

November 11, 2014

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

REGULAR MEETING

Mayor From called the November 2014 meeting of the University Heights City Council to order at 7:02 p.m.

Present: Mayor From. Council Members: Carla Aldrich, Mike Haverkamp, Jim Lane, Virginia Miller and Silvia Quezada. Staff present: Attorney Ballard, Clerk Anderson, Engineer Bilskemper, Police Chief Stanley and Treasurer Kimura. Also present were: Pat Bauer, Jon Brown, Vesna Brown, F. Reed Carlson, Andy Dudler, Josh Gahn, Stepheny Gahn, Evan McCarthy, Mark Phelps, Steve Strauss, Steven Sperry, Jane Swails, Ken Yeggy and Pat Yeggy.

The minutes of the October 14, 2014 council meeting were amended to include that no building permits had been declined during the building moratorium; the minutes were approved, as amended, by unanimous consent.

Discussion of GG Land Group Proposal: The developers held a community-wide meeting on October 16, 2014; a proposal has not been formally submitted to the city. Council member Lane stated he felt the proposal “was over the top” and much too dense for the area. Council member Quezada has received feedback that the scale is too large, density is too high and there are concerns over traffic and safety. Council member Haverkamp does not feel it’s a “good fit” for the city or the property.

Update of One University Place Project: Lane stated that the developer received an unfavorable appraisal and they are reviewing the proposal. He hopes an updated proposal will be presented at the December council meeting. Council member Miller asked if there would still be two buildings built; Lane replied that the back building may be built in two phases, but he is unsure of any plans, at this point.

Public Comments: Jane Swails, 333 Koser Avenue, addressed the council with her concerns.

Mayor’s Report: A written report was presented.

Mayor From commented the council meeting fell on Veteran’s Day and she thanked all veterans for their service and sacrifice to the country.

From thanked the Iowa City Community School District and staff for providing the meeting space and to John McLure for video-recording the meeting. From welcomed Ken Stanley, the new Police Chief, to the council meeting.

From stated she will be reviewing appointments to the Zoning Commission and Board of Adjustments committees. Residents who are interested in applying should contact the mayor.

A work session meeting with staff from the Housing Trust Fund and the Johnson County Affordable Homes Coalition will be scheduled early to mid-January, 2015. Staff will share affordable housing ideas in the city to the council.

Legal Report: A written report was presented.

Attorney Ballard, Mayor From and council member Miller met with representatives of the City of Iowa City, on October 13, 2014, to discuss issues related to ordinance and code enforcement across the city boundary line. The purpose of the meeting was to identify issues and discuss possible solutions. One suggestion was a 28E Agreement that would permit either city to enforce that city’s ordinances across the boundary line. Included in the discussion was maintenance of Koser Avenue properties near Emerald Street and snow removal along the north side of Benton Street. These issues have come up several times over the years in one form or another. The City of Iowa City has informally explored if they can enforce their ordinances within University Height’s boundaries.

Letters were mailed to property owners and residents (if different than property owners) on Koser Avenue and Mahaska Court, indicating that the council would discuss this issue at the November meeting. Ballard had not received any feedback from the mailing.

Steve Strauss, of 556 Mahaska Court, addressed the council with his concerns regarding this issue. Strauss stated that City of Iowa City installed sidewalks in this area and there have been issues with snow removal and the city snow plows covering the sidewalks with street snow. Strauss believes that Horn School staff is currently clearing the sidewalks; Strauss mows the grass

near his property. Council member Haverkamp feels Iowa City and Horn School both clear the sidewalks. Strauss encouraged the city to not enter into an agreement as he feels this could be a “slippery slope” for other enforcement issues.

Haverkamp feels the main issue is the accumulation of snow from the plows. Miller commented that Iowa City is aware of that issue. Council member Miller asked Attorney Ballard to inquire who will repair the sidewalks in this area. Council member Quezada has a concern that citizens will be cited by Iowa City staff; Haverkamp stated it his understanding that staff respond to citizen complaints and do not actively look for violations.

