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Happiest of Birthdays to You!

**and Much More !!!**



**June 2023**

# Friendly Valley Times

**“For the Lord God is a sun and shield; The Lord will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.**

**~ Psalm 84:11**

## **Egg, Carrott, and Coffee Beans**

A young woman struggling with life, went to her mother and told her how her life was miserable and hard for her. She was tired of fighting and struggling with her problems and wanted to give up. Her mother, without saying much, took the young lady to the kitchen. She filled three pots with water. In the first pot, she placed carrots, in the second one she placed eggs, and the last she placed some ground coffee beans.

She let them sit and boil without saying a word to her daughter. The daughter wondered what her while she was complaining about her life. After some time, the mother turned down the burner, fished the carrots and the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. Then she ladled the coffee out into a cup. Turning to her daughter, she asked, “Dear, Tell me what you see?”. “A Carrot, egg and coffee.” she replied.

“Look closer and feel the carrots” said the mother. The daughter noted that they were soft. The mother then asked her to take an egg and break it. The interior of the egg was hard boiled. Finally, she asked her to sip the coffee. Its rich aroma brought a smile to her face.

The daughter then asked, “What does this mean, mother?”

All the three items, carrot, egg, and coffee went through the same situation , the boiling water . However, each reacted differently. The carrot was strong, hard, and unrelenting. However, after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak. The egg was fragile with the thin outer shell and its liquid interior. But after being in the boiling water, it hardened its interior. The ground coffee beans were unique, as it came to the boiling water, it changed the water and gave its incredible aroma.

“What are you?” she asked.“ How do you respond in difficult situations? Are you a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean? ”

Are you a carrot that seems strong at first, but becomes soft and loses strength in adversity?

Are you an egg that starts with a malleable heart, but hardens with the heat? Did you have a fluid spirit, but as you struggled with problems, have you become hardened and stiff? Did the problem harden your free spirit?

Or are you like coffee beans? The beans that change the hot water, the adversity, into an aromatic drink. If you are like the coffee beans, when things are at their worst, you will get better and change the situation around you.

When the hours are the darkest and trials are the greatest do you elevate to the next level?

Life is full of ups and down, but the only thing that truly matters is how we choose to react to situations around us and what we make out of it. Life is all about learning, adapting, and converting all the struggles into something positive.

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOOOUUU!!!**

*May you live a long life, Full of Gladness and Health, with a pocket full of gold as the least of your wealth, May the Dreams you hold dearest, be those which Come True, May the kindness you spread, keep returning to YOU!*

**June 3<sup>rd</sup> Vanessa King**  
**June 15<sup>th</sup> Karisa Cross**  
**June 22<sup>nd</sup> Kristina Akins**

**June 4<sup>th</sup> Paul DeVries**  
**June 20<sup>th</sup> Ashlea Strickler**



# Steamboat Rock Historical Society

**President:** Jim Kramer    **Vice President:** Dennis Holmes    **Secretary:**    **Treasurer:** Kitty Hemmen  
**At Large:** Keith Griffen    Email: [jimkkramer@heartofiowa.net](mailto:jimkkramer@heartofiowa.net)



**OUR Mission:** “To preserve and promote the history of Steamboat Rock and the surrounding area”

## Museum Open on Appointment Only

Our museum is now closed again until next Spring. However, if you are in town and would like to tour our museum, please contact me at 641-858-6085 and I would be happy to make arrangements to meet you there.

## Cemetery Theater Script

Looking back through the scripts of Cemetery Theater from years past, I came across my script for Amos Bannagin. Poor old Amos had some issues in his life. A number of years ago, my wife and I traveled out to the Black Hills, and we drove up to the Pine Slope Cemetery in Belle Fourche, SD. With some help from the caretaker of the cemetery, we found the plot of ground where Amos and Lucy are buried. However, as the script says, there are no stones to mark their eternal resting place. I thought you might enjoy reading the script from Cemetery Theater in 2014.

## **Amos Bannagin**

*Researched by Jim Kramer and Written by Jane Kramer*

(Crouching at grave of Peter Bannagin) Hey! Who goes there?! (Look up quickly – make move for a knife) Oh, it’s you – I suppose you’re all here wondering why I would be in Steamboat Rock tonight - well, then, have a seat – quickly now. I don’t want to be here long. I don’t want everyone here in Steamboat Rock to know that I’m here tonight.

