

# Ackley World Journal

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PHOTOS BY BECKY SCHIPPER/ACKLEY WORLD JOURNAL

## Local Veterans Honored

BECKY SCHIPPER  
EDITOR

The courage, strength and patriotism of veterans everywhere, particularly those who are familiar to AGWSR students in both the Ackley and Wellsburg educational centers, were honored during ceremonies held at both locations.

In Wellsburg, students began their day with a flag-raising ceremony in which all students from the building watched as the flag was raised to the top of the pole. In the gym, veterans and the public were treated to a program of songs, essays and veterans attending were recognized during a performance of Armed Forces on Parade.

The Ackley center program included performances by the AGWSR band and choir, along with a recognition of veterans in attendance. The program is jointly sponsored by the school and the Ackley American Legion Post 252.

The Ackley American Legion Auxiliary served chili and cinnamon rolls to veterans and community members following the program. ●

Above, AGWSR students from the Wellsburg Center put hands over hearts and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to kick off their Veteran's Day program. Many local vets were in attendance and joined the students inside the school for the rest of the observance. For more photos of the programs, visit [www.ackleyworldjournal.com](http://www.ackleyworldjournal.com) and see inside this issue.



Left - The AGWSR Middle School band performed during the Veterans Day observations at the school. Right - Many veterans, their families and the community took part in a meal served at the Ackley American Legion building following ceremonies held at the AGWSR High School.

## Long Night for Ackley Council

### Budget Work Begins

BECKY SCHIPPER  
EDITOR

A three-hour meeting for the Ackley council, held on Wednesday evening, included lengthy discussions on the FY23 budget as well as issues with the equalization basin lining project currently underway at the site.

The basin project is at a standstill as the contractor is dealing with approximately 6,000 cubic feet of sludge and algae mixture which is too thick to be run through a line to be moved to another retaining cell.

Will McAllister, project manager for Woodruff Construction, attended the meeting to explain the process thus far. He said that as the draining commenced, it was realized that the line between the two cells was not fitted with a grinder. After speaking with Peoples Service, the city's wastewater management provider, the process was halted, with the sludge piled up in a corner.

"We have a few options for you," began McAllister.

Those options included digging a trench in which to bury the waste; setting up a temporary basin, filling that and having the sludge tested and later hauled out to fields; back truck to a different cell; and testing to spread on fields. The suggestions will be at an added cost, with estimates ranging

from nearly \$7,000 to \$12,000.

Don Moore, city engineer, suggested that the issue is not the city's, rather Woodruff Construction's as they "bought the project".

Peoples Service suggested that the engineer miscalculated the amount of sludge in the basin, implying the answer lies in piling the sludge and having it taken off site next year.

No determining answer was found during the meeting, with the council seeking solid numbers for the costs associated with the issue. Those figures will be presented at a special meeting in the near future.

The lining project contract came at a cost of \$279,350. Funding for the majority of the project was provided through the American Rescue Plan funding received by the city.

Sewer-related conversations continued with the council accepting into a \$3.76 million loan agreement (revenue bonds) for the Phase II sewer project. Funding would be used to pay the cost including planning, design and construction of improvements to the system. A public hearing was held prior to council approval.

Council also began the budgeting process with clerk Malena Dennis providing a worksheet of items that she requires information on.

At the top of that list is employee salaries. Dennis provided the council with COLA (Cost-Of-Living-Adjustment) from the Social Security Administration - an 8.7 percent increase. The City provides raises for

employees on an across-the-board basis rather than merit raises.

Mayor Mike Nuss noted that it had been suggested to consider a five percent increase for city employees, while councilman Chuy Flores suggested 10 percent raise.

The Ackley World Journal questioned the total amount paid out in wages to city employees with Dennis explaining that because wages for Public Works, for example, were pulled from various funds - streets, garbage, etc. that she did not have that information readily available. Dennis also noted that any proposed increase in health insurance costs had not yet been received, adding that the benefit package provided city employees does not come out of the general fund, rather it is levied expense.

Carrie Stahl, deputy clerk, asked the council to look at their employees as assets rather than expenses.

"If you want quality, you have to pay for it," said Flores.

The council chose to add a 5 percent raise for employees for budgeting purposes. That number could, though is unlikely, change before the completion of the process.

Other proposed additions to the upcoming budget included hopes for \$10,000 for tree removal, as the city continues to remove dead ash trees from across the community; an additional \$2,000 to be added to the housing/building demolition fund; and other minor increases.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Ackley City Council is planned for Dec. 14. ●



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Emergency responders and police gathered outside the home on Ackley's Second Avenue following the incident.

## One dead following domestic dispute

A Waterloo man is dead following a self-inflicted gunshot wound following a domestic dispute in Ackley on Monday, Nov. 7 in the 400 block of Second Avenue. Ackley Police Chief Gerald Frick said the male first threatened a female with a gun, which she pushed away. As she was exiting, the man took his own life. No names were released, though Frick did confirm the deceased was from

Waterloo and the female only recently became a resident of Ackley.

Emergency responders included the Ackley Volunteer Ambulance Service Director, Joan Frazier, Iowa State Patrol and Hardin County Sheriff's deputies. Also responding were two units from the Iowa Falls Fire and EMS.

Local church organizations are reaching out to the survivor of the incident. ●

