

Hiawatha!

Insights

January 2015

Volume 82

Meeting with Senator Liz Mathis and Speaker of the House Kraig Paulsen

With the 2015 legislative session just around the corner, it is a good idea to open up the lines of communication with state leaders to bring local government concerns to the forefront and also receive the latest information and forecasts on city legislative issues. Members of City Council, Mayor Theis and members of City staff sat with Senator Liz Mathis on November 20, 2014 and Speaker of the House Kraig Paulsen on December 15, 2014, to discuss key legislative issues and how they affect Hiawatha.

Meeting with Senator Liz Mathis

City staff thanked Liz for her service and her efforts in supporting the Commercial Rollback backfill and voting against the Tower Site location bill. Liz continues to understand the City's need to backfill, fully supports the gas tax and preserving Tax Increment Financing (TIF). She also understands the State's need to fund workforce development training and recruiting top candidates. During discussions with Liz, she spoke of a VMT-vehicle miles tax instead of a traditional gas tax. Liz would like to consider a new model for calculations and to have a long range plan outside of gas tax as people will use less gas with hybrids and electric cars.

City staff and elected officials spoke to Liz Mathis about a couple of new items - Low Impact Markings and increased railroad funding. Low Impact Markings are sometimes referred to as utility graffiti. In understanding the importance of utility markings and their purpose we also understand utility graffiti as being ugly and obtrusive. Part of the issue stems from uniformity in utility markings and in the locator's interpretation of what should be marked and how. This is not to say the locators are marking improperly but speaks to the wide variance in how locators mark. Some markings are bigger/longer and some are more frequent interval spaces

and others write out a message within their markings. The City spends several hundred dollars on our streets and trails and to have the utility graffiti that last for months is unexpected. As an example - our Boyson Road trail that was completed last spring, within one week of installation there were several markings along the new sidewalk trail. The markings spanned from 10 feet to the entire width of the trail. In the City's view point all the length and number of markings were unnecessary. Often we see utilities over mark in essence to simply cover any liability. The problem is they mark far outside of their liability. Therefore, we know we need to educate and it starts with the help of our legislators. City staff has educated the City utilities and provide a permanent marking that is round in nature and spans around 1 inch.

The increased railroad funding issue came up after the City recently received a visit from CN Railroad recommending we include the Robins Road railroad crossing into the Federal Railroad plan to update this particular crossing before the ability to earmark was eliminated. Earmarkings would essentially allow railroad update projects to be included in the 7-8 year cycle. With the elimination of earmarkings it would delay railroad project out 10 years or more. This is due to the increased cost and flat based funding for railroad crossing assistance.

Meeting with Kraig Paulsen

The discussion held with Speaker of the House Kraig Paulsen focused on the following topics: Commercial Rollback backfill, property tax, Road Use Tax Fund, TIF, Low Impact Markings, and FCC broadband regulations.

Kraig feels the weather and big trucks cause the most damage on the interstates and highways. There are not a high percentage of electric cars to contribute to the Road Use Tax. Kraig said there are only 50 electric cars registered in the State of Iowa so it is

really not a big concern. Kraig noted other issues with Road Use Tax are fracking and access to petroleum. Kraig believes the massive changes refineries are making with CNG will cause a decrease in damage to the roads and another factor is the lower limit placed on the per axle weight allowed on the roads.

Kraig believes if the state budget keeps going up, the Senate and House concerns with TIF at it grows and it may lead to problems with the Commercial Rollback backfill. Kraig shared the biggest issues currently affecting the state budget is the 5/40-Tax Levy to the tune of \$40 to \$50 million and Medicaid and the quantity of medical services are increasing due to Obama Care. Other information shared by Kraig - the Federal match continues to go down for the State of Iowa and it is now reaching a 40/60 split. Kraig said this happens because Iowa is economically out performing other states. Governor Branstad will release his budget in mid January and all the decisions made in the general assembly are based on those numbers.

Hiawatha staff and elected officials will continue to stay in front of our legislators as they get ready to go into the 2015 legislative session.



Snow Ordinance Reminder

Winter 2014 has blessed us with little snow fall but inevitably in 2015 we will see future snowfalls. As a reminder, our snow ordinance will be in effect.

Our Snow Ordinance will be in effect when the National Weather Service (NWS) predicts a snowfall in which three (3) or more inches of snow are expected. While the Snow Emergency is in effect, **there is no parking on any city street.** Vehicles found parked in violation of this ordinance will receive a **\$25** parking ticket and/or be impounded.



