

March 11, 2014

Proceedings of the City Council of University Heights, Iowa, held at the University Club, 1360 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, 2014 – June 30, 2015 BUDGET**

Mayor From called the public hearing on the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 to order at 7:04 p.m. No members of the public spoke regarding the proposed budget. Mayor From closed the public hearing at 7:05 p.m.

**REGULAR MEETING**

Mayor From called the March, 2014 meeting of the University Heights City Council to order at 7:06 p.m.

**Present:** Mayor From. Council Members: Mike Haverkamp, Jim Lane, Zadok Nampala and Silvia Quezada. Staff present: Engineer Bilskemper, Attorney Ballard, Clerk Anderson, Treasurer Kimura, and Police Chief Fort. Also present were: Pat Bauer, Andy Dudler, Joe Frankel, Jase Humphreys, Catherine Lane, Steve Kuhl, Jeff Maxwell, Kent Ralston, Larry Wilson, Mary Mathew Wilson, John Yapp, Ken Yeggy and Pat Yeggy .

**Absent:** Council member Virginia Miller.

The minutes of the February 11, 2014 regular council meeting were amended to add “A written report was provided by council members Haverkamp and Nampala.” under the Community Protection section. Council member Quezada stated she had updated her February report. The minutes were approved, as amended, by unanimous consent.

The minutes of the February 19, 2014 work session meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

**Public Input:** Joe Frankel, 323 Koser Avenue, Mary Mathew Wilson, 308 Koser Avenue and Larry Wilson, 308 Koser Avenue, addressed the council with their concerns.

**Discussion of St. Andrew Redevelopment:** Council member Lane stated that he and council member Quezada met with the St. Andrew Church Building Committee, at the church’s request. The church would like start construction in the fall and were inquiring about the city’s timeline for consideration of the Maxwell development. Currently, the city is awaiting a resubmission of the PUD and there are financial issues to consider.

Council member Haverkamp stated he is “comfortable with this concept” and the council needs to be mindful of what is best for the city in the long-term. This development will add stability to the city. Haverkamp feels, adding approximately 10 feet in height to the back structure and removing 15 feet from the front, provides a “better fit” and addresses size concerns. Haverkamp would recommend to the developer to continue work on the concept as presented to the city.

Council member Quezada said she spoke with proximate neighbors to the site and they are happy the first building is shorter. The neighbors have concerns about lighting and privacy with potential neighbors on the fifth and sixth floors and Quezada stated she reassured them the council will consider this in conjunction with the ordinances. A possible solution is to plant evergreens early in the building process could help with shielding light and privacy issues. Quezada also has concerns with the city’s financial viability and commented on the loss of LOST funds.

Haverkamp suggested that the city consider partnering with Iowa City about low and moderate housing and perhaps look at some of the city’s older housing stock as an option.

Council member Nampala commented the council will not move forward without community input and he is always open to discussion and receiving input. Nampala commented he feels the church is a little frustrated with the uncertainty of the development and perhaps the city needs to move quicker.

**MOTION** by Haverkamp, seconded by Quezada, whereas the council supports the concept and directs the developer to moved forward with the St. Andrew Church plans. **Carried.**

Haverkamp - Aye	Nampala - Aye
Lane - Aye	Quezada - Aye
Miller – Absent	

Haverkamp directed the developer, Jeff Maxwell, to work with council members Lane, Quezada staff with MPOJC as he works on his PUD. Maxwell stated it his plan to return to the April council meeting with the PUD. There are questions about the traffic survey and its impact, as well as the bus stop and its location. Engineer Bilskemper was directed to work with MPOJC regarding the traffic survey.

Lane stated he would like to see the PUD and any financing proposals submitted at the same time. Maxwell agreed and stated “they are keenly tied together”.

Kent Ralston, MPOJC assistant transportation planner, inquired if MPOJC should work with the city’s committee or with the developer. Lane asked that they work with the developer directly, at this time.

City Attorney Ballard commented that a public hearing will need to be held once the PUD is submitted. His recommendation is that the April meeting not be the public hearing but that be scheduled later.

**Mayor’s Report:** A written report was presented.

Mayor From thanked the University of Iowa and the University Club for providing the meeting space and to Alyssa and Joel with Channel 4 for video-recording the meeting.

From announced the 2014 Farmers Market will be held the first Tuesday of each month, beginning June 3<sup>rd</sup> and ending October 7<sup>th</sup>, from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Location will be the same as last year in the St. Andrew Church parking lot. Contact Mayor From if interested in participating. There is no fee for vendors who live in University Heights.

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

**MOTION** by Haverkamp, seconded by Nampala, to approve Resolution No. 14-04, authorizing certain trees to be planted in the city right-of-way at specified addresses. **Carried.**

Haverkamp - Aye	Nampala - Aye
Lane - Aye	Quezada - Aye
Miller – Absent	

**MOTION** by Haverkamp, seconded by Nampala, to approve Resolution No. 14-05, authorizing payment of additional rent for the city office in accordance with lease. **Carried.**

Haverkamp - Aye	Nampala - Aye
Lane - Aye	Quezada - Aye
Miller – Absent	

**MOTION** by Lane, seconded by Quezada, to approve Resolution No. 14-06, authorizing guidelines for public input at city council meetings. **Carried.**

Haverkamp - Aye	Nampala - Aye
Lane - Aye	Quezada - Aye
Miller – Absent	

Ballard stated the city had received the IDOT Title VI report on February 28, 2014 and he may respond with some written comments.

**Clerk’s Report:** A written report was presented. Clerk Anderson reported the city had received the tree removal reimbursement from the property owners at 205 Koser Avenue.

**Finance Report:** A verbal report was presented.

Steve Kuhl, city accountant, led the discussion on the FY15 budget. The city has budgeted \$901,745 for revenue with \$877,548 in expenses, resulting in a \$24,197 surplus.



**Building, Zoning, and Sanitation:** A written report was presented.

From stated she and council member Quezada met to discuss the recommendations from the MPO Urbanized Area Policy Board encouraging local governments to explore single use plastic bag programs in a 3-step process over a 6 -12 month period. There are three steps in the program: 1) an education and encouragement campaign which will focus on increasing recycling and encourage the use of reusable bags, 2) to require a fee for plastic and paper bags and 3) a ban on plastic bags and continue to charge a fee for paper bags. There are three steps in the program: 1) an education and encouragement campaign which will focus on increasing recycling and encourage the use of reusable bags, 2) to require a fee for plastic and paper bags and 3) a ban on plastic bags and continue to charge a fee for paper bags.

Quezada plans to speak with representatives at the dental office and Stella restaurant. Quezada believes the citizens would support this endeavor. Haverkamp commented that input should be asked from Farmers Market vendors. From stated they would be exempt from the ban given there would be food items sold at the market.

From and Quezada will draft a response for the March 2th meeting. From commented that maybe the city could be a test environment for the initiative.

**eGovernment:** A written report was presented. Council member Haverkamp has started the process to find a new website provider given the poor performance issues with the current company. He is looking at Iowa vendors.

Haverkamp stated the city has 21 followers on Twitter.

**Announcements:** Severe Weather Preparedness Week is March 24-28, 2014.

The meeting was adjourned **by unanimous consent at 8:22 p.m.**

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

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