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Hiawatha Insights

Legislative Day 2013

Each winter, the Iowa League of Cities invites city officials and their staff to gather in the Capitol City to hear key legislators and the League legislative staff to discuss hot topics and state legislative issues affecting our cities. Attendees are also encouraged to visit their legislators at the Capitol.

Mayor Theis, City Clerk Kim Downs and Deputy Clerk Kelly Kornegor attended Legislative Day. Legislative Day, a tradition for more than 40 years, provided an opportunity for us to talk about important issues that pertain to the City of Hiawatha. Over 140 elected officials and their staff from all over the state attend the one day event.

The day included a legislative briefing presented by the League staff and key legislators. Jeff Boeyink from the Governor's Office spoke on Property Tax Reform. So far, the Governor's concepts from his State Address consists of the following.

- Fully fund the Homestead Tax Credit and the Elderly and Disabled Tax Credit for fiscal year 2014.
- Revise the school formula to shift from "allowable growth" to 100% state aid.
- Tie all classes of property together in a combined rollback, reducing commercial and industrial property tax values by 20% over a period of 4 years, with a 100% backfill to local governments.
- Restrict valuation growth from current 4% to 2% across all classes of property.

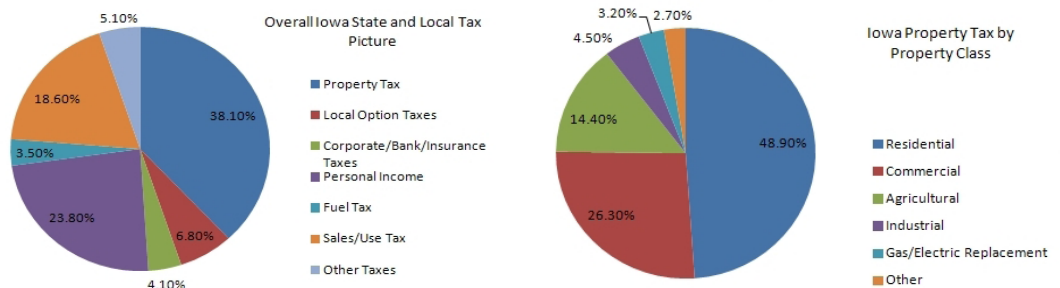
The Governor's plan has not been introduced into a bill yet and both the House and Senate have different plans of Property Tax Reform but neither have introduced a property tax bill as of January 22, 2013.

Senator, Tod Bowman and Representative, Josh Byrnes spoke on transportation issues and their concerns of a financial cliff. There were discussions on how to increase revenue and how is the state going to be proactive instead of reactive. Options discussed are as follows:

- Increase gas tax; noting 15-20% of our gas tax revenue comes from non-residents.
- Increase driver's license fees.
- Charging a per mile tax using GPS systems.

Both Bowman and Byrnes stated they would like their discussions and solutions as pure and simple as they can keep this issue separate from commercial rollback discussions.

Jeff Robins from the Legislative Services Agency spoke of the overall Iowa State and Local Tax picture. Net tax revenue ending June 30, 2012 equaling \$12.604 Billion, including all state taxes, not just General Fund taxes. Robins also reviewed a graph demonstrating our Iowa Property Tax percentages by property tax.



Mayor Theis, City Clerk Kim Downs, Deputy Clerk Kelly Kornegor and Engineering Coordinator John Bender met with Legislators Liz Mathis, Kraig Paulsen, and Dan Zumbach as well, to discuss our concerns if a commercial rollback is implemented and how it would affect the services to our citizens, both residential and commercial.

Other discussions and request for their assistance with the Department of Transportation regarding the need for a Tower Terrace Interchange and their focus on a skilled workforce that matches the needs of our Iowa and Hiawatha businesses along with promoting new economic development.

Hiawatha Water Tower Painting Project

The Hiawatha Water Department would like to thank you for your co-operation during our water tower painting project this last summer and fall. The project took longer than we anticipated, however, the project is completed and we will be moving on to the Boyson Road tower this spring.

