

City

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Street in the downtown, according to Hanten.

“The reason we started going down this path at all was not because we wanted to break something that was working great,” he said. “The reason we can’t grow is not because we haven’t filled up all the streets to the left or the right. It’s because we can’t book bigger talents. Large bands will not play on a flatbed stage. We use a flatbed, because it’s the only thing that allows us to close that street in that amount of time, set up a stage, hook up electrical and everything in about four hours. We also get that intersection open again about 1 1/2 hours after the event concludes. That limits the acts we can attract. Music, more than anything, is probably going to draw our crowds. The goal, when we look at a place like Memorial Park, is to do a better and bigger stage that can accommodate larger bands.”

Previously, the bars along Third Street handled alcohol sales for the event. Hanten said HDY will now manage those sales so it can retain more money for future years.

“Part of the goal is, HDY will sell their own beer, keep their own money and spend it to grow the event,” he stated.

Being located at a more neutral location may also improve opportunities for sponsorships, Hanten added.

The long-term goal is to expand to two days so amateur contestants can cook chicken brisket and Ribfest can become an accredited event. Hanten said closing Third Street for two

days would be a real challenge.

“We’re not proposing (two days) for year one,” Hanten stated. “We want to make sure we have a good first year before we even look at that.”

Mayor Nancy Wenande said she was asked why Riverside Park wasn’t considered.

Wyland said Ribfest didn’t want to take anything away from Riverboat Days.

That venue would also present other challenges, according to Yankton Parks and Recreation Director Todd Larson. Riverside Park was considered by the city for the 150th celebration.

“The problem with Riverside Park is, it’s linear. It’s narrow and thin,” Larson said. “To try to set up a stage and have a lot of people gets to be problematic. The other thing you pick up with Memorial Park is a lot of parking spots very close to it.”

A motion to authorize the city manager to reserve Memorial Park for Ribfest June 7 and to continue to offer support to the event as the city has in the past was unanimously approved by the commission.

Commissioner Jake Hofner was present via teleconference.

In other business, the commission:

- agreed to proceed with preparing the Meridian Bridge Plaza improvement project for bids. High costs for the proposed project at its last meeting had the commission asking the committee offering recommendations for the undertaking to find cuts. After further examination, the committee believes the first two phases of the project could be completed for approximately \$600,000 or less. The issue will be revisited once bids are received;
- agreed to support the efforts of Yankton Area Progressive Growth and Yankton County to

pursue the Dakota Plains Ag Center shuttle loading grain facility at Napa Junction and possible other developments at the location;

- agreed to create a Junior Commissioner program that will allow a high school or college student interested in local government to become involved with the commission;
- hired Ross Den Herder, the current interim city attorney, as the new city attorney. He will be paid \$3,166.66 per month and an additional \$150 per hour to work on disputes or potential legal disputes between the city and other entities;
- approved a contract of up to \$118,000 with McLaury Engineering for design work on the Highway 50 reconstruction project. It includes replacement of existing water and sewer lines between Broadway and Ferdig avenues;
- approved an agreement with the South Dakota Department of Transportation to work together on right-of-way acquisition for the aforementioned Highway 50 project;
- approved a request from the Business Improvement District No. 1 board of directors to provide \$5,000 to the Yankton Convention and Visitors Bureau to be used on the events grant program. The program provides small grants to community events to attract outside visitors to Yankton; and
- approved a resolution supporting Costello Companies’ application for South Dakota Housing Authority financing for a 30-unit apartment complex in the Fox Run development. The company is in the process of purchasing property from the city for the facility.

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at [twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage](https://twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage). Discuss this story at [www.yankton.net/](http://www.yankton.net/).

Union

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Americans that he still wields substantial power in Washington, even if he can’t break through a divided Congress.

The risk for Obama in centering his agenda on his own executive actions is that those directives often are more limited in scope than legislation that requires congressional approval. And that raises questions about how much impact he can have.

For example, Obama can collect commitments from businesses to consider hiring the long-term unemployed, as he’ll announce Tuesday night, but without the help of Congress he can’t restore expired jobless benefits for those Americans while they look for work.

White House officials contend executive actions should not automatically be pegged as small bore, pointing in particular to steps the president can take on climate change, including stricter regulations on power plants and new car efficiency standards. And some Democrats are cheering the strategy, saying it’s time for Obama to look beyond Capitol Hill after spending more than half his time in office mired in congressional gridlock.

“They spent far too much time actually trying to think they could negotiate with House and Senate Republicans,” said Jim Manley, a longtime adviser to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev. “I, for one, am glad that they finally decided to go around Congress to the extent possible.”

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Clearfield Plush.....	Sugg. Retail \$349	<b>\$269</b>
Dustin Eurotop.....	Sugg. Retail \$599	<b>\$369</b>
Evandale Super Pillowtop.....	Sugg. Retail \$799	<b>\$459</b>
Gaitland Plush.....	Sugg. Retail \$929	<b>\$549</b>
Holston Firm.....	Sugg. Retail \$1099	<b>\$649</b>
Holston Super Pillowtop.....	Sugg. Retail \$1299	<b>\$749</b>
Gel Grandiose Plush.....	Sugg. Retail \$1349	<b>\$799</b>
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Chantel Firm.....	Sugg. Retail \$499	<b>\$299</b>
Chantel Plush.....	Sugg. Retail \$499	<b>\$299</b>
Dustin Eurotop.....	Sugg. Retail \$699	<b>\$399</b>
Evandale Super Pillowtop.....	Sugg. Retail \$849	<b>\$499</b>
Gaitland Plush.....	Sugg. Retail \$999	<b>\$599</b>
Holston Firm.....	Sugg. Retail \$1199	<b>\$699</b>
Holston Super Pillowtop.....	Sugg. Retail \$1349	<b>\$799</b>
Gel Grandiose Plush.....	Sugg. Retail \$1499	<b>\$899</b>
Gel Grandiose Super Pillowtop.....	Sugg. Retail \$1699	<b>\$999</b>
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