It was 120 years ago this last February that my father Peter Bannagin died in Cody, Nebraska. I brought him back here to be buried. 120 years ago, I stood here in this very spot to mourn the loss of my father. My parents were good people – and today I can only wish that I could start my life over. But I’m getting ahead of myself. Let me share my whole story.

My name is Amos Bannagin. I’m the second child of Peter and Celestia Seabury Bannagin. I was born August 16, 1863 in Lena, Illinois. My father came to America from Ireland when he was one week old, originally settling in Canada and then moving to New York. My mother’s family was one of the earliest settlers in America. Eventually my parents settled here – one mile north of Steamboat Rock near what is still known today as “Bannagin’s Ripples”. Pruella, Ernest, Lettie, and William were my brothers and sisters. I had one infant sibling who is here buried here beside my father. Celestia’s parents, Martin & Mary Seabury are buried right over here. Martin died in a prairie fire.

*Cont’d on page 7*



ART IN THE GREENBELT PRESENTS...

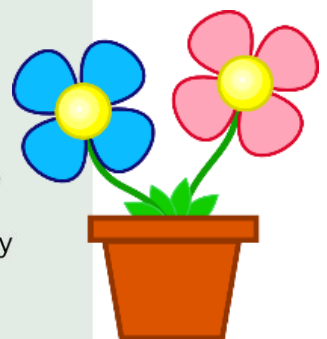
# 2023 ART FESTIVAL & GARDEN PARTY

SATURDAY, JUNE 3  
108 RIVER RD S, STEAMBOAT ROCK  
2 - 7 P M

2-7 pm - ART FESTIVAL featuring local and regional artists. Garden Stroll. **FREE.**

2:30 - 4:30 pm -- MAGICIAN AND CHILDREN'S ART TABLE. **FREE.**

4-7 pm - GARDEN PARTY - **\$20.** Live music, charcuterie, and beverages. Advance ticket purchase guarantees charcuterie. Tickets available at Steamboat Rock Library or by calling 641.373.3135.



## *from the Mayor*

### **Ditch Walk / Clean up:**

Big thank you to all who participated in the Ditch clean up on April 22 from the Iowa River bridge on D-35 to U Ave! Had 12 folks participate including a couple of drivers. Chilly and the wind was strong out of the west so we did a staggered start so all groups could have the wind to their backs. Two full truckloads of bags and other junk- great success.



**New City Ordinance for ATV/ UTV:** The entire new Ordinance can be found in this issue with the 5/08/2023 City Council Meeting Minutes. Over the next few months, it will be “Codified” into our digital code found on the City website. Many of you are aware that the State of Iowa issued new rules for ATVs in the middle of 2022 and then handed it off to each county to establish rules within the state parameters. Hardin County then established their rules generally parallel to the State of Iowa. Cities were then instructed to develop the rules for inside the City limits. Here is the summary for the City of Steamboat Rock boiled down in simple terms; follow all traffic rules, stop at stop signs, don’t exceed the posted speed limit, don’t go down alleys that are not access to your own property, stay off the multi-use trails, keep your noise level down, get your machine registered, and pay attention to the age and driver’s license restrictions. And, as often as you can- be kind to the Sheriff’s department staff that is tasked with enforcing these rules!

### **Reminders:**

**City Wide Clean-up Days:** Are scheduled for Saturday June 10<sup>th</sup> and Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup>. 8:00 to 11:00 am each day. The City will provide a roll-off at the City stick dump. This is an excellent opportunity to get rid of that junk that was too big for the garbage truck or just an extra spring-cleaning pile you have created. Fee of \$15 for each appliances to be disposed of, right at the location. That is a pass-through fee to the company that picks up the appliances. This collection of junk excludes TVs and RV refrigerators. There will also be a place to get rid of recyclable metals at these events. If your friends and neighbors did not get the **Friendly Valley Times** by email this month remind them to turn in their email address to [srcityhall@heartofiowa.net](mailto:srcityhall@heartofiowa.net) along with their name – so we know who sent it!