The Boyson Road tower will only be sand blasted in the wet area of the inside. The outside will be pressure washed and hand spot primed and then painted. We will put some pictures on the City's website of the painting process of the Robins Road Water Tower for you to view.

Thank you again for your cooperation in your water consumption.



Board Appointments

On January 2, 2013, the City Council appointed and reappointed several citizens to their perspective boards and commissions. Boards and Commission members are an important part of City Government, and are an essential part of our City's success. Serving on a Board or Commission enables residents to impact City policies and activities. Volunteering on a Board or Commission is one of the most effective methods of participating in municipal government and making Hiawatha a better place to live, work and play.

In addition, these members have the ability to empower the community, develop new skills, gain valuable experience, meet new people, stay active and make a positive contribution to their community.

We thank the following people for their public service and look forward to working with each of them throughout their term of appointment.

Appointments: Tom Wille, Planning and Zoning Commission; Dawn Ewoldt, Parks and Recreation Commission; Dick Whitmore, Board of Adjustment and License/Appeal Board; Matt Dunbar, Library Board.

Re-appointments: Dan Wilkes, Park and Recreation Commission; Deb Theis, Park and Recreation Commission; Brian Fanton, Board of Adjustment; Christina Goodman, Board of Adjustment; Keith Sams, License/Appeal Board; Wayne Winn, License/Appeal Board; Pat Semelroth, History Commission; Don Gabel, History Commission; Don Earll, Housing Inspection Board; Deb Theis, Housing Inspection Board.



Hiawatha Public Library News

Author Betty Auchard Visits Hiawatha Public Library

The Hiawatha Public Library is pleased to be welcoming author Betty Auchard in a special after hours program on Friday, February 15th at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Auchard is the author of the Independent Publishers Book Award, *Dancing in my Nightgown* and more recently *Home for the Friendless*. She will speak about her experiences and her two books. Ms. Auchard will be on hand after the program selling books and signing them. For more information about this program, visit our website at www.hiawathalibrary.com. For more information on author Betty Auchard and her books, you can visit her website at bettyauchard.com.

Hiawatha Public Library Book Clubs

How do you book club? Are you mysterious? Are you paranormally inclined? Are you busy and looking for something that fits your schedule? The Hiawatha Public Library has a book club to fit your needs! For more information about our book clubs and what they're reading next, visit our website at www.hiawathalibrary.com and click on the "use your library" tab at the top of the page.

Tax Preparation from AARP at Hiawath Public Library

Tax preparation aid is available from the AARP at the Hiawatha Public Library. This service is available free to tax payers with low to moderate income, with special attention to those 60 years of age and over.

E-filing is available at no cost. Appointments can be made by calling 211 from a regular home phone or by dialing 739-4211 from your cell phone.



The Iowa Department of Revenue no longer provides paper income tax forms or instruction booklets to libraries. The library will assist you in printing the forms you need for a fee of \$.10 per page.

Iowa State Tax Forms:

www.iowa.gov/tax or call to request forms at 1-800-532-1531.

Federal Tax Forms:

www.irs.gov Click on "Forms and Pubs".

History Commission on George Bowler Construction

George Bowler of George Bowler Construction, started trucking in the 1940's with an old dump truck hauling cement blocks. In the late 40's, he had an old army truck with a lime box on it and spread lime for farmers in the Alburnett area.

George moved to Hiawatha in about 1953 and operated the cafe in one of the first buildings in Hiawatha, which is now demolished. In 1958 the business was listed in the phone book.

The business was run from a building on 5th Avenue in Hiawatha before the days of Interstate 380. Earlier George did the book-keeping for himself for a few years and then Bev Daws did it for many years after. In the late 60's, he had an office space next to the Fireplace Drive Inn and in the early 70's, George moved along Robins Road.

