

November 7, 2018

Proceedings of the City Council of University Heights, Iowa, held at the Community Center, 1302 Melrose Avenue, subject to approval by the Council at a subsequent meeting. ALL VOTES ARE UNANIMOUS UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor From called the November 7, 2018 special council meeting of the University Heights City Council to order at 7:31 p.m.

Present: Mayor From. Council Members: Nick Herbold, Dotti Maher, Virginia Miller, Liesa Moore and Silvia Quezada. Staff present: City Clerk Chris Anderson and Police Chief Nate Petersen. Also present were: Michael Crocker, Linda Fincham, Mike Haverkamp, Stepheny Gahn, Scott McLeod, Bonnie Penno and Kip Sheldon.

Public Comments: The following addressed the council with their concerns and suggestions regarding the Swisher Tract:

Michael Crocker - 1490 Grand Avenue
Kip Sheldon - 316 Mahaska Drive
Scott McLeod - One University Way

Mike Haverkamp - 315 Golfview Avenue
Linda Fincham - One University Way
Stepheny Gahn - 62 Highland Drive

Council member Miller received e-mails from David Pedersen, 309 Sunset Street, and Katie Harris, 1455 Grand Avenue.

MOTION by Miller, seconded by Herbold, to approve payment of \$500 to George’s Tree, LLC for storm damage clean-up for the city. Carried.

Herbold - Aye
Maher - Aye
Miller - Aye
Moore - Aye
Quezada - Aye

MOTION by Quezada, seconded by Miller, to invest \$27,951.04 into a Certificate of Deposit with Hills Bank, for 13 months and at a rate of 2.5%. Carried.

Herbold - Aye
Maher - Aye
Miller - Aye
Moore - Aye
Quezada - Aye

Discussion for Swisher Tract Options: Each councilor member gave their suggestions and considerations for the Swisher Tract:

- Miller: 1) to protect the sensitive slopes, 2) forest stewardship, and 3) install a low-impact trail.
Moore: 1) minimal impact to the property, 2) ask for community involvement, and 3) thoughtful and deliberate consideration.
Maher: 1) safety and potential liability to the city, 2) “go slowly” and protect the property, 3) receive opinions for usage from professional consultants, and 4) maintain the property as it is.
Herbold: 1) purchase some of the tract not owned by the city, and 2) open a clearing for greenspace to be used by citizens.
Quezada: 1) hire a consultant to determine and assist the uses for the land, 2) install a dog park, 3) install trails, 4) install a memorial bench for Nate Moore (bench paid by Paul Moore), 5) have meditation areas, 6) install playscapes, 7) consideration about parking, 8) conservation of the 100 year-old oak trees, and 9) have a good action plan for the land.

Miller will contact the Bur Oak Land Trust, the Harvest Preserve, Friends of Hickory Hill Park and the Johnson County Conservation Board for information on establishing trails and stewardship of the Swisher Tract. Each entity will be asked:

- 1) How does each organization plot out trails, how do they construct and maintain trails and how do they deal with slopes on trails;
2) Have they ever worked with a green space planner and do they have anyone they recommend;
3) Have have they applied for or received any grants;
4) How do they approach invasive species management.

Citizens can submit their comments and suggestions to the council via e-mail or attend future council meetings.

Announcements: The November regular council meeting will be held on Monday, the 12th at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:46 p.m.

Attest: Christine Anderson, City Clerk

Approved: Louise A. From, Mayor