Be sure to attend the local fund raisers for the **Visionary Group BBQ** in the gym on Wednesday 5/24/23 and the **Fire Department** breakfast at the Lodge on Saturday 5/27/23.

Memorial Day this year is Monday May 29<sup>th</sup>. **Garbage** will not be picked up that day but will be picked up on Tuesday May 30<sup>th</sup>.

Final DNR public meeting for **Steamboat Rock dam** removal tentatively scheduled for July 13, 2023 6:00 pm at the Hardin County Conservation Lodge. Iowa DNR has been approved for a \$1,000,000 Fish Habitat grant to assist in the dam removal, placement of fish habitat structures, and erosion mitigation costs. Fishery Biologists from the US Fish & Wildlife Service plan to be in attendance.

Spring is here and summer is poking it’s nose into our days. First trip this year paddling down the Iowa River yesterday was excellent. Today’s observation was several fields with corn 2” tall that were not out of the ground yesterday. If you are not already making use of this excellent spring weather take this quote I wrote down years ago for a test drive: The value of life lies not in the length of days, but in the use we make of them; a man may live long yet live little. -- Michel de Montaigne (1533-92)

*Thanks*

*Tim Stearns, Mayor*

## STEAMBOAT ROCK COMMUNITY RESOURCES

### City of Steamboat Rock

PO Box 366  
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672  
641-868-2240

[srcityhall@heartofiowa.net](mailto:srcityhall@heartofiowa.net)

### Steamboat Rock Baptist Church

107 2<sup>nd</sup> St.  
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672  
641-868-2458

[church@steamboatbaptist.org](mailto:church@steamboatbaptist.org)

### Steamboat Rock Presbyterian Church

401 Market St.  
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672  
641-868-2292

[srpresby@gmail.com](mailto:srpresby@gmail.com)

### Steamboat Rock Fire & Rescue

PO Box 174  
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672  
641-868-2314

[srchief@heartofiowa.net](mailto:srchief@heartofiowa.net)

### Steamboat Rock Historic Society

409 W. Market St.  
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672  
641-858-6085

[jimkkramer@heartofiowa.net](mailto:jimkkramer@heartofiowa.net)

### Steamboat Rock Public Library

511 W. Market St.  
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672  
641-868-2300

[srocklib@heartofiowa.net](mailto:srocklib@heartofiowa.net)

### Steamboat Rock Cemetery

19325 Z Ave.  
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672  
641-751-5096

[50672cemetery@gmail.com](mailto:50672cemetery@gmail.com)

### Steamboat Rock Visionary Group/Pride & Betterment

PO Box 344  
Steamboat Rock, IA 50672  
641-868-2182

[bhutchcroft@hotmail.com](mailto:bhutchcroft@hotmail.com)

## Steamboat Rock Presbyterian Church & East Friesland Presbyterian Church

How many of you remember when swimming pools had high diving boards? The Ackley pool had one. And one day, when I went to swimming lessons back when I was 9 or 10, we all had to jump off the high board. My turn came and I climbed the ladder very slowly. I wasn't too fond of heights and still am not. I stepped out even more slowly to the edge of the board and .... I couldn't. I couldn't jump. I can still hear my instructor yelling in a very strict tone, "Why can't you just jump?" But I couldn't. So, I backed down the ladder.

I wasn't old enough to know what "humiliated" meant, but that's what I was. All I knew was I could hear the other kids laughing and I just wanted to go home. If only I could've jumped. Made that decision, made that commitment to just jump.

In Matthew 19, we read the story of the young, rich ruler who comes to Jesus asking questions and seeking wisdom. He was good and faithful, but he realized something was missing. So, he came looking for answers. At times, it's not just the lost who need directions; not just the unbelievers who have questions. The faithful need answers sometimes as well. This passage is about decision making, commitment, and separation from God. It makes us question the things, attitudes, and practices in our lives that keep us from total commitment. It's about ending the separation and just jumping. Like standing on a high diving board, here a rich young man comes to Jesus and stands on the edge of really a huge decision.

Jesus saw what the problem was and said to the young man in Matthew 19:21, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." But the price was too high. With shaky knees, the rich man slowly backed down. He couldn't make that decision, that commitment. He couldn't jump and the Bible says he "went away sad, because he had great wealth."