Later, Bowler Excavating did much of the sewer and water lines from 5th Avenue to 12th Avenue and dug many of the residential basements. George built many of the buildings, including the Old Fireplace Frontier Drive Inn, first Farmers State Bank building. George also did some developing of land along Robins Road and the addition on Daws and Clymer Roads.

George not only ran a business, he also ventured into City Government as the Mayor from 1988 to 1993.



Certified Municipal Clerk CMC Program - Kelly Kornegor

She did it again! Along with her State Certified Municipal Clerk Designation, Deputy Clerk, Kelly Kornegor has now earned her International Certified Municipal Clerk Designation. The Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) program is designed to enhance the job performance of the Clerk in small and large municipalities. To earn the CMC designation, a Municipal Clerk must attend extensive educational programs. The CMC designation also requires pertinent experience in a municipality. The CMC program prepares the applicants to meet the challenges of the complex role of the Municipal Clerk by providing them with quality education in partnership with institutions of higher learning, as well as State/Provincial/National Associations. The CMC program has been assisting clerks to excel since 1970.

Kelly proudly joins 132 Iowa Clerks with this designation including City Clerk, Kim Downs and Finance Director, Cindy Kudrna.



Online Council Packets

Regular scheduled council packets are created to provide detailed information about the issues before the Council. The Clerk's office produces council packets on a bi-weekly basis, with contributions from many divisions of the City. Packets are usually available online by Friday evening of the week prior to the meeting.

Meeting packets begin with an agenda indicating item-by-item what will be covered at the meeting, and the order in which each item will be addressed. Supportive documentation for each item follows the agenda, in numerical order, with all the information for each individual item grouped together. Each grouping most often begins with a memo, which summarizes the item, and is followed by associated reports or proposed contracts, ordinances, or resolutions as needed to clarify and provide specific details.

The council packet can be found online by visiting www.hiawatha-iowa.com; click on the City Council and Boards tab; Mayor and City Council and then council packet for viewing.

Hiawatha Public Library Presents LearningExpress

The Hiawatha Public Library is pleased to announce that we have a new tool for learning called LearningExpress. Whatever your goal, LearningExpress Library's resources will help you succeed. Each of our Learning Centers offers practice tests, exercises, skill-building courses, eBooks, and information you need to achieve the results you want -- at school, at work, or in life. Looking to land a job? You'll find an entire Learning Center dedicated to helping you get the one that's right for you.

LearningExpress Library is an interactive online platform that provides a comprehensive selection of career and academic resources to empower people for job preparation, career advancement, college readiness, academic success, and skills mastery in math, reading, writing, grammar, and vocabulary. More than a database, LearningExpress Library helps entire communities jump-start careers and education. Additional features of LearningExpress include software tutorials and introductory training courses on how to use a computer, search the Internet, and take advantage of social networking.

Council Action

January 2, 2013

Ordinance 737 - Amend Hiawatha Code of Ordinances Chapter 53 Noise Control amending §53.03 Noise Prohibitions and Limited Sound Sources (8.) Solid Waste Collection and/or Hauling Equipment.

- Resolution 13-001 - Approve design plans and estimate of cost for the relief/return fans for the air-handling units at City Hall as prepared by West Plains Engineering in connection with the Commissioning of City Hall by KJWW Engineering Consulting.**
- Resolution 13-002 - Adopt plans, specs, form of contract and estimate of cost for Boyson Road/Robins Road Intersection Improvements Project.**
- Resolution 13-003 - Amend Hiawatha Code of Ordinances Chapter 69 Parking Regulations §69.08 No Parking Zones adding parking restrictions to West side of Stamy Road from Tower Terrace to Kacena and both sides of the street along Hawkeye Drive, from Tower Terrace Road to Boyson Road.**
- Resolution 13-004 - Declare official intent to reimburse the City for certain expenditures in connection with Purchase of real property located at 255 and 275 Robins Road.**
- Resolution 13-005 - Declare official intent to reimburse the City for certain expenditures in connection with Boyson/Robins Road Underground Utility Relocation.**
- Resolution 13-006 - Approve the Multi-Purpose Rental Agreement for Non-Profit Organizations and authorize City Clerk's Office to approve such agreements.**
- Resolution 13-007 - Amend City's Purchasing Policies and Procedures updating the bid and quote thresholds effective January 1, 2013 and adding the ability to demonstrate Iowa Company Preference when applicable.**

