

February 14, 2012

Proceedings of the City Council of University Heights, Iowa, held at Horne School, 600 Koser Avenue, subject to approval by the Council at a subsequent meeting. ALL VOTES ARE UNANIMOUS UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Louise From called the February 2012, meeting of the University Heights City Council to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor From. Council Members Mike Haverkamp; Rosanne Hopson; Jim Lane; Jan Leff; and Brennan McGrath. Staff present: Attorney Steve Ballard, Clerk Anderson, Police Chief Ron Fort, Treasurer Kimura and City Engineer, Josiah Bilskemper. Also present were: Christian Aanestad, Pat Bauer, Andy Dudler, Andrew Forbes and Tori Forbes, Alice Haugen, Tom Haugen, Al Leff, Eric Muncmel, Kip Sheldon, Ken Yeggy and Pat Yeggy.

The minutes of the January 10, 2012 special meeting and regular meeting of the Council were approved by unanimous consent.

SoniClear Demonstration: Alan Bartholomew, representative with SoniClear stated that the software was currently used by the Johnson County Board of Supervisors. Bartholomew said that using the software allows for minutes to be produced quicker and that researching and reviewing items can be done more efficiently. The software can be stored on a laptop and the files can be saved as MP3 files to be loaded to the city’s website. The software has the ability to time-stamp key items during a meeting.

There are two options for recording the minutes: the city can purchase a license for recording the meetings which will cost \$495 or it can purchase the transcribing license which records and transcribes meetings for a fee of \$1,495. A professional audio kit would cost \$495 and 1 hour training for the clerk would cost \$150. Minimal technical expertise is needed for using the software.

Council member McGrath stated he saw the software used at the Johnson County Board meetings and sees a real benefit in using the software to research and find specific items in council meetings. Council member Haverkamp stated he is intrigued by the software, and while he does not see an immediate cost savings, he is in favor of providing a way for citizens to “be more involved”. Clerk Anderson stated the researching and reviewing feature of the software would have been helpful during the last city audit. The auditors reviewed specific wording of motions and it was difficult pinpointing the motions quickly on the CDs.

Consideration for purchasing the software will be held at a future council meeting.

Public Input: Kip Sheldon, of 316 Mahaska Drive, commenting on the software demonstration, stated any way more information can be shared with citizens “is a good thing”. Sheldon also commented that he does not feel spending \$300,000 on widening the Sunset Street sidewalk is necessary. Sheldon called 9 of 10 neighbors and they were not in favor of the project. Sheldon felt this was “not fiscally justified” and the city’s \$70,000 commitment was a significant amount of the city’s budget.

Andrew Forbes, of 536 Mahaska Court, commented that he had only recently heard about the Sunset Street wide-sidewalk project. Forbes commented that if the project proceeded as planned, it would remove his retaining wall and many of his trees that buffer his property. Forbes stated there are other options that are less invasive and costly. He asked the council, if the project continues, to consider the less invasive options.

Mayor’s Report: A written report was presented. Mayor From thanked the staff at Horn Elementary School for allowing the city meeting to be held at the school and John McLure for videotaping the meeting.

Ty Coleman, with Iowa City’s Public Access channel, contacted the mayor to state the city’s council meetings will become part of their regular program listings. Meetings can be seen on the Thursday, two weeks after the council meeting, at 9:00 pm. Mayor From stated that Mr. Coleman complimented John McLure for his good work in videotaping for the city and providing good quality tapes.

From asked for council input regarding the Iowa City Animal Shelter proposal; the city must respond by March 1, 2012 if the city would like to participate. The city is proposing a \$4 million dollar animal shelter that would cost the city \$10,833 in FY14 with additional \$2,790 per year for yearly operating expenses. Consensus by the council was to decline participation.

MOTION by Haverkamp, seconded by Lane, to adopt Resolution No. 12-02, declaring the week of February 12, 2012, to be Sertoma’s Freedom Week. **Carried.**

Haverkamp - Aye Leff - Aye
Hopson - Aye McGrath - Aye
Lane – Aye

Legal Report: A written report was presented.

MOTION by Lane, seconded by McGrath, to adopt Resolution No. 12-03, establishing official city depositories and specifying the maximum amount that may be kept on deposit in each depository. **Carried.**

Haverkamp - Aye	Leff - Aye
Hopson - Aye	McGrath - Aye
Lane - Aye	

Clerk's Report: Three building and three rental permits were received since the last meeting. Clerk Anderson stated she would be meeting with Norm Cate, city rental housing inspector, to go over the current rental listing and discuss issues. Anderson will report on that meeting at the next council meeting.

