



Thursday, January 23, 2025

Council Authorizes RISE Agreement with DOT

During its second regular meeting of the year, the City Council approved an agreement with the Iowa Department of Transportation to fund the extension of Hancock Drive to support the construction of a Daisy Brands dairy-processing facility.

The City of Boone executed an agreement to receive a Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy Program grant in the amount of \$3,025,530 or 80% of the total cost of the eligible costs, whichever is less. The city received the maximum grant amount per job based on the 255 new jobs to be created by the Daisy Brand project. The improvements include the construction of approximately 1,700 feet of Hancock Drive with turn lanes and a traffic signal at the intersection of Corporal Roger Snedden Drive and Hancock Drive.

The IDOT also has approved an additional \$2.75 million or up to 50% of the RISE-eligible cost, whichever is less, to construct a multi-lane roundabout at the intersection of U.S. 30 and Corporal Roger Snedden Drive.

City engineer Perry Gjersvik gave an updated report about wastewater system improvements related to the upcoming Daisy Brands dairy-processing facility and future economic expansion. He said the lowest equalized wastewater flow rates from the Daisy facility will exceed an earlier target of 1,300 gallons per minute by 800 gallons per minute, though only at peak times. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) staff is currently reviewing plans for the city's wastewater expansion plans, which now include a modification to accommodate the Daisy Brands output and future economic growth.

Gjersvik told council members that engineers developed and considered three potential approaches to connect the expanded industrial area to the city's wastewater treatment facility near McHose Park. Ultimately, he said, the least expensive option also causes little to no disruption to existing homes and businesses.

On Gjersvik's recommendation, council members approved that route, which is projected to run on the north side of Highway 30 and increase the sewer main from 12 inches to 16 inches to accommodate future development. The size of lift station pumps serving the main also can be increased to boost capacity, if needed.

Council members also approved a resolution authorizing an IDNR grant agreement to remove two underground storage tanks at 1410 Eighth Street. One is a 10,000-gallon steel-clad gasoline tank; the other is a 3,000-gallon steel-clad tank that held diesel fuel. The estimated cost of the work is \$27,650 and does not include concrete replacement, claims handling, new equipment installation or other services. The IDNR grant will cover up to \$15,000 in approved expenses.

In other business:

- Brian Horn, Boone County Economic Development Director for the Ames Regional Economic Alliance (AREA), provided an update on fourth quarter 2024 activities, beginning with progress on eight building and housing projects currently under way. Horn indicated the Discovery Channel show "RV There Yet?" featuring Boone County will air on April 19. The show's hosts and crew visited Boone County and Ames last October.

Horn described the Boone Area Veterans Center kick-off as a "wonderful event." "That was the first cold day we had and I'm guessing we had about 100 people there for the kick-off, which was great," he added.

He also noted that Nate Nerem, president of Nerem & Associates Real Estate and Insurance, was recognized as the AREA's 2024 Economic Development Volunteer of the Year on Jan. 9 for his "exceptional commitment to fostering economic growth and community development in Boone County that impacts the entire alliance region."

- Sam Conlin, a 17-year-old Boone High School senior, shared a presentation in which he urged city officials to consider restoring a walking trail within McHose Park by revitalizing three low-water road crossings. The proposed new trail, which would accommodate walkers and cyclists, would create economic benefits for the community and health benefits for users, Conlin said.

Conlin, who previously spoke before the parks commission, noted he was not making a specific request of the council at the meeting. "This is just for awareness. This is the thing a lot of constituents think about," he said. "I have a lot of friends who would definitely enjoy this, as well as their parents and everybody, certainly."

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