January 16, 2013

- Resolution 13-008 - Set public hearing date (February 6, 2013 @ 7:00 p.m.) to consider amending Hiawatha Code of Ordinances Chapter 69 Parking Regulations amending §69.09 Truck, Camper, Motor Home and Boat Parking Limited adding Unattached Trailer.**
- Resolution 13-009 - Approve and provide for a temporary charge for public safety services for special events.**
- Resolution 13-010 - Set public hearing date (February 6, 2013 @ 7:00 p.m.) to consider adopting and placing plans, specs, form of contract and estimate of cost on file and direct publication of Notice to Bidders for RISE Improvement Reconstruction of North Center Point Road from CC&P Railroad to Fisher Street and North of Boyson Road.**
- Resolution 13-011 - Approve Permanent Landscape and Utility Easement for property located at 1 Parsons Drive, GoDaddy.com in connection with RISE Improvement Reconstruction of North Center Point Road from CC&P Railroad to Fisher Street and North of Boyson Road.**
- Resolution 13-012 - Approve Temporary Construction Easement for property located at 1 Parsons Drive, GoDaddy.com in connection with RISE Improvement Reconstruction of North Center Point Road from CC&P Railroad to Fisher Street and North of Boyson Road.**
- Resolution 13-013 - Approve Temporary Construction Easement for property located at 404 North Center Point Road, Greg Scharf in connection with RISE Improvement Reconstruction of North Center Point Road from CC&P Railroad to Fisher Street and North of Boyson Road.**
- Resolution 13-014 - Approve Temporary Construction Easement for property located at 1001 North Center Point Road, owned by St. Luke's Methodist Hospital in connection with RISE Improvement Reconstruction of North Center Point Road from CC&P Railroad to Fisher Street and North of Boyson Road.**
- Resolution 13-015 - Approve payment for crop loss in the total amount of \$3,038.26 to John Airy in connection with Northwest Water Main and Sanitary Sewer Extension Project.**
- Resolution 13-016 - Approve payment for crop loss in the total amount of \$2,611.20 to Fink Property Management in connection with the Northwest Water Main and Sanitary Sewer Extension Project.**
- Resolution 13-017 - Accept Warranty Deed and Permanent 5' Utility Easement for property located at 111 E Boyson Road owned by Thomas and Myra Dricken in connection with Boyson/Robins Road Intersection Project.**
- Resolution 13-018 - Accept Warranty Deed and Permanent Utility Easement for property located at 1004 Robins Road owned by Patricia Hanson, Alan Hanson, Lorraine Mae Minney and Diane Minney in connection with the Boyson Road/Robins Road Intersection Project.**
- Resolution 13-019 - Accept Warranty Deed, Affidavit, Partial Release of Mortgage and Permanent Easement for Ingress and Egress for property located at 990 Robins Road owned by Mike and Tracy Marak in connection with Boyson/Robins Road Intersection Project.**
- Resolution 13-020 - Accept Warranty Deed and Permanent Access and Utility Easement for Property located at 45 Boyson Road owned by Thomas Bowler in connection with Boyson/Robins Road Intersection Project.**
- Resolution 13-021 - Accept Quick Claim Deed for property located at 45 Boyson Road leased by Sandra McVicker d/b/a SD Waves and Co., in connection with Boyson/Robins Road Intersection Project.**
- Resolution 13-022 - Accept Warranty Deed and Permanent Utility Easement for property located at 975 Robins Road owned by Inland Transportation Company a/k/a Hawkeye Convenience in connection with Boyson/Robins Road Intersection Project.**
- Resolution 13-023 - Accept and place on file Warranty Deed, Quit Claim Deed and Retracement Plat of Survey and direct City Clerk to file documents with Linn County Recorder's Office for property located at 255 & 275 Robins Road owned by Farmers State Bank.**
- Resolution 13-024 - Approve renaming of Hay Lane to Fitzroy Road effective immediately.**
- Resolution 13-025 - Approve "At Your Own Risk" Building Permit to begin construction on installation of auxiliary generator at Safelite AutoGlass Call Center at 1125 Dina Court.**
- Resolution 13-026 - Approve naming Cedar Rapids Gazette as Official City Newspaper.**
- Resolution 13-027 - Set Employee Holiday Schedule for FY 2013-2014.**