The Clerk received a complaint regarding over-occupancy on Golfview. Clerk Anderson asked the council how the rental housing inspector should proceed. Council member Leff stated the city needs to show zero tolerance towards over-occupancy, regardless if the tenants are well-behaved or not. Council member McGrath asked that all complaints and issues be shared with him as chairman of Building and Zoning.

Finance Report: Steve Kuhl, accountant for University Heights, led a discussion on the projected budget for fiscal year ending June 2013. Kuhl stated the cable franchise fee increased and the road use tax is based on the city's population. Council member Lane stated .70 increases, across the board, for the police department have been incorporated into the budget.

Discussion ensued that adjusted several line items of the proposed budget. Kuhl will recalculate the budget based on the council's recommendations and present the budget at the public hearing on March 13, 2012. The city budget will be published according to Iowa Law. Kuhl reminded the council that once the budget is published, the city cannot exceed the published total budget amount, but individual amounts can be adjusted to tie out to the published total.

Treasurer's Report: Written report was presented. All bills presented were approved, as amended, by **unanimous consent.**

**Warrants
January 11, 2011 through February 14, 2012**

Name	Amount	Name	Amount
City of Iowa City	2.73	Norm Cate	210.00
Matthew Fort	2,219.91	Benjamin Lord	100.00
Ronald Fort	1,650.89	Ronald Fort	100.00
Benjamin Lord	863.11	City of Coralville	14,859.00
Darryl Tucker	1,297.55	City of Coralville	125.51
Internal Revenue Service	1,970.79	ABC Solutions	24.95
McLeod USA/PAETEC	137.79	Paul Moore	35.00
MidAmerican Energy	35.36	SEATS	703.66
MidAmerican Energy	42.14	City of Iowa City	14,501.64
MidAmerican Energy	73.75	Emblem Enterprises	524.64
MidAmerican Energy	34.72	Iowa Law Enforcement Academy	135.00
MidAmerican Energy	614.29	Institute of Public Affairs	159.00
Office of Auditor of State	175.00	Johnson County Refuse, Inc.	6,838.50
Wellmark BC/BS	1,263.55	Mediacom	69.95
Christine Anderson	158.18	O'Reilly Auto Parts	41.85
Matthew Fort	1,820.62	Iowa City Press-Citizen	416.58
Ronald Fort	1,905.85	Pyramid Services Inc.	770.82
Lori Kimura.	143.50	Racom Corporation	79.60
Benjamin Lord	1,234.41	Radar Road Tec	105.00
Darryl Tucker	1,259.60	Stanard & Associates, Inc.	46.00
Internal Revenue Service	2,245.57	Total Tree Care of Iowa City LC	800.00
IPERS	2,804.55	Watch Guard	174.00
IPERS	57.70	Westport Touchless Autowash	18.00
Paul Moore	867.00	Staples	366.24
City of Iowa City	13.56	VISA	345.11
Terry Goerd	350.00	Galls Incorporated	58.98

Total Receipts

\$ 69,910.10

Total Warrants

\$ 64,851.15

Community Protection: A written report was submitted by Police Chief Fort. Council member Hopson stated the Neighborhood Watch signs have arrived and will be posted throughout the city.

Community Relations Update: Council member Hopson commented that 15-20 participants attended a meeting on community relations. Items under consideration for the committee include Bike-to Work breakfast, a water station for the Ronald McDonald run, city-wide clean up day, form a welcoming committee, city newsletter, city blog and a city-wide garage sale. The committee may have a separate area to sell items and donate the proceeds to a cause. It was decided that the Garden Club will remain a separate committee. There was also discussion of sending a mailing for emergency contacts for citizens and for citizen e-mail address. After discussion, \$250 was added to the city budget for the committee.

Streets and Sidewalks: A written engineer’s report was presented. Council member Leff stated that Russ Boyer needs to install some 10 and 20 mph signs in the city.

MOTION by McGrath seconded by Leff, to terminate the current proposal of the Sunset Street Wide-Sidewalk Project. **Withdrawn.**

Council member McGrath stated he does not feel this is a good use of funds, at this time, and he cannot justify the expense given the overall cost of the project. Council member Hopson stated that the neighbors who are most affected by this project, do not want it. Hopson also stated she cannot see funding agencies “punishing the city for being fiscally responsible”. Hopson was in favor of terminating the project.

