156



9.99
 Pepsi soda
 24 pk.

Limit 3 per coupon. Limit 1 coupon per customer. Valid February 2 - 9, 2026 at Waverly Hy-Vee store. Offer valid in-store only.

HyVee COUPON LU#95158



19.99
 Hy-Vee frozen chicken tenders or nuggets
 25 - 29 oz.

Limit 2 per coupon. Limit 1 coupon per customer. Valid February 2 - 9, 2026 at Waverly Hy-Vee store. Offer valid in-store only.

HyVee COUPON LU#95155



4.67
 Hidden Valley Ranch
 24 oz.

Limit 2 per coupon. Limit 1 coupon per customer. Valid February 2 - 9, 2026 at Waverly Hy-Vee store. Offer valid in-store only.

HyVee COUPON LU#95157



9.88
 Bakery-fresh decorated cookie
 12"

Limit 2 per coupon. Limit 1 coupon per customer. Valid February 2 - 9, 2026 at Waverly Hy-Vee store. Offer valid in-store only.

HyVee COUPON LU#95159



6.99
 Hy-Vee mixed nuts
 30 oz. select varieties

Limit 2 per coupon. Limit 1 coupon per customer. Valid February 2 - 9, 2026 at Waverly Hy-Vee store. Offer valid in-store only.

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SATURDAY, FEB. 14
 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

