

March 13, 2012

Proceedings of the City Council of University Heights, Iowa, held at St. Andrew Church, 1300 Melrose Avenue, 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, 2012 – June 30, 2013 BUDGET

Mayor From called the public hearing on the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 to order at 7:10 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. Mayor From closed the public hearing.

REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Louise From called the March 2012, meeting of the University Heights City Council to order at 7:11 p.m.

Present: Mayor From. Council members: Mike Haverkamp; Rosanne Hopson; Jim Lane; and Jan Leff. Staff present: Attorney Steve Ballard, Clerk Anderson, Police Chief Ron Fort, Treasurer Kimura and City Engineer, Josiah Bilskemper. Also present were: Nancy Barnes, Kathie Belgum, Steve Kuhl, Larry Wilson, Mary Mathew Wilson and Pat Yeggy.

Absent: Council member Brennan McGrath.

The minutes of the February 14, 2012 regular meeting of the Council were amended and approved by unanimous consent.

Public Input: Nancy Barnes, 300 Golfview Avenue, spoke to the council regarding the proposed Iowa City animal shelter. She encouraged the council to reconsider the proposal and shared a personal anecdote of her dog being housed at the shelter. Barnes commented that contributing was an important part of being a community.

Mary Mathew Wilson, 308 Koser Avenue, stated she has the same concerns about the animal shelter and urged the council to reconsider their position. She suggested that perhaps there is room for negotiating the fee and urged the council to “be mindful of the most vulnerable friends”. Mathew Wilson stated she would be happy to spearhead efforts for a petition if that would be needed.

Larry Wilson, 308 Koser Avenue, addressed the council concerning the Sunset Street Wide-Sidewalk project. Wilson commented that the sidewalk problems “are not unique to this particular sidewalk”. There are cracked panels, sunken panels that appear to be in decent shape and shrubs that overhang the sidewalk. Pruning the shrubs to be in compliance with the city ordinance would most likely damage the shrubs.

Wilson stated the real issue is the drainage around the sidewalk; until that is solved there will continue to be mud and debris on the sidewalk. Wilson asked that the city engineer research the costs for fixing the drainage problem.

Council member Lane asked Wilson if he had looked at the sight-line issues at the corner of Benton and Sunset Street; Wilson stated he would leave that to the city engineer to determine if there was a problem.

Mayor’s Report: A written report was presented. Mayor From thanked the staff at St. Andrew Church for allowing the city meeting to be held at fellowship hall and John McLure for videotaping the meeting.

From stated that the Iowa City Animal Shelter was now offering the city a proposal similar to Coralville’s proposal. Assuming the shelter foundation raises \$1 million toward the campaign, the city’s capital contribution would be \$6,660. Council member Hopson felt this was a good compromise but stated she has concerns about such an extravagant building being constructed.

Council members Haverkamp and Lane agreed this was a good compromise with Lane stating that if the \$1 million fundraising objective is not met, that would give the city “an out” to not participate.

MOTION by Lane, seconded by Hopson, to opt in for the Iowa City Animal Shelter project based on the conditions that Friends of the Animal Center Foundation will raise a minimum of \$1 million and our capital contribution will be no more than \$6,660, regardless of the level of participation of other entities. We agree to pay \$2,790 per year in operational support and request that the cost be revised annually based on a three year moving average of usage by entities. **Carried.**

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

Legal Report: A written report was presented. Attorney Ballard asked the council if the March 20th informational meeting regarding the Sunset Street Wide-Sidewalk project would be informal or if a decision would be made at that meeting. Council agreed the meeting would be strictly informational in nature with no decision made at the meeting.

Attorney Ballard informed the council he had been contacted by an Oaknoll representative about the possibility of issuing more bonds through the city.

Ballard commented that the council has discussed the possibility of lowering the speed limit on Prospect Place. Iowa law sets the speed limit in residential districts at 25mph but permits cities to establish lower speed limits “upon the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation” showing that 25mph is “greater than is reasonable and safe under the conditions found to exist”. Council member Leff stated that based on the number of streets without sidewalks, this decision should be “a slam dunk”.

Clerk’s Report: Clerk Anderson reported there were no new building or rental permits received since the last meeting.

Finance Report:

MOTION by Lane, seconded by Leff, to approve the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. **Carried.**

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

Council member Lane stated that he felt the city should invest in CDs; most likely with the UI Credit Union and Hills Bank. Lane stated the city’s lowest cash balance was approximately \$115,000. Lane commented that it would be a short-term investment. Council member Hopson inquired if there were penalties for early withdrawal; Lane commented there are small penalties but the earned interest would offset those penalties.

MOTION by Lane, seconded by Leff, that the Treasurer and the Mayor be authorized to invest \$50,000 from the city checking account into a Certificate of Deposit, with a maturity of less than 18 months and pays 1% or greater. **Carried.**

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

MOTION by Lane, seconded by Hopson, that the Treasurer and the Mayor be authorized to invest from the city’s current account balance (approximately \$23,000) at Hills Bank into a Certificate of Deposit, with a maturity of less than 18 months and pays 1% or greater. **Carried.**

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

Treasurer’s Report: Written report was presented. All bills presented were approved by **unanimous consent.**

**Warrants
February 15, 2011 through March 13, 2012**

Name	Amount	Name	Amount
Matthew Fort	1,741.37	City of Iowa City	13.56
Ronald Fort	1,561.07	ABC Solutions	24.95
Benjamin Lord	1,034.19	SEATS	703.66
Donald Strong	1,130.13	Darryl Tucker	100.00
Darryl Tucker	1,125.27	Donald Strong	148.97
McLeod USA/PAETEC	139.78	Eastern Iowa Community College	55.00
Internal Revenue Service	2,108.12	Electronic Engineering	14.95
MidAmerican Energy	32.17	Hawkeye Community College	340.00
MidAmerican Energy	33.12	Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities	441.38
MidAmerican Energy	39.98	Johnson County Refuse, Inc.	4,138.50
MidAmerican Energy	72.06	Johnson County Sheriff	175.00

Bilskemper commented that the city's annual report was filed with the Iowa DNR on February 28th, 2012. The city needs to complete an updated survey of all the storm sewer intakes to determine which structures need new storm drain labels. In the past, this has been completed by members of the council. Council members agreed to assist with this survey and Bilskemper will send out maps and information to the council.

Bilskemper commented that a citizen inquired if a list of sidewalk repair criteria could be listed on the city's website. Council agreed that was a good idea and Haverkamp will post on the city website.

Bilskemper stated MidAmerican Energy needed to install a new utility pole in the city's right-of-way and inquired if the council had any concerns and how he should proceed with this request. Mayor From stated historically the council reviewed requests on a case by case basis. Council member Haverkamp stated he was comfortable with the city engineer making decisions on behalf of the council; council agreed.

Building, Zoning, and Sanitation: No report.

E-government: Council member Haverkamp informed the council that city meetings can be viewed by using "on demand" on Cable Channel 5.

Announcements: Council member Hopson stated June Braverman directed a production of "Under the Big Top" as a fundraiser for Iowa City Hospice. Congratulations June!

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:30 p.m.

Attest: Christine M. Anderson, City Clerk

Approved: Louise A. From, Mayor