Council member Lane stated this issue “is a mess” and he would want proof that Iowa City staff is removing natural accumulations. He feels they need to take responsibility for this and would want guarantees, in writing, if a 28E agreement was signed. Council member Aldrich asked if the berm could be leveled; Ballard stated he would check. After discussion, the council agreed to continue discussion with City of Iowa City staff.

Mark Phelps addressed the council to answer any questions the council or public may have.

MOTION by Miller, seconded by Haverkamp, to approve Resolution No. 14-28 authorizing the mayor to sign and the clerk to attest a snow removal and sanding contract with Mark Phelps of Hawkeye Construction and Snow Removal. **Carried.**

Aldrich - Aye	Miller - Aye
Haverkamp - Aye	Quezada - Aye
Lane – Aye	

MOTION by Haverkamp, seconded by Lane, to reimburse \$100 to a property owner for legal fees in responding to zoning compliance inquiry in 2009. **Not Carried.**

Aldrich - No	Miller - No
Haverkamp - Aye	Quezada - No
Lane – No	

Council member Miller stated she has drafted a tree ordinance to set up a tree advisory board and is with the city attorney for review. Miller suggested forming a committee to work on this. Council member Lane volunteered to serve on the committee. Citizens who are interested in serving on the committee should contact Miller.

MOTION by Haverkamp, seconded by Aldrich, to approve Resolution No. 14-29, accepting Chief Ron Fort’s retirement from the University Heights Police Department. **Carried.**

Aldrich - Aye	Miller - Aye
Haverkamp - Aye	Quezada - Aye
Lane – Aye	

Clerk’s Report: A written report was presented.

Clerk Anderson stated that the city examination will be held December 17, 2014 at city hall. It is anticipated that the field-work will last one day. A preliminary list of needed items has been received from the auditors.

Finance Report: A verbal report was presented. Council member Lane will be sending out the budget timeline to councilors; budget needs to be completed by March 15, 2015.

MOTION by Lane, seconded by Quezada, to approve Resolution No. 14-30 establishing official city depositories and specifying the maximum amount that may be kept on deposit in each depository. **Carried.**

Aldrich - Aye	Miller - Aye
Haverkamp - Aye	Quezada - Aye
Lane – Aye	

MOTION by Lane, seconded by Aldrich, to approve Resolution No. 14-33 to approve FY14 Annual Finance Report. **Carried.**

Aldrich - Aye	Miller - Aye
Haverkamp - Aye	Quezada - Aye
Lane – Aye	

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

Warrants
October 15, 2014 through November 11, 2014

Name	Amount	Name	Amount
Matthew Fort	1,689.65	Iowa Department of Natural Resources	1,250.00
Ronald Fort	1,495.61	Norm Cate	210.00
Michelle Miller	1,323.66	Aero Rental	66.00
Harold Plate	219.60	Allen Worden	1,135.00
Nicholas Sherman	1,610.06	Association of Training Officers of Minnesota	450.00
Jeremy Stenda	1,478.59	Big Ten University Towing, Inc	90.00
Internal Revenue Service	2,992.20	Carpenter Uniform & Promotions	556.80
MidAmerican Energy	30.55	CenturyLink	160.41
MidAmerican Energy	31.88	SEATS	703.66
MidAmerican Energy	31.59	City of Iowa City	3,936.65
MidAmerican Energy	65.82	Johnson County Refuse, Inc.	1,738.50
MidAmerican Energy	645.02	Iowa City Tire and Service	1,151.36
Christine Anderson	476.13	Mediacom	109.95
Matthew Fort	1,748.44	Kieck's Career Apparel	840.35
Ronald Fort	2,334.73	Pyramid Services Inc.	125.44
Erik Lippold	150.20	Racom Corporation	442.00
Michelle Miller	1,478.86	Soniclear	295.00
Harold Plate	200.00	Staples	562.68
Nicholas Sherman	1,664.80	University Lake Suites	600.00
Jeremy Stenda	1,673.50	Jeremy Stenda	1,025.46
Ronald Fort	2,559.88	Ultramax	3,240.00
Lori Kimura.	309.44	Westport Touchless Autowash	54.00
Wellmark BC/BS	1,309.63	Internet Navigator	24.95
Internal Revenue Service	4,829.22	VISA	227.39
Bank Service Charge	8.00	Ken Stanley	76.13
IPERS	4,066.15	MPH Industries, Inc.	1,999.00
IPERS	222.19	Beth Ann Bitner	25.00
Paul Moore	1,374.23	Louise From	60.00
City of Iowa City	13.88	Terry Goerdts	490.00
Verizon Wireless	194.48		

