

CITY OF UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, IOWA
URBAN RENEWAL PLAN
UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS ONE UNIVERSITY PLACE URBAN RENEWAL AREA

July, 2015

I. INTRODUCTION

Chapter 403 of the Code of Iowa authorizes cities to establish areas within their boundaries known as “urban renewal areas,” and to exercise special powers within these areas. Urban renewal powers were initially provided to cities in order that conditions of blight and of deterioration within cities might be brought under control. Gradually, urban renewal has been found to be a useful tool, as well, for economic development in previously undeveloped areas and for retention of enterprises and jobs in other areas.

In order to facilitate the use of urban renewal for economic development, in 1985, the Iowa General Assembly amended Chapter 403 to authorize City Councils to create “economic development” areas. An economic development urban renewal area may include any area of a city which has been designated by the City Council as an area which is appropriate for commercial enterprises and in which the city seeks to encourage further development.

As an additional expression of the role for local governments in private economic development, the General Assembly also enacted Chapter 15A of the Code of Iowa, which declares that economic development is a “public purpose” and authorizes local governments to make grants, loans, guarantees, tax incentives and other financial assistance to private enterprise. The statute defines “economic development” as including public investment involving the creation of new jobs and income or the retention of existing jobs and income that would otherwise be lost.

The process by which an economic development urban renewal area may be created begins with a finding by the City Council that such an area needs to be established within the City. An urban renewal plan is then prepared for the area, which must be consistent with the City’s existing comprehensive or general plan. All other affected taxing entities must be notified and given an opportunity to comment on the plan. The City Council must hold a public hearing on the urban renewal plan, following which, the Council may approve the plan.

This document is intended to serve as the Urban Renewal Plan for the City of University Heights’s (the “City”) University Heights One University Place Urban Renewal Area (the “Urban Renewal Area”) and to guide the City in promoting economic growth through the encouragement of commercial development in such area as detailed herein. This document is an Urban Renewal Plan within the meaning of Chapter 403 of the Code of Iowa and sets out proposed projects and activities within the Urban Renewal Area.

II. DESCRIPTION OF URBAN RENEWAL AREA

A description of all property (the "Property") that has been included within the Urban Renewal Area is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

III. URBAN RENEWAL OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives for the development of the Urban Renewal Area are:

1. To contribute to a diversified, well-balanced local economy by creating job opportunities and strengthening the property tax base.
2. To assist in providing land and resources for new and expanded commercial development in a manner that is efficient from the standpoint of providing municipal services.
3. To stimulate through public action and commitment, private investment in commercial development, and to encourage commercial job retention, growth and expansion through the use of various federal, state and local incentives, including tax increment financing.
4. To provide municipal infrastructure, services and facilities that enhance possibilities for economic development and community attractiveness to private enterprise.
5. To help finance the cost of streets, water, sanitary, storm sewer, or other public improvements in support of new commercial development.
6. To provide a more marketable and attractive investment climate.
7. To provide public facilities to enhance City services and enhance the economic attractiveness of the community.

IV. URBAN RENEWAL PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

The following types of activities are examples of the specific actions which may be undertaken by the City within the Urban Renewal Area:

1. Preparation of plans related to the development and implementation of the Urban Renewal Area and specific urban renewal projects.
2. Construction of public improvements and facilities, including streets, public utilities or other facilities in connection with an urban renewal project.
3. Construction of buildings or specific site improvements such as grading and site preparation activities, access roads and parking, railroad spurs, fencing, utility connections, and related activities.
4. Acquisition, preparation and disposition of property for development and/or redevelopment.
5. Making available, as appropriate, financing for development projects, including conventional municipal borrowing and tax increment financing resulting from increased property values in the Urban Renewal Area.
6. Pursuant to state law, provision of direct financial assistance, including grants, loans and tax increment rebate agreements, to private persons engaged in economic development, in such form and subject to such conditions as may be determined by the City Council.

V. SPECIFIC URBAN RENEWAL PROJECTS

The City has determined to undertake the following initiatives in the Urban Renewal Area as economic development urban renewal projects:

Name of Project: One University Place Commercial Redevelopment Project

Date of Council Approval of Project: July 14, 2015

Description of the Project: A private developer (the "Developer") has undertaken the acquisition and redevelopment of the Property. The redevelopment of the Property will consist of the construction of two buildings. Both of the buildings will contain residential condominium units. One of the buildings will also contain commercial retail units and space that will potentially be available to the City for use as a community center.

The Developer has requested tax increment financing assistance from the City in order complete the construction of the commercial retail units (the "Commercial Project"). The Developer has informed the City that completion of the Commercial Project is not possible without such tax increment financing assistance, and the City has deemed it advisable to provide tax increment financing support to the Developer in connection with the construction, maintenance and operation of the Commercial Project.

The City will not use tax increment financing to support the Developer with respect to the development and construction of the residential condominium units or with respect to the development and construction of the potential community center space.

