

City of Spirit Lake
Special Council Meeting
Future of Woolen Brown Building Workshop
City Hall
November 20, 2017
6:30 PM

Mayor Clary called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm, roll call was taken with Councilors Autumn Massender, Joy Porter, Chris Robinson, and Gary Ventress present.

Mayor Clary explained that in the previous weeks, he had a conversation with a few members of the Spirit Lake Senior Citizens Inc. (Seniors). During this conversation, the Seniors expressed their interest in having their own building; Mayor Clary suggested they request to speak to City Council regarding the Woolen Brown Building, as it has been sitting empty for approximately 16 years. At this workshop, the Seniors presented a letter addressed to the Spirit Lake City Council requesting the Woolen Brown Building be deeded to the Seniors to renovate and use as a Senior Citizens facility and potential civic use.

Heavy discussion ensued regarding the future of the Woolen Brown Building. Included were selling the community center vs. Woolen Brown Building to the Seniors, if that is even possible due to the grant received to build the community center. The Senior's facility manager stated the community center kitchen was not large enough and that they needed more storage, although the Seniors would still be interested in the community center if the Woolen Brown Building was off the table. Also discussed was the recent Spirit Lake Urban Renewal Agency (SLURA) funding of the new roof and door requested by the Spirit Lake Historical Preservation Commission, whose main focus has been the restoration of the Woolen Brown Building; whether the building would still be available for funding from SLURA if it was sold to the Seniors; lack of City funding for the building and availability of Seniors funds; the possibility of a joint senior center and community center in the Woolen Brown Building; parking at a public building vs. historical building; and the need for communication from the Historical Preservation Commission to Council on their recommendation for the building.

It was suggested the Seniors and the Historical Preservation Commission work together to come up with a mutually acceptable plan to present to Council.

Councilor Ventress moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Massender and a vote of aye by all – motion passed.

Attest:

Todd Clary
Mayor

Ann Clapper
Clerk