During snow removal operations, vehicles found in violation on City streets will be towed. The Snow Emergency declaration will be given to all the local media including but not limited to: KGAN (Channel 2), KCRG (Channel 9), and KWWL (Channel 7). The declaration will also be posted on the City website, www.hiawatha-iowa.com. Your cooperation is appreciated.

REMEMBER - Don't park in the street if:

- The 24 hour (or less) prediction by the NWS is for three (3) or more inches of snow.
- Three (3) or more inches of snow has fallen and/or your street has

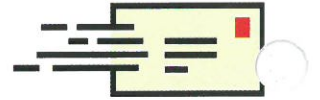
not been cleared. When in doubt about parking, just move your vehicle off the street. Also, the City will **NOT** generally conduct snowfall clearing operations on all streets for a snowfall of less than two (2) inches. This policy remains unchanged from prior years. Please remember: Sidewalks must be shoveled within 24 hours of the cessation of snow fall, clear snow from around fire hydrants that are near your property, check with your neighbors regarding snow removal and direct sump pumps and downspouts away from hard surfaces so that water doesn't build up and freeze, creating slippery conditions on driveways, sidewalks, or streets. For the current road conditions: call 511 or log onto the Iowa DOT winter road conditions web page.



Get Connected to City Hall via E-mail for Breaking News!

The City of Hiawatha knows their residents/businesses like to be kept updated regarding important announcements. We are in the process of conducting a test to determine which and how many of our residents/businesses would be interested in receiving email notifications in regards to breaking news and weather related emergencies such as the declaration of a snow emergency.

To be a part of this test group, please send an email to adminit@hiawatha-iowa.com and enter the phrase "email notices" in the subject line.



We are excited about this new opportunity and would love your input.

Greater Cedar Rapids Grant and First Federal Credit Union



The Parks and Recreation Department received \$1,500 from World Class Industries through the Great Cedar Rapids Community Foundation and \$1,200 from the Hiawatha First Federal Credit Union for our youth Blastball and Soccer summer programs. This funding will help supply our participants with a t-shirt and updated equipment for the 2015 season. We would like to thank World Class Industries and First Federal Credit Union for their support towards the Hiawatha Parks and Recreation Department and helping us maintain our youth programs.



Hiawatha Recognizes Two Area Businesses

Honkamp Krueger & Co., P.C.
 Honkamp Krueger is a top 100 CPA and business consulting firm in the U.S. and the largest private CPA firm in Iowa. Headquarters are in Dubuque with a branch located at 1751 Boyson Road in Hiawatha. In 2013, HK was recognized for haing the Best Customer Service by the *Corridor Business Journal*, and in 2012, HK was named a Top Workplace in Iowa by the *Des Moines Register*. HK offers clients 40+ forward-thinking, effective and timely services and solutions in the following areas: accounting and audit, business advisory services, franchise services, human capital, not-for-profit and government services, risk advisory, software solutions, tax, wealth management, and workforce management. In addition to their CPA practice, the Honkamp Krueger Family of companies consists of HK Payroll Services, the workforce management affiliate, HK Fincial Services, the wealth management affiliate, and the HK Alliance, which consists of CPA and business consulting firms throughout the U.S. collaborating on best practices. They can be reached at www.honkamp.com or call them at (319) 378-3370

REM Iowa
 Since 1989, REM Iowa has provided quality services in Hiawatha and surrounding areas to adults and children with intellectual and developmental disabilities, brain injuries, autism, and mental health challenges. REM provides a range of programs, including residential services and day or vocational programs. In 2011 REM started a Host Home Program where people with intellectual and developmental disabilities live in private family homes with dedicated caregivers who we call Mentors.

Their personalized approach maximizes each person's unique efforts to learn, grow and thrive in the communities they call home. They enhance quality of life today and inspire hope for tomorrow by teaching independent living skills by to people through a continuum of quality services.

They can be reached at (319) 393-2091 or visit their website at www.remiowa.com.

They are located at 1661 Boyson Square Drive, Suite 202 in Hiawatha.

Work in Right-of-Way Permits



In the news you may have heard the problems some cities are experiencing with maintaining their streets due to utility companies and contractors cutting through them to supply services to their customers. All of these cuts and penetrations reduce the life expectancy of the street and reduce the smooth rideability we would all prefer. The City of Hiawatha is concerned about the same issue.