Total Receipts **\$285,476.69** **Total Warrants** **\$ 57,873.72**

Community Protection: A verbal report was provided by Police Chief Stanley. A written report was provided by council members Aldrich and Haverkamp.

Stanley stated he has been meeting with various individuals in University Heights, Iowa City and Coralville. Stanley commented on the recent car break-ins and reminded citizens to lock their doors. The department is also working on capturing the individual(s) stealing bikes in the city.

Council member Aldrich commented that if any elderly citizens need assistance with raking their leaves, they should contact her. Chief Stanley volunteered to assist council member Aldrich with leaf-raking.

Streets and Sidewalks: A written report was presented. Zebra striping for the pedestrian crossing at Olive Court and Melrose Avenue will be tabled until spring.

A written engineer report was presented.

MOTION by Miller, seconded by Haverkamp, to approve Resolution No. 14-32 authorizing the mayor to sign and submit the Iowa DNR MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) 5 year permit renewal application and \$1,250 permit fee for the years 2015 to 2020. **Carried.**

Aldrich - Aye Miller - Aye
Haverkamp - Aye Quezada - Aye
Lane - Aye

Community Relations: A written report was presented. There will be a meeting on the Tower Court park renovations on November 16, 2014.

Building, Zoning, and Sanitation: A verbal report was presented.

Pat Yeggy, Chairperson of the Zoning Commission, updated the council on the work the commission has completed to date. The commission has met five times and hopes to meet for several two more weeks in November. The commission plans to recommend the council amend Ordinance 79 to limit the height of an accessory building to 20 feet. The commission will recommend the calculation for building height be changed to conform to the calculation used in surrounding municipalities. The commission is working on new definitions to be included in the ordinance. The next meetings will center on yards; definitions of setback, buildable area and paving. The commission will also consider incorporating Floor Area Ratios (FAR) into the ordinance. MPOJC will be asked to review the recommended changes to the ordinance and then it will be submitted for council consideration.

MOTION by Quezada, seconded by Aldrich, to approve Resolution No. 14-31 to extend the building permit moratorium through February 28, 2015. **Carried.**

Aldrich - Aye	Miller - Aye
Haverkamp - Aye	Quezada - Aye
Lane - No	

Quezada stated she and Mayor From are working on having luminaries light up major thoroughfares on December 14, 2014, from 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm. Quezada and From are researching the costs to purchase the bags and votives. Citizens interested in participating or donating to the event should contact Mayor From or council member Quezada.

eGovernment: A written report was presented. Haverkamp is reviewing and updates ordinances on the website.

Announcements: Council member Lane thanked Attorney Ballard for working with Mediacom to have them pay interest on the outstanding franchise fee. Council member Quezada stated she is looking for an intern to work with her on a voluntary basis. Quezada thanked Ballard for his work on the Zoning Commission.

MOTION at 9:14 p.m. by Haverkamp, seconded by Aldrich that the council holds a closed session pursuant to Iowa Code section 21.5(1)(i) to discuss strategy with counsel in matters where litigation is imminent where its disclosure would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the position of the City. **Carried.**

Aldrich - Aye	Miller - Aye
Haverkamp - Aye	Quezada - Aye
Lane - Aye	

The Council then met in closed session.

Regular session of the Council meeting reconvened at 9:41 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned **by unanimous consent at 9:42 p.m.**

Attest: Christine M. Anderson, City Clerk

Approved: Louise A. From, Mayor