When money and things take first place in our lives, we're fixing our heart on the world, not God. They can separate us from God. And it's not just money or things. Many things can separate us from God. An attitude. A prejudice. Jealousy, political views, indifference, a hobby, even our theological beliefs; all of these can separate us from God if they take first place in our lives. We're called to fix our heart on God. God will not take second place in our lives.

What's God calling you to jump from? What's holding you back from jumping off that edge? What's calling you back down that ladder saying, "Don't do it. It's scary. It'll hurt."

Why can't you just jump?

Friends, know this- in that jump is our salvation. Salvation comes through faith in God through Jesus Christ. Christ will save us. But we've got to jump. That's the jump the rich young man couldn't and a lot of us can't take, giving up everything and following Jesus. Matthew 19 confronts us, it challenges us, and it calls us to stand on the edge, on the edge of the board, with our shaky knees and our closed eyes. It challenges us to just jump.

May God bless you this month and always.

*Pastor Lynn Arends*





## Steamboat Rock Fire Department

### Memorial Weekend Breakfast

The Steamboat Rock Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association has again set the date for the Memorial Weekend Breakfast. This breakfast will resemble the style of breakfast that was held for years by the Boat Club committees. It will be held on Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at the Boat Club (Iowa River Conversation Club) from 7 – 11 a.m. The menu will be pancakes, French Toast, eggs, sausage, bacon, toast, and drinks.

**This will be a free will donation.**

Monies raised this year will be going towards the purchase of three or more SCBA carbon fiber tanks. These tanks are used for breathing while attacking a fire or overhaul of a fire scene. Each tank is right around \$750 a piece. We currently have six but would like to purchase more. Each tank has a shelf life of 15 years and after that they need replacing. We are also looking at the purchase of another five- gas monitor. This machine will also detect explosive gases along with the standard four; O<sub>2</sub>(Oxygen), H<sub>2</sub>S (hydrogen sulfide), CO (carbon monoxide), and %LEL. This particular machine will be used in a confined space and this device will lead us to the spot of where there might be a gas leak or CO leak. This device currently is costing around \$2,300. Any support that is given is greatly appreciated.

Mark your calendars and come enjoy breakfast!! We hope to see you there!!!

Be Safe,  
Scott, SRFD



## Steamboat Rock Visionary Group / Pride & Betterment

*Members: Toni Nederhoff, Mary Gast, Dave Hagberg,  
Mariah Schurman, Sandy Trampe, Mike Finger, & Bob Hutchcroft*

**Brisket!** It is time again for our annual brisket dinner. We will hold it again in the community center. The date is **Wednesday, May 24**, beginning at 5 and continuing until 7 or until we run out. **No servings will be made before 5.** We are making additional quantities of brisket this year as we ran out early last year. All meals will be served in takeout containers but there will be seating available in the gym. This is our only fundraiser of the year so we would appreciate your support. Our monies are used to support the city park, entry signs, the Friendly Valley Times, and other projects. Our current project is to create an inviting entryway to the bike trail entrance here in Steamboat Rock.

Costs are up considerably from previous years, so we are asking for a \$15 per person minimum donation. Many people are familiar with Wes Beenken's meat preparation. He will be our brisket preparer so be sure to come enjoy.

**FVT!** The monetary costs and labor hours of publishing the Friendly Valley Times have risen to the point where publishing a hard copy is no longer feasible. The April edition will be the final issue people will receive in the mail as a printed edition. Our intention is to continue publication but will be sent via email. We are fortunate to have the services of Heidi Mitchell in getting the publication completed in such a professional form. If you do not already have your email address on file, and you wish to receive the FVT, send your email to the address provided in this edition.

**Project Ideas!** Thanks to those of you who have submitted community improvement ideas to our committee. Any ideas are welcome!



**IF you would like to continue getting the  
Friendly Valley Times, you MUST now  
sign up to receive this by email.**

*There will be NO More issues by Print.*

Please email Heidi Young at [hry@heartofiowa.net](mailto:hry@heartofiowa.net)  
to get your Name & Email address on the List!

