

February 27, 2019

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.

WORK SESSION MEETING

Mayor From called the February 27, 2019 work session meeting of the University Heights City Council to order at 7:05 p.m.

Present: Mayor From. Council Members: Nick Herbold, Virginia Miller and Liesa Moore. Also present: Karen Franklin, Al Leff, Scott McLeod, Kip Sheldon, Steve Smith and guest and Pat Yeggy.

Absent: City Clerk Chris Anderson, Council Member Dotti Maher and Council Member Silvia Quezada.

Public Comments: The following addressed the council with their suggestions for the Garbage & Recycling contract and Swisher Tract:

Kip Sheldon - 316 Mahaska Drive
Al Leff - 215 Sunset Street
Karen Franklin - One University Way

Pat Yeggy - 305 Ridgeview Avenue
Scott McLeod - One University Way

Garbage and Recycling Services: Council member Miller stated the city's contract with Johnson County Refuse (JCR) expires the end of June 2019. Miller researched other vendors in the area but the majority do not accept glass for recycling. JCR does recycle glass. Miller compared vendor charges and JCR is very comparable to the other vendors. Miller recommends the city continues to contract with JCR.

Steve Smith, owner of Johnson County Refuse, updated the council on changes he will be making regarding garbage and recycling. Smith stated that due to workman's compensation costs, he is changing to a new wheeled cart/bin system where the truck will lift and empty the new trash bins. There will be one size trash bin and all recycling materials will be contained in another larger trash bin. Smith stated cities currently using the system have seen an increase in recycling totals.

Smith would like to enter into a fixed, ten year contract with the city. The cost would increase to \$18.50 per household, per month, with the city paying \$5.75 per household, per month. All households will receive a 65 gallon bin for trash and a 65 gallon bin for recycling. The new bins will be mailed to residents; at no charge. There will be a \$3.00 charge per sticker for extra trash bags. The current practice of adding stickers to bulky items (furniture, appliances, etc.) will continue unchanged.

The council will discuss the garbage and recycling contract at the March council meeting.

Swisher Tract: Miller feels the city needs to address soon signage for the tract. A forest stewardship plan needs to be determined prior to clearing and establishing foot trails. Miller said that citizens have been hiking on the property and indicating a preferred path, which she has marked with flags. The path goes down Sunset Street, across the low-point and up to the land by Golfview Avenue. Miller anticipates the city will monitor for a year and adjust paths, as needed.

Miller commented the city could temporarily bring in goats to graze on the property, confining them to one to two acres to be effective. The city will need a follow-up plan to maintain the cleared acres, otherwise the unwanted vegetation will regrow. The city should develop a four-year plan for cleared areas.

Kip Sheldon stated he contacted Trees Forever and received information on 25 grants. Kip feels there are 12 grants on the list the city could apply to for additional funds. Currently, the city has earmarked \$50,000 for the Swisher tract. Sheldon reiterated the city should move slowly on any work done to the tract.

A Community Walk on the Swisher Tract will be scheduled in March. Details will be posted to the city website.

Announcements: Mayor From the comprehensive plan online survey is open until March 4th.

The meeting was adjourned **by unanimous consent at 7:43 p.m.**

Attest: Christine Anderson, City Clerk

Approved: Louise A. From, Mayor