The Hiawatha City Council met in special session on December 14, 2009. Mayor Theis called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Council members present: Dick Olson, Linda Bendixen, Nancy Melsa, Marty Bruns and Bob Rampulla. Staff present: City Administrator, Gary Rogers Jr.; Finance Director, Cindy Kudrna. Guest present: Dan Hoffman.

Linda Bendixen moved the approval of the agenda, second by Dick Olson. Motion carried.

**NTS – Kay Fisk Presentation**

A presentation was given by Kay Fisk with Neighborhood Transportation Service (NTS). A packet of information on this non-profit organization which serves as an affordable neighborhood transportation service was also passed out at the meeting. NTS was requesting a 5% increase in contributions from Hiawatha, Cedar Rapids and Marion for FY 2011 in order to continue their service.

Council asked general background questions on the organization. Kay Fisk explained that the organization is not trying to make money, they are simply trying to maintain. They are in the process of writing a grant to help pay the start up fees for riders and seeking additional grants for funding.

**Priority One – Mark Seckman Presentation**

A presentation was given by Mark Seckman with Priority One. A packet of information on this division of the Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce in charge of economic development was also passed out at the meeting. FY 2011 would be the 5th year of a five year $10,000 (per year) commitment for the City to continue to use Priority One’s services.

Council expressed their concern on whether the City has received its value for the money that it has been paid to Priority One this year. We want to be more proactive to get businesses to the community but the City may be able to find a more beneficial way to market itself.

Mark Seckman stated that Priority One needs to hear any concerns and have open and continuous dialogue with the City Administrator and the Mayor representing the Council.

**EDC – Curt Nelson**

A presentation was given by Curt Nelson with Entrepreneurial Development Center, Inc. (EDC). A packet of information on this company whose purpose is to help businesses grow was also passed out at the meeting.

*The City has authorized contribution of $10,000 in FY 2011.*

**FY 2010-2011 Budget Discussion**

City Administrator, Gary Rogers Jr. shared with the council that memos were sent out to the department heads asking that they try and keep budget requests flat. Most of the budget requests have been turned in and the requests the he has seen are minor.

*Finance Director, Cindy Kudrna explained that she had spoke with the County Auditor’s office and they said that they would have tax numbers back for review before the holidays and that the annexed area would be included in the values for this year.*

Mayor Pro-Tem, Linda Bendixen made a request that the department heads present their budgets to the Council in one night instead of having two meetings for presentations as long as they wouldn’t be cutting anyone’s time short. Meeting dates are set for January 4th and 11th.

Council members suggested that department presentations are held on January 11, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. and that the council will not meet on January 4th.

**Collective Bargaining Strategy Session**

Council member, Marty Bruns moved to go into exempt session as per Iowa Code 20.17 [3] Collective Bargaining Strategy Session at 7:30 P.M. Motion carried.

Council member Marty Bruns moved to go out of exempt session at 7:45 P.M. Motion carried.

Council had a general discussion over future plans for the City of Hiawatha and funds and services that may be needed to support development.

Bob Rampulla moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 P.M., second by Marty Bruns. Motion carried.

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Thomas A. Theis, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Kelly Kornegor, Deputy Clerk