Because of this concern along with the obvious concern for safety whenever anyone is working in the right-of-way, the City of Hiawatha; like most other cities, requires permits before starting this type of work. The permit process facilitates City verification of proper traffic control measures, complying street opening cuts and repairs, and appropriate contractor insurance and bonding levels.

Traffic control includes the placement of warning cones and signs along with a process for closing roads if necessary. When the traffic control plan is submitted it is reviewed by the City Engineer, Police Chief and the Fire Chief for appropriate alternate routes. It is especially important for emergency personnel to be aware of detours that will affect their responses. The City also sends public service announcements, notifies the surrounding communities, Linn County and local schools of road closures. The road closure announcements can be viewed on our website and heard on many of the local TV and radio stations.

The reason for cutting into a street range from placement of small communication lines to the installation of large utility pipes to the cutting of curbs for driveway accesses. The critical issues are the same for all cases. It is imperative the cut and repair be completed in accordance with the Metro Standards and the City of Hiawatha policy to assure our streets last. The main concerns include the use of proper subgrade materials and compacted placement under the street surface along with a proper street surface repair. The City of Hiawatha's

policy requires street surfaces to be replaced in complete "panels" rather than small patches. Small 'patch jobs' are susceptible to movement and rapid deterioration in the freeze-thaw cycle. Also any curb openings established for new driveways are to be accomplished by grinding to avoid additional joints in the curb and gutter system.



In addition to reviewing traffic control and inspecting street repairs, the City of Hiawatha protects the public interest by requiring certain minimum insurance and bonding coverage on those working in the right-of-way. The contractor must show evidence of proper insurance including provisions to hold the City harmless should an incident occur. The City further requires a bond to cover the cost to complete the street repairs if needed or to make repairs should there be damage to the right-of-way as a direct result of the permitted work.

The City of Hiawatha has streamlined its work in the right-of-way permitting process. All work in the right-of-way is permitted on a single permit form which also serves as the road closure and traffic control submittal. The form includes reference to all of the City Codes associated with work in the right-of-way, a fee schedule, and a list of the necessary information required from the contractor. If the information is complete and payment is made, the City can usually issue the permit within three days.

The City currently has about 40 miles of streets to maintain, and the cost of a new street can exceed \$100,000 per block. Hiawatha issues approximately 100 right-of-way permits each year. Following the permit process and enforcing these standards will help keep our right-of-ways safe and help to extend the life of this valued asset.

Retail/Service Business Survey

In November, several members of our business community received our retail/service business survey by mail or e-mail asking fifteen quick questions.

In our efforts to better affect each of you and act as a partner in helping you connect with our residential community by adding a new stream of customers and new revenue, we are requesting your feedback through the month of January.

The City's goal is to continuously provide resources and improve our support of the business community. By filling out the survey, we can gauge satisfaction and the direction you would like to see us move toward in supporting each of our local businesses. Expressing your opinions and rating our performance will help guide our approach in how to best connect you with our citizens and what role you need us to play in your recipe of success.

The survey can be completed online at www.surveymonkey.com/hiawathabusiness. If you received a survey in the mail and misplaced it, you can also download the survey from our website at www.hiawatha-iowa.com from our home page under news and mail it to the City of Hiawatha, 101 Emmons Street, Hiawatha, IA 52233.

Thank you for your participation. We look forward to continuing to serve our Hiawatha business community.



The City of Hiawatha does not provide Christmas tree pickup and removal.

It is the responsibility of the resident to contact their garbage hauler and make arrangements for the pickup and removal of their Christmas trees after the holidays.

Hiawatha Council Action

December 3, 2014

- Resolution 14-245 - Set public hearing date (December 17, 2014 @ 5:30 P.M.) to consider approval of Capital Improvement Plan for FY2015-2019.
- Resolution 14-246 - Set public hearing date (December 17, 2014 @ 5:30 P.M.) to consider amending Hiawatha Code of Ordinances Chapter 165 Unified Development Code 165.16 Land Uses and Regulations by District.
- Resolution 14-247 - Set public hearing date (December 17, 2014 @ 5:30 P.M.) to consider amending Hiawatha Code of Ordinances Chapter 165 Unified Development Code 165.16 Land Uses and Regulations by District.
- Resolution 14-248 - Set public hearing date (December 17, 2014 @ 5:30 P.M.) to consider amending Hiawatha Code of Ordinances Chapter 165 Unified Development Code 165.81 Jurisdiction.
- Resolution 14-249 - Set public hearing date (December 17, 2014 @ 5:30 P.M.) to consider amending Hiawatha Code of Ordinances Chapter 165 Unified Development Code 165.23 Supplemental Yard regulations.
- Resolution 14-250 - Release Development Agreement for Hunter Commerce Park Fourth Addition.
- Resolution 14-251 - Approve Final Plan for Sherwin Second Addition.
- Resolution 14-252 - Acknowledge and place on file FY 2014-2014 Audit.
- Resolution 14-253 - Amend City's Purchasing Policies and Procedures by updating the bid and quote thresholds effective January 1, 2015.

