

City of LeClaire, Iowa
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 16, 2023 - 6:07 p.m.
Council Chambers - 325 Wisconsin St, LeClaire, IA

Mayor: _____ Blair: _____ Bloom: _____ Gravert: _____ Long: _____ Salvador: _____
Bockenstedt: _____ Laserfiche: _____

Mayor Gerard called the City Council Meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 325 Wisconsin Street. Present: Mayor Dennis Gerard, Council Members Amy Blair, Bill Bloom, Sara Gravert, Barry Long and Ryan Salvador, City Administrator Dennis Bockenstedt, City Clerk Tracy Northcutt, Police Chief Shane Themas, Fire Chief Shane Bleeker, Public Works Director Mark Dale, Parks & Rec Director Greg Ludwig, Library Director Melita Tunnichliff and City Engineer Leo Foley. Absent: None

Discussion Items:

A. Buffalo Bill Museum Updates

Rita Faro, Executive Director, Buffalo Bill Museum, gave an overview of the attached information about the museum and expressed appreciation to Bob Schiffke, former Executive Director of the museum for his many years of service.

B. LeClaire Community Library Upgrades to Building

Melita Tunnichliff, Library Director, Buffalo Bill Museum, presented information on upgrades to the Library and gave an explanation of the vendor chosen to move the furniture while the upgrades are completed. Library Furniture International was the sole responder for requests for proposals and was approved by the Library Board. Council has no objection to this plan as presented. A resolution of approval will come forward at the next City Council meeting.

C. Wisconsin Street Improvements

Leo Foley, City Engineer, Veenstra & Kimm, gave an overview of the preliminary renderings for the Wisconsin Street Improvements. He emphasized how preliminary the plan is and explained the timing and cost of the project is dependent on the layers of sources for funding. The Community Project Funding Grant through Representative Miller-Meeks may have the funds flow through the Iowa Department of Transportation or the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Projects that go through IDOT take significantly longer due to the specific requirements. Staff will continue to keep Council apprised on this project.

D. Other – City Council Audio/Visual Improvements

Tracy Northcutt, City Clerk, thanked everyone in attendance for being patient while the staff learns to operate the new equipment and program. She encouraged feedback that can be shared with the vendor to enhance the experience.

Adjournment

Moved by Long, seconded by Blair, to adjourn at 6:35 p.m. Motion carried unanimously on voice vote.

Dennis Gerard, Mayor

Attest: _____
Tracy A. Northcutt, City Clerk

Dear Buffalo Bill Volunteers,

The only thing that never changes is the fact that everything in life always changes. And that's always been true for the Buffalo Bill Museum.

On October 4, Bob Schiffke retired and the Board honored him with the title of Executive Director Emeritus. Rita Farro accepted the position of Executive Director, and she will be handling the day-to-day management of the Museum.

Rita says, "Bob will be a hard act to follow. He came to the Museum after retiring from his teaching career. And he was always, in his heart, an excellent teacher. He had a genuine passion for history, and a vision of how to turn stories into interesting, interactive exhibits. Thanks to him, the Buffalo Bill Museum grew to become a respected Regional History Museum, welcoming 20,000 visitors from all over the world. He should be very proud of what he accomplished here, and it is only fitting that our beautiful one-room school addition is named in his honor."

The Buffalo Bill Museum attracts visitors from all over the world, and we enjoy hundreds of five star Google reviews. Many of those reviews mention our friendly, knowledgeable volunteers at the reception desk. We are grateful for everything you do.

Unfortunately, the Board recently discovered that we've lost our 501c3 nonprofit status because our tax accountant did not properly file the IRS #990 form. We went to the University of Iowa to meet with the Iowa Nonprofit Resource Center. According to the experts – this is a common problem for nonprofits and the Buffalo Bill Museum should carry on with business as usual. While the Board works to get our status reinstated -- the museum will continue to do things the same way we have always done them.

Thank you for everything you do – keep up the good work! Bob's favorite restaurant is the Crane & Pelican – so on November 2nd, we are having a party there at 5:00 PM to celebrate his retirement. Please RSVP to Debbie Smith.

Best,

Steve Fye

President

Buffalo Bill Museum Board