

March 11, 2008

Proceedings of the City Council of University Heights, Iowa, 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, 2008 – June 30, 2009 BUDGET

Mayor Pro Tem Laverman called the public hearing on the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 to order at 7:00 p.m. No members of the public were present to speak concerning the budget in question.

Mayor Pro Tem Laverman adjourned the public hearing at 7:05 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Pro Tem Laverman called the March, 2008 meeting of the University Heights City Council to order at 7:06 p.m.

Present: Mayor Pro Tem Laverman. Council Members Andrew Dudler, David Giese, Brennan McGrath and Amy Moore. Staff present: Engineer Bilskemper, Attorney Ballard, Treasurer Kimura and Clerk Anderson. Also present were Donna Ashmore, Pat Bauer, Brigitte Fanning, Douglas Kronlage, Paul Roe, Gerry Schnepf, Pat Schnepf and John Sehnert.

Absent: Mayor From and Police Chief Fort.

The minutes of the February 12, 2008 meeting of the Council were presented and approved by **unanimous consent**.

Public Input: None.

Mayor’s Report: The Mayor’s written report was presented.

City Audit: Douglas Kronlage, CPA commented that University Heights was the most “unique city that they’ve done” for an audit. Like other small cities, we have a part-time mayor, city clerk and treasurer. Because of the small staff, segregation of duties is difficult. Kronlage commented that University Heights has good control on disbursements although there is always room for improvement.

The audit is to present an accurate financial picture of the city’s standings as of June 30th. The audit did not review 100% of all city transactions but rather reviewed various transactions for risk assessment. Kronlage pointed out that the city has adopted a cash basis for our accounting system and that beginning fund balances had not been audited.

Many items the audit addressed in the management letter have already been resolved.

MOTION by McGrath, seconded by Giese, to adopt resolution No. 08-01 approving the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 as published and presented at the public hearing prior to this meeting. **Carried.**

Dudler - Aye	McGrath - Aye
Giese - Aye	Moore - Aye
Laverman – Aye	

MidAmerican Energy franchise renewal: John Sehnert, Franchise Manager for MidAmerican Energy handed out a packet of information to the council. Sehnert commented that over the course of a 25 year franchise agreement, MidAmerican Energy estimates that \$1.2 million would be the projected financial benefit to the city; through property taxes, energy efficiency programs and the Trees Please! program.

Sehnert addressed the bullet point summary for the electric and national gas agreements. The agreements are up to 25 years and the council would need to extend the agreement at year 10 and year 20. Sehnert also stated that if MidAmerican and its employees caused a problem, which resulted in injury, MidAmerican would follow-up with handling the resulting liability.

Attorney Ballard did state that there had been one change to the ordinance with regard to eminent domain. MidAmerican would be required to establish that it was necessary to use eminent domain; which is then subject to council approval. The city can impose reasonable terms if eminent domain is used.

Council member McGrath questioned if MidAmerican was replacing the city street lights with higher efficiency light bulbs and if any type of analysis had been done with life of bulb versus the cost. Paul Roe commented that currently, MidAmerican is using the highest efficiency light bulb available, which is a high-pressure sodium bulb, but no analysis has been done. The traffic signals currently use a LED light bulb. MidAmerican is studying LED street lighting but the technology is not available to support the lumens; Mayor Pro Tem Laverman stated University Heights would be interested in being part of a pilot study when this is available.

Keep Iowa Beautiful: Gerry Schnepf, Executive Director for Keep Iowa Beautiful, handed out a packed of information and gave a brief history of the program; affiliated with Keep America Beautiful. Currently, there are 750 affiliates across the country and Iowa's program was started by former governor Bob Ray and Don Lamberti, who is the founder of the Casey's General Stores. The program offers community enhancement efforts, preventing illegal dumping and the reduction in littering.

Iowa is fairly "clean" in comparison to other areas of the nation but we're starting to see more littering. The program spent \$250,000 to survey the attitudes of Iowans and community leaders in understanding the issues and visibly inspect 200 x 20 ft sections of public roadsides and 46.7% of the surveys were returned and 70% of Iowans thought littering one item was okay. The fine for littering has gone up from \$35 to \$70 and the revenue goes to the state, not the city.