December 17, 2014

- Ordinance 817 - Amend Hiawatha Code of Ordinances Chapter 165 Unified Development Code 165.16 Land Uses and Regulations by District by Adding Land Use Classifications for Hotels/Motels, Entertainment, Auto Detailing and Car Washes to the CPR Land Use Matrix.**
- Ordinance 818 - Amend Hiawatha Code of Ordinances Chapter 165 Unified Development Code 165.16 Land Uses and Regulations by district by Adding Auto Detailing as a Permitted Use in C-3 and C-4 Zoning Districts.**
- Ordinance 819 - Amend Hiawatha Code of Ordinances Chapter 165 Unified Development Code 165.81 Jurisdiction.**
- Ordinance 820 - Amend Hiawatha Code of Ordinances Chapter 165 Unified Development Code 165.23 Supplemental Yard Regulations.**

- Resolution 14-254 - Amend Hiawatha Park Pavilion and Park Rules requiring a \$1,000 damage deposit for the rental of an entire park.
- Resolution 14-255 - Approve Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2015-2019.
- Resolution 14-256 - Set public hearing date (January 7, 2015 @ 5:30 P.M.) to consider amending Hiawatha Code of Ordinances Chapter 165 Unified Development Code 165.70 Nonconforming Buildings, Structures and Uses, Nonconformity and 165.96 Definitions, Degree of Nonconformity, and Use Classification.
- Resolution 14-257 - Set public hearing date (January 7, 2015 @ 5:30 P.M.) to consider amending Hiawatha Code of Ordinances Chapter 52 Drug Paraphernalia by Changing Title to Drug Paraphernalia and Synthetic Drugs and Deleting 52.07 Nuisance and Adding Regulations for Synthetic Drugs.
- Resolution 14-258 - Authorize payment for Annual Fire Department Appreciation Dinner.
- Resolution 14-259 - Amend Resolution 14-151 Affirm City Council's response to appeal against notice to abate nuisance submitted by Charles Visek for property at 95 11th Avenue.

January Calendar

- 01 Holiday - City Hall Closed**
- 07 City Council Meeting 5:30 pm
- 12 History Commission Meeting 1:30 pm
- 12 Board of Adjustment Meeting 6:00 pm
- 13 Parks Board Meeting 6:00 pm
- 13 Library Board Meeting 7:00 pm
- 14 Council Meeting airs 7:00 pm Channel 18
- 15 Council Meeting airs 7:00 pm Channel 18
- 20 Water Board Meeting 5:30 pm
- 21 City Council Meeting 5:30 pm
- 26 P&Z Meeting 5:30 pm
- 28 Council Meeting airs 7:00 pm Channel 18
- 29 Council Meeting airs 7:00 pm Channel 18

February Calendar

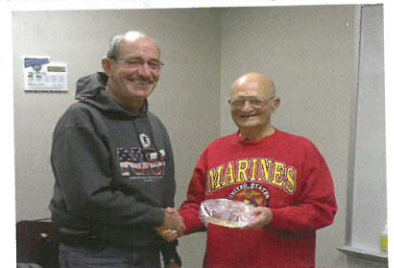
- 04 City Council Meeting 5:30 pm
- 09 History Commission Meeting 1:30 pm
- 09 Board of Adjustment Meeting 6:00 pm
- 10 Parks Board Meeting 6:00 pm
- 10 Library Board Meeting 7:00 pm
- 11 Council Meeting airs 7:00 pm Channel 18
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- 16 Holiday - City Hall Closed**
- 17 Water Board Meeting 5:30 pm
- 18 City Council Meeting 5:30 pm
- 23 P&Z Meeting 5:30 pm
- 25 Council Meeting airs 7:00 pm Channel 18
- 26 Council Meeting airs 7:00 pm Channel 18

Thank You to our Board Members!

