



Tuesday, October 22, 2024

City's New Economic Development Liaison Updates Council

Council members unanimously vote for downtown four-way stop signs

The Ames Regional Economic Alliance's new liaison to Boone presented a quarterly update on economic development activities involving the community during the city council's Monday evening meeting.

Brian Horn, who was the superintendent of the Madrid Community School District for 18 years, was recently announced as the alliance's director of economic development and executive director of the Boone County Economic Growth Corp. He will be responsible for leading Boone County's economic development organization, business retention and expansion, housing initiatives, industry recruitment and community betterment.

Quarterly highlights include the Iowa Department of Transportation's \$3.02 million grant from its Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy program to extend Hancock Drive and make other road improvements to support the Daisy Brands dairy processing facility to be built adjacent to the Boone Municipal Airport and other growth in the community.

Horn also noted:

- The Iowa Economic Development Authority awarded the City of Boone \$100,000 to transform 1003 Marshall Street into new commercial and residential space.
- Radicato, a locally owned meal-prep company, plans to expand into 812 Sixth St., when the property is renovated thanks, in part, to \$35,000 in combined grants from the Boone Downtown Incentive Fund and the Revitalize Boone Downtown Business Grant for Job Support and Retention.
- The Ames Regional Economic Alliance hosted a Sept. 11-13 inter-city visit to Fargo, N.D., where city and community leaders from Boone, Hamilton and Story counties met with their counterparts to discuss economic development ideas and success stories.

The council also approved the first reading of changes to the city's deer regulations to prohibit deer feeding. Violating the ordinance will result in a \$200 fine upon conviction.

The new ordinance states, "No person shall place or permit to be placed on the ground, or within five feet of the ground surface, any grain, fodder, salt licks, fruits or vegetables, nuts, hay or other edible materials, which may reasonably be expected to intentionally result in deer or turkey feeding, unless items are screened or protected in a manner that prevents deer from feeding on them. Living fruit trees and vegetation shall not be considered as deer or turkey feeding."

In other business, the council:

- Mayor Elijah Stines said he has heard "repeated comments" from a number of downtown business owners that they would prefer four-way stop signs rather than flashing red lights. Councilman Terry Moorman said he also has heard "overwhelming support" for stop signs. The council voted unanimously to have the public works department remove downtown traffic lights and install permanent stop signs at each Story Street intersection between Sixth and 10th streets as the department's workload and weather permit.
- Approved resolutions accepting the final plat of the Prairie Place subdivision, associated public improvements and its bond. The subdivision, located on the 1100 block of South Marshall Street, will consist of 23 residential townhome building lots, a multi-family lot

consisting of three eight-plex apartment buildings and two lots consisting of two commercial buildings.

- Received a report from Dave Ades, the city's building official, about the preliminary plat and site plan for the Oak Park subdivision. The 53-lot development, which will include all single-family homes, is slated to be built on a 32.7-acre parcel southeast of the corner of South Marion Street and West Park Avenue.
- Heard details from Ades about a site plan submitted by Alliant Energy for a proposed new substation at 2010 Crown Flair Drive. The proposed construction site is in an undeveloped area, which is currently zoned as an A-1 agricultural district, southeast of the intersection of Crown Flair Drive and Highway 30. A-1 permitted uses allow for substations serving the local area. Ades said the project will not require a stormwater plan due to its small size and limited impermeable surface area.
- Heard from Public Works Director Waylon Andrews that the dry ground has caused underground sewer and water pipes to shift, leading to several broken mains recently. He said other communities have experienced similar issues, and he praised department employees for responding quickly to make necessary repairs.

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