Council member Lane stated he talked to 15 or 16 neighbors and that a majority who abut the project are in favor. Lane said the project will improve the drainage in that area, will improve the site lines, and will improve the sidewalk. Council member Haverkamp commented he is “definitely in favor of the project” and does not want to rush judgment to terminate the project. 80 percent of the project expenses will be covered by the funding agency. Haverkamp stated that, with the school redistricting initiative, more students will be walking to Horn school next year and there is a potential for four more crossing guards added. Haverkamp added that in an email from the Roosevelt principal, there will be 96 morning walkers to Horn School in the fall.

Council member Leff was concerned that people in 2012 were still unaware of a project that was approved in 2009. Leff stated that Local Option Sales Tax money could be used to improve the area. Leff also commented that the project encompasses moving utility poles and fire hydrants and mature trees will be removed. She expressed concern that the actual costs would probably exceed the estimate.

Mayor From asked council member McGrath if he would consider slowing down the Sunset Street Wide Sidewalk Project rather than terminating the project tonight until Council had more information and more public input as this termination idea was only known for about three days. Also City money had already been spent on the project. McGrath agreed. Leff added she would agree to postpone a decision if an informational community meeting was scheduled that would include more public input. Engineer Bilskemper was instructed by council to stop all work on the Sunset Street Wide Sidewalk Project until further notice. From stated she will set up a community information meeting in March on the Sunset Street Wide Sidewalk Project that would arrange for a presentation of the preliminary sidewalk plans to the public and answer questions and get public input. Council member Haverkamp asked if there was a penalty for deferring the project. From said she spoke with John Yapp of MPO-JC and the project needs to start within three years of the award. The city has begun preliminary plans so a postponement now would still fit within a three year limit.

MOTION by McGrath seconded by Leff, to postpone work on the Sunset Street Wide-Sidewalk project until otherwise notified by council. **Carried.**

Haverkamp - Aye	Leff - Aye
Hopson - Aye	McGrath - Aye
Lane – Aye	

City Attorney Ballard encouraged the council to evaluate the city’s role in MPO-JC’s planning body. Ballard stated they must have felt there was a need in that they granted funds. Mayor From agreed with Steve Ballard statements saying this sidewalk project was supported by previous University Heights city councils and supported by the greater Johnson County Community specifically the MPO Urbanized Area Policy Board who selected the Sunset Street wide sidewalk project to receive the federal funding. This Board is made up of elected officials from Iowa City, Coralville, Johnson County, North Liberty, Tiffin and U of I.

MOTION by Hopson, seconded by Haverkamp, to adopt Resolution No. 12-04, rescinding Resolution No. 11-23, which

adopted Amendment No. 1 to the Shive-Hattery Professional Services Agreement for the Sunset Street Wide Sidewalk Project. Curb cuts on the east side of Sunset Street will not be part of the project, so the Professional Services Agreement did not need to be amended. **Carried.**

Haverkamp - Aye
Hopson - Aye

Leff - Aye
McGrath - Aye Lane – Aye

Discussion of the preliminary plans of the Sunset Street Wide-Sidewalk project including Resolution No. 12-5, authorizing the Mayor to sign Amendment No. 1 to the Professional Services Agreement for Sunset Street Wide Sidewalk Project with Shive-Hattery, Inc. (Consultant) to prepare and negotiate easement and acquisition agreements for three (3) properties adjacent to the proposed project improvements with additional Consultant fees of \$4,433.01 were deferred.

Building, Zoning, and Sanitation: Council member McGrath is working with the president of the Grandview Court Condo Association to start a recycling program for the condo residents. McGrath has spoken with Steve Smith of Johnson County Refuse and a preliminary plan has been made. Council unanimously supports adding Grandview Condos to the city recycling program and \$3,200/ was added to the city budget.

E-government: Council member Haverkamp circulated his written report.

Council member McGrath stated he was in contact with companies that set-up Wi-Fi networks. McGrath said this would not be a free service and possibly could be a revenue generator for the city. McGrath would obtain more information for discussion at future council meetings.

Announcements: Council member McGrath said he would be out of the country and would not attend the March 13th meeting.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:20 p.m.

Attest: Christine M. Anderson, City Clerk

Approved: Louise A. From, Mayor