***Don't Miss a thing– Get Signed Up NOW!!***



# Steamboat Rock Public Library

The calendars for Summer Reading will be on the library Facebook page shortly. We will have story time on Tuesdays at 2:00 which will consist of reading, a craft, and treats. Along with the regular programs we have scheduled we also have Lazer Tag planned for the older kids and a mini art painting day for all ages. We probably aren't done yet with activities either. So please stop in starting June 13<sup>th</sup> to pick up your bag for summer reading and to sign up. We still have the pirate treasure box filled with prizes.

Book club will be on June 8<sup>th</sup> starting at 2:00. There are always great treats that everyone brings so don't feel that you have to bring something. We do not read the same book, so the different book reviews are fun to listen to. If the weather is still nice, we will be out on the back patio under the pergola.

Please don't forget the library has free Wi-Fi with no password required and it is on 24/7. We also have 7 adult patron computers and 5 small devices for the kids to use.

It has been wonderful how many people are asking for a SILO item from another library. This is a wonderful opportunity to borrow a book or a DVD that isn't in our library or if you need material in a different format so you can listen or get it in large print. Just give us a call and we will do a search for you. And it is free!

511 W. Market St; Steamboat Rock Phone/Fax: 641-868-2300

[www.youseemore.com/nile/steamboatrock](http://www.youseemore.com/nile/steamboatrock)

or on Facebook @SteamboatRockLibrary

Just some of the links for our patrons through our website:



Tuesday 1:00-6:00 PM  
Wednesday 2:00-5:00 PM  
Thursday-Friday 12:00-4:00 PM  
Saturday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

## Mystery

*Dark Angel* by John Sanford

*The Atonement Murders*

by Jennifer Ruf

*The Instructor*

by T. R. Hendricks

*Simple Lies* by David Baldacci

*Where are the Children Now?*

by Mary Higgins Clark

*Breakneck* by Mark Cameron

*With my little eye*

by Joshilyn Jackson

*The Instructor*

by T.R. Hendricks

*The 23<sup>rd</sup>* by James Patterson

*Not the Ones Dead*

by Dana Stabenow

## Fiction

*The kitchen house*

by Kathleen Grissom

*Small Mercies*

by Dennis Lehane

## Historical Fiction

*The Postcard* by Anne Berest

## Junior Fiction

*The One and Only Ruby*

by Katherine Applegate

## Games

*Big Book of Family Games*

by Brad Berger

## Graphic Novel

*Spy Camp* by Stuart Gibbs

## Romance

*The Wedding Planner*

by Danielle Steel

(Just a reminder there is no charge to check out DVDs to our patrons)

## Job opening

**The City of Steamboat Rock is seeking a qualified applicant to fill the Steamboat Rock City Clerk position.**

Qualified applicants should be experienced in the use of computers and computer programs. Example would be e-mail, quick-books, word, excel, pdf usage, and have the ability to learn other programs. Math and personal skills helpful.

A successful candidate will work with City residents, help City maintenance person with book keeping, do water, sewer, garbage billing, and a multitude of other tasks. Report to the Mayor and receive guidance from the City Council.

Currently the position is salaried as part time about 15-25 hours per week. Participation in monthly evening City Council meetings required.

Training will be provided initially by a Clerk consultant and a week of in person clerk formal training provided by Iowa League of Cities annually. For 2023 in July.

**Please provide resume and letter of interest to  
PO Box 366 Steamboat Rock, Iowa 50672  
or email to [srcityhall@heartofiowa.net](mailto:srcityhall@heartofiowa.net)**

## Amos Bannagin

Our life here was good – my father worked for the Iowa Central Railroad and my mother was loved and respected by many. I'm not sure when things began to go south for me. I think it was about in 1879. I was only 16 years old at that time. I suppose it was when I began to hang around with men who had crooked ways. I also got associated with the saloon business with my father and I seemed to not be able to handle the drink as other men could. One of the men I associated with was William P. Hiserodt, also known as Black Bill.

Black Bill was a leading figure in the counterfeiting ring and other assorted crimes that happened in and around this territory. He had one of those charismatic personalities that I suppose really attracted a sixteen-year-old boy like me at the time. I liked the risk and adventure of the life he led. That choice led me into other decisions that led my life down a spiraling trail.

