



Wednesday, September 4, 2024

## **Council Approves Annexation for Daisy Brands Facility Construction**

Moving forward with the necessary steps to allow Dallas-based Daisy Brands to construct a state-of-the-art dairy-process facility in Boone, the City Council unanimously approved the voluntary annexation of the land off Eastgate Drive adjacent to the Robert L. Fisher Airport Business Park.

The council voted Tuesday evening at its regular meeting, which was delayed one day due to the Labor Day holiday.

Daisy executives announced their intentions in April to invest \$626.5 million in a 750,000 square foot facility that will initially create 106 new jobs. The employee count is anticipated to grow to 255 as demand increases. The Iowa Economic Development Authority approved \$7 million in direct financial assistance and tax benefits for the company earlier this year.

At its last meeting, the council rezoned two parcels of land from an A-1 agricultural district to an M-4 general industrial district to meet zoning requirements on property that abuts the business park. The Daisy project will incorporate previously zoned M-4 parcels with the two designated parcels. The A-1 parcels purchased by the company total 62 acres. The rezoning of both parcels received recommendations for approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission and the city staff.

The council approved two development agreements for a commercial project and a residential project with Prairie Place, LLC. The proposed subdivision would be constructed on undeveloped land on the 1200 block of South Marshall Street. The preliminary plat for project to be built by the Hunziker Development Co., of Ames, consists of 23 residential townhouse building lots, a multifamily lot with three eight-plex apartment buildings and two lots of two commercial buildings. The project will have a public roadway, to be named Ida Place, and a stormwater detention pond to service the Hunziker Development Co. project.

In other business, the council:

- Voted unanimously to deem a dog owned by a couple in west Boone as a vicious animal, which requires two components of proof. First, the animal must be determined to be running "at large" and a bite must be unprovoked. The dog bit a three-year-old child on the face and neck, causing severe injuries. The animal had a history of running loose and had been picked up six times by animal control services, according to an officer who spoke to council members. The dog's owners made an emotional plea in hopes of preventing its designation as a vicious animal, but council members said its threat to public safety is too great. "I think we'd be remiss not to do something," councilmember Linda Williamson said. Indicating the necessity to act yet expressing sympathy for the dog owners' heartache, councilmember Lisa Kahookele said, "Unfortunately, yes."
- Heard from retired police officer Tom Mott, who expressed concern about the danger that fast-moving traffic and an obstructed view pose to pedestrians at 22<sup>nd</sup> and Tama Streets. Mott, whose brother was killed as a child when crossing the street said dangers have increased with recent housing development in the neighborhood. City administrator William Skare and Public Works Director Waylon Andrews said city officials have been exploring steps to slow traffic and increase safety at the intersection. Public Safety and Transportation Committee Chair Kole Hilsabeck said he and his colleagues will also study the issue for potential solutions.

- Heard an update from Mayor Elijah Stines that three public information meetings will be held about the Nov. 5 referendum for the proposed city recreation complex. Those meetings will be 6:00-7:00 p.m., Monday, Sept. 23, at City Hall; noon-1:00 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 24, at City Hall; and 5:00-6:00 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 1., online. Visit the link below to join the meeting virtually, [bit.ly/boone-virtual-teams](https://bit.ly/boone-virtual-teams)

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