FEBRUARY 2013




Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Visit our website: www.hiawatha-iowa.com					1	2
3	4	5	6 Council 7pm	7	8 Kids Movie Night 6pm	9
10	11 History 1:30 pm Board of Adj. 7pm	12 Parks 6:00 pm Library 7pm	13 Council Airs 7pm Channel 18	14 Council Airs 10am Channel 18	15	16
17	18 City Hall Closed	19 Water 6:30 pm	20 Council 7pm	21	22	23
24	25 P&Z 6 pm	26	27 Council Airs 7pm Channel 18	28 Council Airs 10am Channel 18		



MARCH 2013



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Council 7pm	7	8	9
10 Women's Street Smart Self Defense	11 History 1:30 pm Board of Adj. 7pm	12 Parks 6:00 pm Library 7pm	13 Council Airs 7pm Channel 18	14 Council Airs 10am Channel 18	15 Kids Movie Night 6pm	16
17 	18	19 Water 6:30 pm	20 Council 7pm	21	22	23
24	25 P&Z 6 pm	26	27 Council Airs 7pm Channel 18	28 Council Airs 10am Channel 18	29 City Hall Closed	30 Easter Egg Hunt Guthridge Park
31						

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 www.hiawatha-iowa.com

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 SATURDAY,
 02/09/2013**

Hiawatha Economic Development Corporation

The start of a new year is always a good time for reflection and that holds true for 2013 and Hiawatha Economic Development Corporation (HEDCO). The business community is blessed by local government that reflects the community's "can-do" spirit and spends considerable energy on ways the community can work together.

We are also blessed by great infrastructure that with your support can remain on a path for excellence in 2013 and by a business community that continues to come together to advocate important issues and growth. Certainly a great starting point for 2013.

If you or your business would like to get more involved in the Hiawatha business community, we would welcome your participating in our quarterly Hiawatha Morning Networking event (co-hosted by different area businesses and the Metro Economic Alliance), please contact Nikki Durham at 319-730-1421 or ndurham@cedarrapids.org.



Brent Cobb, HEDCO

ECICOG Housing Rehabilitation Program Project

Guaranty Bank and Trust company partnered with East Central Iowa Council of Governments and the Housing Fund for Linn County to assist the County in securing grant funds from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines. The following information provides a brief description about the project and its requirements. Contact Diana Stromer, East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG), at 319-365-9941, ext. 123 or email diana.stromer@ecicog.org with any questions you may have.

What can I do with this grant?

The Linn County Housing Rehabilitation program is offering a grant of \$5,000 for most types of repairs, including emergency repairs, exterior repairs and residential accessibility. Some examples of eligible projects include roofing repairs, window replacements, handicap accessibility (such as ramps, handicap toilet, grab bars or expanding entrance doors).

Who can apply?

If you live in Linn County (outside the City Limits of Cedar Rapids), own your home and meet the income requirements (listed below), please apply. Interested candidates can request an application from the East Central Iowa Council of Governments at 319-365-9941.

Household Size
 Eligible Income*

1 or 2 Person
 \$35,500

3+ Person
 \$40,820

** Eligibility is based on annualization of applicant's income at the time of application.*