On New Year's day, January 1, 1884, at the age of 21, I married Black Bill's daughter Elvira Hiserodt. This was a short-lived marriage that ended in separation. I was single and living alone in Belmond, Iowa by 1885. By January, 1885, Enoch Johnson had been ambushed and killed sending Frank and Nate Rainsbarger to prison for thirty years for a crime they did not commit. Newspaper and personal accounts put me at this ambush.

But for myself – the most disastrous night was when Henry Johns was ambushed on April 16, 1885. I was with William Hiserodt that night and was identified as one of the men taking part in that ambush that eventually led to the death of Henry Johns. Hiserodt was so frightened that Johns would turn states evidence against him – against all of us for the crimes we committed. I know that Johns saw me that night – I can still see him looking right at me. It's a terrible thing to live in fear – but it seemed that was to be my life for years to come. In courtroom testimonies it was stated by many that my reputation for truth and veracity was bad.

Finn and Manse Rainsbarger were the scapegoats of this dastardly deed. They were arrested and were shot to death by a lynching mob on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Most reports of the events of that evening have me there as part of it all. Many innocent people had been convinced of the Rainsbargers guilt. My life drove my father to heavy drinking and broke my dear mother's heart.

In December of 1885 I was charged with perjury and burglary. Charges had been brought against me before, but it seemed that no charges against me could ever stick; maybe it was because I knew too much. So much had happened that all of these events led to our entire family to move to Cody, Nebraska around 1885.

My brother Ernest became a jockey. Not surprising since my father, Peter was the owner of some fine racehorses. Following this Ernest became a highly respected farmer in Cherry County, Nebraska. My sister Ella graduated from the college in Ames, now called Iowa State.

After moving to Cody, Nebraska, she became a country school teacher and played the pump organ for country dances and would play until the wee hours of the morning. She was a spiritualist and became a fortune teller and picked up coal along the highway. She married Frank Wink Mogul. She taught at country school and was very talented. My brother William Jerome and his son Dale operated the White Eagle gas station at Cody, Nebraska. My mother was dearly loved by my many in Nebraska and many mourned her passing in 1914, twenty-two years after my father. . She ministered to many in their sickness – and her small- framed figure left a huge impact on many.

And as for me –I moved to the Black Hills in 1895. I married my bride Lucy in 1897 in Rapid City, South Dakota. She was born in Guide Rock, Nebraska. After working for the Home Stake Mining Company in Lead, South Dakota, we moved to a ranch in Crook County, Wyoming until 1927; During this time, I worked at the Home Stake Mining Company as a timber man. This meant that I installed the timbers in the tunnels of mines. In 1927 we moved to Belle Fourche. Lucy and I had four children: Roy, Troy, J.N, and Letha. I lived out the last 14 years of my life in Belle Fourche. I died December 8<sup>th</sup>, 1940 at the age of 77. Lucy died in 1951.

Many years had passed after that short, but difficult time here in Steamboat Rock.

My wife Lucy and I are buried in Pine Slope Cemetery, in Belle Fourche, South Dakota. We both have unmarked graves. No marker to recall the good years that we had following the chasm of tragedy marked in Steamboat Rock. Not a good beginning to a young man's life. I beg of you tonight – consider well the company that you keep and the choices that you make today – they may well affect the future of your life. Well, I must hurry off now – I still fear that someone may be looking for me...



MAYOR  
Tim Stearns  
  
"A Valley  
of  
Friendliness"



COUNCIL MEMBERS  
Adam Blackburn  
Dave Mull  
Kevin Pieters  
Cory Schurman  
Jon Schurman

The Steamboat Rock City Council met in regular session May 8, 2023, 6:30 p.m. in the City Council chambers. Present were Mayor Stearns and the following council members: Adam Blackburn, Dave Mull, Kevin Pieters, Jon Schurman and Cory Schurman. Also present were Taylor Neiderhoff and JD Homes.

Mayor Stearns called the meeting to order. Pieters moved, seconded by Blackburn to approve the posted agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Pieters moved to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2023 and April 17, 2023 council meeting, seconded by J. Schurman. Motion carried unanimously, Pieters moved, seconded by Blackburn to approve City bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Public comments: None.