There are 3 ways to combat litter: 1) keep the site clean, 2) enforce the laws and 3) educate. Schnepf asked that the council considering creating a litter ordinance, as currently there is none.

Iowa State University has partnered with Keep Iowa Beautiful and has a very strong program in place. Representatives from the University of Iowa have been in contact with Schnepf. In addition to creating ordinances, University Heights should look at partnering with the University of Iowa to deal with game-day littering.

Council member Laverman asked if there was any grant money to start a program; at this time funding is approximately a year off.

Grandview Court: Discussion of the vacant Grandview Court buildings will be addressed at the April meeting as Darryl High did not attend the March council meeting.

Legal Report: A written report was presented.

MOTION by McGrath, seconded by Moore, to approve the first reading of Ordinance 167, granting to MidAmerican Energy Company the right and franchise for electrical service for 10 years. **Carried.**

Dudler - Aye	McGrath - Aye
Giese - Aye	Moore - Aye
Laverman - Aye	

MOTION by Giese, seconded by McGrath, to approve the first reading of Ordinance 168, granting to MidAmerican Energy Company the right and franchise for natural gas service for 10 years. **Carried.**

Dudler - Aye	McGrath - Aye
Giese - Aye	Moore - Aye
Laverman - Aye	

MOTION by McGrath, seconded by Giese, to adopt resolution No. 08-02, to hold a public hearing regarding the electrical and natural gas franchise to MidAmerican Energy for 10 years. **Carried.**

Dudler - Aye	McGrath - Aye
Giese - Aye	Moore - Aye
Laverman - Aye	

MOTION by Giese, seconded by McGrath, to approve the first reading of Ordinance 169 as amended, regulating post-construction storm water run-off and providing penalties. **Carried.**

Dudler - Aye	McGrath - Aye
Giese - Aye	Moore - Aye
Laverman - Aye	

MOTION by Moore, seconded by Dudler, to approve the University Heights Electronic Communications Policy. **Carried.**

Dudler - Aye	McGrath - Aye
Giese - Aye	Moore - Aye
Laverman - Aye	

MOTION by McGrath, seconded by Moore, to suspend the requirement that a proposed ordinance be considered and voted on for passage at two council meetings prior to the meeting at which it is to be finally passed. All voting Aye. **Carried.**

Dudler - Aye	McGrath - Aye
Giese - Aye	Moore - Aye
Laverman - Aye	

MOTION by McGrath, seconded by Moore, to amend Ordinance No. 165 to require removal of only natural accumulations of snow and ice and to delete provision that abutting property owners alone would be liable for failure to remove snow and ice. **Carried.**

Dudler - Aye	McGrath - Aye
Giese - Aye	Moore - Aye
Laverman - Aye	

Clerk's Report: Clerk Anderson handed out a new letter that will be sent to owners who rent out their properties in University Heights. The purpose of the letter is to address, in advance, frequently asked questions concerning rental properties and to inform owners of the city ordinances concerning rental properties. Clerk Anderson stated that Attorney Ballard had reviewed the letter prior to the council meeting.

Clerk Anderson also passed out a mock report of rental information that will be posted to the city website. Clerk Anderson asked for the council's input on what should and should not be included. This information will be presented at the April meeting and hopefully be posted to the city website after that meeting.

Finance Report: **MOTION** by Giese, seconded by McGrath, to approve the July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009 budget for the City of University Heights as published and presented at the public hearing. No objections were heard. All voting Aye. **Carried.**

Dudler - Aye	McGrath - Aye
Giese - Aye	Moore - Aye
Laverman - Aye	

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Kimora stated there were a few bills not shown on the report that needed to be paid.

MOTION by Moore, seconded by McGrath to pay the additional bills as well as those listed in the Treasurer's report. All voting Aye. **Carried.**

E-Government: Council member Dudler commented that there is a new website design but it is not all integrated at this point.

JCCOG: No report.

Announcements: Council member Giese commented that David Drake, who lives on Koser Avenue, has designed several different letterhead designs which the city can use for its letterhead. Clerk Anderson will work with Mr. Drake to create official city letterhead.

The meeting was adjourned by **unanimous consent at 9:32 p.m.**

Attest: Christine M. Anderson, City Clerk

**Approved: Stanley Laverman, Mayor
Pro Tem**