



**City of Council Bluffs**



Al Ringgenberg spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club on July 5. He is a member of the Council Bluffs City Council. He grew up in central Iowa and was in the military for 21 years. He was a military lawyer and started out doing Court Marshals. He did over 100, then switched to international law. His last tour was in

the Pentagon and he helped negotiate agreements for the "War on Terror".

Al said that Council Bluffs is starting to work with other communities in the area to promote development, including Pottawattamie and surrounding counties, and Omaha. Everyone can benefit from growth in the area.

In 2011 the city was not sure the levies would hold from the flooding. If they broke water could have flooded a third of the city. The National Guard and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) were a big help in preventing the levies from breaking.

Now FEMA wants the levies improved, with an estimated cost of \$114M. The State of Iowa will allow Council Bluffs to use sales tax revenues for this, which would provide about \$57M over 10 years. Other funding is available, but Council Bluffs will need to pay \$25M-28M. If the levies are not improved, FEMA has threatened to redo and enlarge the flood zones in the city, making it necessary for FEMA is already redrawing flood zones throughout the country at a record pace.

Al said that the median income in Council Bluffs is \$53,000. A fast food restaurant in Council Bluffs

**Calendar**

- July 9 – Can kennel sorting for Optimist Club, 6:00 p.m.
- July 12 – District baseball, 5:00 p.m. Help needed at 4:00
- July 15 – District baseball, 5:00 p.m. Help needed at 4:00
- July 19 – District baseball finals, 7:00 p.m. Help at 6:00
- July 24 – Westfair help needed – Noon until 6:00 p.m.
- July 30 - Can kennel sorting for Optimist Club, 6:00 p.m.

**Birthdays**

- Jun 20 – Jeff Jorgensen (recognized)
- Jul 14 – Gary Gutttau
- Jul 23 – Jerry Hempel
- Jul 27 – Jim Clausen

**Anniversaries**

- Jul 14 – Jeff & Mary Beth Jorgensen
- Jul 25 - Chuck & Kathy Nielsen

**Speakers**

- July 12 – Brad Silvey – Girl's Soccer Coach at IWCC
- July 19 – Alegent Care Mental Health
- July 25 -

pays about \$123,000 more in taxes than a similar place in Omaha. That makes it difficult to compete.

The City budget is \$128M. It is a difficult time to raise taxes, but the city doesn't have much trouble raising fees. Al said the city is about ready to raise sewer and water fees.

Asked about use of the land where the dog track was, Al said that they are looking at allowing a big, luxury hotel to build there. The area has a shortage of hotel space for large events, and even Omaha has asked that more hotels be built in the area. The casinos alone have two-thirds of their hotel space blocked every night.

**Meeting Minutes**

Bill Vorthmann opened the meeting on July 5. Gary Funkhouser and Kirk Vorthmann provided jokes. Bill led the Pledge of Allegiance and Gary Funkhouser gave the opening prayer.

Jeff Jorgenson celebrated his birthday a few weeks late. Bill reported that proceeds from the can kennel were \$1191 for St. Paul Youth and \$1135 for Zion Youth.

Ken Graham contributed to the Youth Fund for bragging rights about his 50<sup>th</sup> class reunion. 41 of 51 people attended. Bill Vorthmann reported that the oldest American was 115 years old.

Ken Graham and Bill Vorthmann helped the High School Baseball team with can kennel sorting. A lot of youth helped. Dale Willenborg, Ken Graham, Richard and Bill Vorthmann, Kirk and Lynell Vorthmann and children, and Gary, Dee, and Chad Gutttau helped with flags. Bob Abbott, Dennis White, Bill Vorthmann, Richard Vorthmann, Chad Gutttau, and Gary Gutttau helped with Treynor Days bingo and raffle.

Gary Funkhouser said the school needs help with taking tickets for baseball on July 12, 15, and 19<sup>th</sup>.

Marsha Underwood won the 50/50 drawing. Keith Denton won the attendance drawing, but did not collect. There were 11 members and 1 guest at the meeting.