Description of Use of TIF: The City intends to enter into a Development Agreement with the Developer with respect to the construction and use of the completed Commercial Project and to provide economic development payments (the "Payments") thereunder. The Payments will be funded with incremental property tax revenues to be derived from the Property. It is anticipated that the City's total commitment of incremental property tax revenues with respect to the Commercial Project will not exceed \$4,000,000.

VI. LAND USE PLAN AND PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The City has adopted a Comprehensive Land Use Plan which guides the establishment of commercial, residential and industrial land uses throughout the incorporated area. Land use in the Urban Renewal Area will be carried out in a manner that will maintain consistency with the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

VII. TAX INCREMENT FINANCING

In order to assist in the development or retention of private enterprises, the City may be requested to acquire land, construct public improvements or provide economic development loans, grants or other tax incentives for the benefit of private enterprises in order to enhance the value of property in the Urban Renewal Area. As part of the Urban Renewal Area, the City has adopted an ordinance to create a tax increment district (the "TIF District"), within which the property taxes eventually paid by new private development may be used to pay costs of urban renewal projects for these types of activities, including reimbursing the City or paying debt service on obligations issued by the City. The use of these tax revenues is known as tax increment financing ("TIF").

Depending upon the date upon which the TIF District is legally established and the date on which debt is initially certified within the TIF District, an original taxable valuation is established for the property within the TIF District, which is known as the "base valuation." The "base valuation" is the assessed value of the taxable property in the TIF District as of January 1 of the calendar year preceding the calendar year in which the City first certifies the amount of any debt payable from TIF revenues to be generated within that TIF District. When the value of the property inside the TIF District increases by virtue of new construction or any other reason, the difference between the base valuation and the new property value is the "tax increment" or "incremental value."

Procedurally, after tax increment debt has been incurred for the financing of improvements within the TIF District or for the payment of economic development incentives to private entities, property taxes levied by all local jurisdictions (city, county, school, area college) against the incremental value, with the exception of taxes levied to repay current or future debt incurred by local jurisdictions and the school district instructional support and physical plant and equipment levies, are allocated by state law to the City's tax increment fund rather than to each

local jurisdiction. These new tax dollars are then used to pay principal and interest on any tax increment debt incurred or to pay the costs of projects in the Urban Renewal Area.

VIII. EFFECTIVE PERIOD

This Urban Renewal Plan will become effective upon its adoption by the City Council and will remain in effect until it is repealed by the City Council. The collection of incremental property taxes in the Urban Renewal Area will continue for the maximum number of years authorized by Chapter 403 of the Code of Iowa unless otherwise determined by action of the City Council.

IX. PLAN AMENDMENTS

This Urban Renewal Plan may be amended in accordance with the procedures set forth in Chapter 403 of the Code of Iowa to, for example, change the project boundaries, modify urban renewal objectives or activities, or to carry out any other purposes consistent with Chapter 403 of the Code of Iowa.

X. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

CITY DEBT INFORMATION

1. Current constitutional debt limit	\$ <u>5,546,543</u>
2. Outstanding general obligation debt:	\$ <u> </u>
3. Proposed amount of debt to be incurred:	\$ <u>4,000,000*</u>

*Some or all of the indebtedness to be incurred may be made subject to the right of annual appropriation by the City Council.

EXHIBIT A
LEGAL DESCRIPTION
UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS ONE UNIVERSITY PLACE URBAN RENEWAL AREA

Certain real property situated in the City of University Heights, County of Johnson, State of Iowa legally described as:

St. Andrew Parcels

Beginning at the Northeast Corner of Section 17, Township 79 North, Range 6 West of the 5th P.M.; thence North 89 degrees West along the North line of said Section 17, 402.6 feet, thence South 16 degrees East 490 feet to the Northerly line of Snook's Grove Road as now established; thence North 73 degrees East along the Northerly line of said road 291.3 feet; thence North 1 degree 40' West to the point of beginning, as shown by Plat recorded in Plat Book 4, Page 383.

and

That part of the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 17, Township 79 North, Range 6 West of the 5th P.M., described as Auditor's Parcel 96091 on plat of survey recorded in Book 38, Page 125, Plat Records of Johnson County, Iowa.

Maxwell Parcel

Auditor's Parcel 2005091 according to the Plat of Survey recorded in Book 49, Page 284, Plat Records of Johnson County, Iowa, being a portion of Outlot 1 and of Lot 238, University Heights, Second Subdivision, according to the plat thereof recorded in Book 2, Page 76, Plat Records of Johnson County, Iowa; EXCEPT beginning at the Southwest corner of Auditor's Parcel 2005091, thence North 0°00'00" East 19.48 feet along the West Line of said Auditor's Parcel (assumed bearing for this description only), thence North 74°40'39" East 8.58 feet to a point of intersection of the Westerly right-of-way line of Sunset Street, thence South 20°48'18" West 23.29 feet along said right-of-way to said point of beginning and containing 81 square feet more or less.