The meeting was called to order at 5:33pm by Mayor Jacobsen. Council in attendance: Hocker, Jacobsen, Griffith, Murray, Hemmingsen. Hocker moved, Griffith seconded, to approve the agenda.
**New Business-** Downtown sidwalks- Griffith began by explaining to the business owners and property owners in attendance why the Council asked for their input. A property owner had come to the City and expressed concern about having to repair the sidewalk in front of his business. This evolved into a conversation on if this would be a good time to change the sidewalks. Griffith continued to explain that there had been numerous slips and falls, along with brick heaving up, and difficulty for owners to shovel during the winter. The Council had looked into the CAT grant and enough time has passed, that any restrictions are lifted. The City is still paying on the bond for the project. There is seven years left on the debt. The Public Works Director received an estimate of $11,000 to install rebar and pour the sidewalk with cement. This did not include the cost to take up the bricks. The mosaics would stay with a border around them and the property or business owner would still be responsible for shoveling the sidewalks.

Juanita Reynard asked what type of concrete would be used in the quote. The answer was just plain concrete no color or stamping included. Tauna Bohlmann asked if there was any way of keeping the brick and fix it. She also wondered if the City could find someone that would want to just take the brick in exchange for the labor of taking them out. Jen Bauer stated that there has been lots of issues with these bricks. She was surprised to learn how much was still owed on the project but though something needed to be done. Marge Griffith stated that while people have fallen and not sued, there have been claims to the City’s insurance to pay for medical bills. Patrick Hamilton stated that some of his customers at the flower shop won’t walk on the bricks even in good weather because they are older and worry about tripping.

 Councilman Griffith explained that a cost share approach was only being considered and that nothing was decided as of yet on how this project would be funded. He stated that he was the lone no vote to this project initially and that it was frustrating that many of the issues he raised have turned out to be the problems we are experiencing today. Mark Heller asked what would be done with the bricks that were set into concrete. They would have to be jackhammered out at a higher cost than just simple removal of the ones in sand. Michael Bauer stated that he had talked to local contractors that stated at the time of the project that this was not going to work out long term but their warning were ignored by the project committee. Jerry Jensen asked if the City carried liability insurance. They answer was yes, but no way to tell if when sued it would be enough to cover the claim. It was brought up that there was a broom attachment to the City skid loader that was purchased to clean the sidewalks, but was never used. Griffith stated that the problem was with the wet snows and the brushes freezing together that made it not a viable option.

 The Mayor asked for a show of hands on those owners present, if money was not a factor would they want the bricks replaced. A majority of hands were raised. They she asked if there was some kind of financial involvement for them, would they want the brick replaced. There was a small number of hands that were raised. Jerry Jensen mentioned that there was a rumor floating that the new coffee shop was going to cost downtown property owners about $10,000 a piece. The Council unanimously denied that rumor. That was why they were having the work session is to discuss the issue with the owners and get their input. Nothing had been decided as to what to do. The Council first wanted to hear from the owners and what options they might have to solve the issue.
JEO water project- JEO was not present at the meeting to provide an update.
Farm Ground options- The Council discussed that they had more than one individual approach the City about renting the ground. The idea of advertising for sealed bids was discussed. Councilman Hocker also mentioned that some wording that would allow for the City to terminate the contract to allow for future development of the land be placed into the contract.

Meeting adjourned 6:44pm

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 Barb Jacobsen, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Joseph Foran, City Clerk