

**March 9, 2010**

**Proceedings of the City Council of University Heights, Iowa, subject to approval by the Council at a subsequent meeting. ALL VOTES ARE UNANIMOUS UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.**

**PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FISCAL YEAR July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011 BUDGET**

Mayor From called the public hearing on the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2010 to order at 7:00 p.m.

Steve Kuhl, of Greenwood and Crim, gave an update on the changes made to the budget at the last meeting and highlighted several line items. There were inquiries from the public about budget items; Engineer Bilskemper and Council member Yeggy outlined projects in the street budget.

Mayor From adjourned the public hearing at 7:15 p.m.

**REGULAR MEETING**

Mayor From called the March 2010 meeting of the University Heights City Council to order at 7:16 p.m.

Present: Mayor From. Council Members Mike Haverkamp, Stan Laverman, Brennan McGrath, Pat Yeggy. Staff present: Engineer Bilskemper, Attorney Ballard, Police Chief Fort, Treasurer Kimura, and Clerk Anderson. Also present were Pat Bauer, Kathy Belgum, Carolyn Brown, David Drake, Karen Drake, Andy Dudler, Linda Fincham, Alice Haugen, Steve Kuhl, Al Leff, Jan Leff, Catherine Lane, Jim Lane, Chris Luzzie, Dan Moore, Liesa Moore, Paul Moore, Dave Pedersen, Kent Ralston, Dell Richard, Karl Robertson, Wanda Robertson, Della Ruppert, R.G. Ruppert, Sara Lee Schoenmaker, Yon Schoenmaker, Mary Schmidt, Rich Schmidt, Mary Mathew Wilson, Larry Wilson, John Yapp, Ken Yeggy, Paul de Young, and Jerry Zimmerman.

Absent: Council member Amy Moore.

The minutes of the February 9, 2010 meetings of the Council were presented, amended and approved by **unanimous consent**.

**Public Input:** None.

**Mayor’s Report:** A written report was presented. Mayor From clarified that the postcard about UH Place that was mailed at the end of February was not sent by the City and that it is not the City website. The official city website is [www.university-heights.org](http://www.university-heights.org).

**Comprehensive Plan revision update:** John Yapp and Kent Ralston, JCCOG professional staff, presented a written report using recommendations gathered from council meetings, a public workshop and written public input. Yapp stated that the recommendations would provide more structure and communicate to developers what the community considers important.

Ralston stated the land-use scenarios and maps had been eliminated as requested by the council and additional elements had been included for Planned Unit Developments (PUDs). Yapp commented that JCCOG could not find examples of a point system incorporated into other city’s comprehensive plans and if University Heights wished to use a point system, it should be incorporated into the zoning code. Ralston also commented on the addition of a paragraph referencing the aging infrastructure and how the city’s revenues have not kept pace with its expenditures. Ralston stated that the cash reserves per capita are in line with similar communities but the fund balance is relatively small. Ralston commented the city should be open to discussions of expanding its tax base and reducing expenditures.

Mayor From invited the public to comment on the report and its findings. Public discussion included: should an applicant address financial considerations for the city; if visual models could be used to show the impact of development on the surrounding community; that planned urban developments include specific guidelines for building mass and density, although concern was voiced about guidelines that might be too strict. The opportunity for residents who wish to live in University Heights but want the benefits of condo living was mentioned. Council

was urged to bring the community back together and find common ground, especially as we celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary - Diamond Jubilee - of the City this year.

Council member Haverkamp asked if there was any benefit to additional R zoning in the city; Yapp replied he would not encourage that city-wide but wait until a development was proposed to the city. Council member Laverman questioned the value of keeping outdated budget information in the comprehensive plan and suggested that it be updated after every election cycle. Yapp will add a paragraph that the information should be updated every two years. Council member Yeggy would like to see the plan contain general guidelines and that specific issues be covered by the zoning ordinances. Laverman suggested that the plan spell out that areas currently occupied by single-family houses remain that way.

Yapp will work with Attorney Ballard to draft a resolution for the April council meeting.

**Legal Report:** A written report was presented.

Council member Laverman stated he had concerns with Ordinance No. 179, specifically the current enforcement of the ordinance. Laverman would like to see better enforcement of the ordinance as opposed to increasing the fines. Council member McGrath stated the amount is in line with surrounding areas and he feels there should not be a discrepancy between the football season and the rest of the year. Council members Yeggy and McGrath stated they felt the amount of the fine and enforcement of the ordinance are separate issues.

**MOTION** by Laverman, seconded by McGrath, first consideration of Ordinance No. 179 amending the Traffic Ordinance (No. 120) regarding to increase the fine for illegal parking. **Carried.**

Haverkamp - Aye	Moore - Absent
Laverman - No	Yeggy - Aye
McGrath - Aye	

Attorney Ballard reported on his correspondence with John Danos, a bond attorney who the City retained when funds were borrowed for street improvements. Danos replied that if the city was to borrow approximately \$150,000.00 it would be best served by borrowing from a local lender as opposed to issuing municipal bonds. Rates for municipal financing are particularly low right now.

Council member Yeggy requested that the Finance chair create a report to outline what the city may need to borrow to finance the street improvements. McGrath will create a report that projects future cash needs for May to October, 2010.

**Clerk's Report:** A written report was presented. One rental and one building permit were received. Norm Cate, Rental Inspector for the city, will begin scheduling inspections of all rental properties in the city starting in March.

Consideration of the liquor license for The Burch, L.L.C. was tabled until April.

**Finance Report:** A written report was presented. Council member McGrath suggested that council consider a capital improvement plan that would look at future infrastructure requirements. McGrath would like to include JCCOG and other expertise in developing the report. Council member Yeggy commented that there is a 1995 engineer's report on the condition of the city's streets and that it would be a good place to start.

**MOTION** by McGrath, seconded by Yeggy, to adopt Resolution 10-08, approving the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. **Carried.**

Haverkamp - Aye	Moore - Absent
Laverman - Aye	Yeggy - Aye
McGrath - Aye	

**Treasurer's Report:** All bills presented were approved by **unanimous consent.**

## Warrants



Jubilee page and showed the historic photos he has received from citizens. Haverkamp gave a special thank you to the University of Iowa Libraries for free usage of their Fred Kent photo of the Koser Addition, 1929.

**JCCOG:** A written report was presented.

**Announcements:** None.

The meeting was adjourned by **unanimous consent at 9:45 p.m.**

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**Attest: Christine M. Anderson, City Clerk**

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**Approved: Louise A. From, Mayor**