Thank you to Charlie Fridal, who retired from the Water Board after 17 years of service. Like many of our Board Members, he was dedicated to our community. Along with Charlie, we would like to thank each of you who have served and are serving. We are fortunate to have you as part of our community and helping serve our community with the best interests of the City and its citizens in mind.

New Board Appointments and Re-appointments:

Dan Wilkes	Parks & Recreation Commission Member	Expires 12/31/16
Dawn Ewoltd	Parks & Recreation Commission Member	Expires 12/31/16
Bob Theis	Parks & Recreation Commission Member	Expires 12/31/16
Bob Casady	Board of Appeals Member	Expires 12/31/17
Wayne Winn	Board of Appeals Member	Expires 12/31/17
Edith Wheeler	History Commission Member	Expires 12/31/17
Jerry Seifried	History Commission Member	Expires 12/31/17
Tim Wilson	Board of Appeals Member	Expires 12/31/15
Robert Hembera	Water Board Member	Expires 12/31/20



Charlie Fridal and Bob Wheeler

City of Hiawatha
101 Emmons Street
Hiawatha, Iowa 52233
Phone: 319-393-1515
Fax: 319-393-1516
www.hiawatha-iowa.com

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**DELIVER BY:
SATURDAY,
01/10/2015**

Live Healthy Iowa!

The Live Healthy Iowa 100 Day Wellness Challenge is a fun, easy and affordable way to engage Iowans in Healthy behaviors. This team-based physical activity, nutrition and weight loss program is designed to promote positive changes leading to a healthier lifestyle. Friends, families and co-workers form teams that track weight loss and/or minutes of activity. This challenge starts January 26, 2015 and ends April 3, 2015. Hiawatha has set up a Group ID and encourages all Hiawatha area businesses to get your team together and make a healthier Hiawatha! Register at www.livehealthyiowa.org with the Hiawatha Group ID: LHIHIA. For more information, go to www.livehealthyiowa.org.



SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, April 11, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. in Guthridge Park

The City of Hiawatha Parks & Recreation have partnered with Live Healthy Iowa to host 1 of 14 5K races around the state of Iowa in conjunction with the Live Healthy Iowa 100 Week Challenge. This partnership is a collaborative effort in a way to combat Iowa's growing obesity problem and to make strides toward the goal of making Iowa the healthiest state in the nation! The 5K will begin at 8:00 a.m. with a kids 1K to follow at 9:00 a.m. Register at www.livehealthyiowa.org.

5K Early deadline: March 31, 2015 \$20.00 (\$10.00 for Live Healthy Iowa participants)

Late deadline: April 7, 2015 at Noon \$25.00 (\$15.00 for Live Healthy Iowa participants) T-Shirt not guaranteed

Kids 1K \$5.00 (On site entry \$5.00, not guaranteed a T-Shirt)

City Contacts

Mayor:

Tom Theis
mayor@hiawatha-iowa.com
319-393-1515 X 525

Council Members

Marty Bruns
mbruns@hiawatha-iowa.com

Dennis Norton
dnorton@hiawatha-iowa.com

Dick Olson
dolson@hiawatha-iowa.com

Bob Rampulla
Mayor Pro Tem
brampulla@hiawatha-iowa.com

Bob Wheeler
bwheeler@hiawatha-iowa.com

City Staff

City Administrator:
Kim Downs 393-1515 X523
cityadmin@hiawatha-iowa.com

City Clerk:
Kelly Kornegor 393-1515 X526
cityclerk@hiawatha-iowa.com

Finance Director:
Cindy Kudrna 393-1515 X522
financedir@hiawatha-iowa.com

Park & Recreation Director:
Kelly Friedl 393-1515 X251
parkdirect@hiawatha-iowa.com

Community Development Director:
Patrick Parsley 393-1515 X229
bldgofficial@hiawatha-iowa.com

Public Works Superintendent:
Rod Jasa 393-6601
streets@hiawatha-iowa.com

Water Superintendent:
Carl Ransford 393-1515 X232
watersuper@hiawatha-iowa.com

Police Chief:
Dennis Marks 393-1212 X133
chief@hiawathapolice.com

Fire Chief:
Mike Nesslage 393-4180
mnesslage@hiawatha-iowa.com

Library Director:
Jeaneal Weeks 393-1414
weeksj@hiawatha-iowa.com

City Engineer:
John Bender 393-1515 X511
cityengineer@hiawatha-iowa.com

Hiawatha!