Library- no report

Fire Department – no report

JJ Veld was unable to attend. Mayor Stearns reported that the end loader needs brakes fixed. Dump truck/snow plow needs hydraulics and starter fixed. Discussion about having a couple of local men with a good reputation for mechanical skills do some of this repair work. Agreed that if the repairs went that direction, they should get paid as contractual workers to avoid liability issues.

Mayor Stearns advised on the property at 208 3<sup>rd</sup> St, the IRS has agreed to file a release.

Nuisance Reporting- none

Road repairs: short discussion agreeing that concrete and asphalt don't move together in the freeze/ thaw cycle. Jody Stonebraker has a connection with a company that also does asphalt hole patching. Cory or Jon will call him again.

Nuisance Ordinance Update. final pending.

Municipal Infractions Ordinance Update. final pending.

Animal Control Code Ordinance Update. final pending.

Mayor Stearns presented the ATV/UTV Code for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading. C. Schurman moved to resolve to adopt this new ordinance as Resolution #2023-8. Seconded by Pieters. Roll call vote: J Schurman- Aye, Pieters- Aye, Blackburn- Nay, Mull- Aye, C. Schurman- Aye. Motion to make resolution passed in a four Aye, one Nay vote.

Mayor Stearns discussed City insurance. The council requested that a representative from the Agency attend the June 12, 2023 City Council meeting to explain how we are covered.

Mayor Stearns reported on the periodic state Audit that is in process. State staff is collecting data and at some point will work directly in the City Hall.

Mayor Stearns reported on the ditch clean-up held April 22, 2023. Twelve folks helped with the project and collected two pick-up loads heaped up with garbage bags. Completed about 11:30. Thank you to all who helped.

Mayor Stearns reminded Council of the Spring Clean-up Days scheduled for June 10<sup>th</sup> and June 17<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Stearns confirmed with the Steel and appliance collection company and the roll-off company for these dates. Council members will help unload at the stick dump and other volunteers would be welcome to help.

Mayor Stearns presented a request from Hardin County Solid Waste for a board member and alternate. C. Schurman agreed to continue as the representative and Blackburn will continue as the alternate.

Mayor Stearns requested input on where and how to advertise for a new City Clerk. Suggestion to post at churches and Rock Stop. Also place ad in Eldora paper again and in the County wide advertiser.



Mayor Stearns presented a request to choose an engineering firm for the west side sewer project. City Attorney Niederhoff suggested we need to get three proposals prior to choosing an engineering firm. Two are in hand and a third will be acquired. A special council meeting may be held once the third is acquired.

Mayor Stearns presented a request from Rock Stop to renew their license to sell cigarettes. Pieters moved to approve, J. Schurman seconded. Motion carried. C. Schurman abstained due to possible conflict of interest.

Mayor Stearns brought up discussion about The Friendly Valley Times being presented to the residents by email only, due to cost savings to the City and the Visionary Group. Further discussion about using email to send out City Bills and that all of the council members will begin to get their FVT and City Bills in that manner. In a joint effort between the Visionary Group and the City, a postcard will be sent out requesting submission of email addresses. A hard copy of the Friendly Valley Times will be available at the Library for those who do not have email.

C. Schurman moved to go to closed session to discuss real estate, pending legal, employment issues. Pieters seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The room was cleared of visitors. Mayor Stearns reopened the public meeting at 8:29 pm.

C. Schurman moved to adjourn the meeting, Mull seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

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Timothy A. Stearns, Mayor

## looking Ahead...

**Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>** Art Festival & Garden Party 2pm-7pm  
**Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup>** City Council Meeting 6:30pm @city hall  
**Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> & June 17<sup>th</sup>** City Wide Cleanup starting @8am  
**Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>** Live Music @Happenings 5-9pm outside  
**SUNDAY, June 18<sup>th</sup>** Father's Day

**Recycling June 5<sup>th</sup> & June 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**Every Wednesday @6:30pm- SRBC Awanas Club**



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OR go to the city website –[www.steamboatrockiowa.com](http://www.steamboatrockiowa.com) and sign up there at the bottom of the Home page.