

May 12, 2009

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.

REGULAR MEETING

Mayor From called the May, 2009 meeting of the University Heights City Council to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor From. Council Members Andrew Dudler, David Giese, Stan Laverman, and Brennan McGrath. Staff present: Engineer Bilskemper, Attorney Ballard, Police Chief Fort and Clerk Anderson. Also present were Pat Bauer, Margaret Donnelly, Linda Fincham, Eunice Hunzelman, Paul Moore, Rich Schmidt, Mary Matthew Wilson and Pat Yeggy.

Absent: Council member Amy Moore and Treasurer Kimura.

The minutes of the April 14, 2009 meeting of the Council were presented, amended and approved by unanimous consent.

Public Input: Margaret Donnelly of 909 Melrose Avenue asked the mayor what the criteria is for joining the Zoning Commission; Mayor From responded that UH citizens sometimes volunteer for positions and she personally keeps a list for when there are vacancies. From also tries to keep a balance of male and female appointees amongst the various committees and asks interested citizens if they can have an "open mind and can look at both sides of an issue." From stated that more people have turned her down when asked about serving than have ever agreed to serve and is always looking for interested citizens. Attorney Ballard suggested that a note be included in the city newsletter about joining committees. Donnelly was encouraged to leave her contact information on the meeting sign-in sheet.

Mayor's Report: Mayor From stated that the city had received \$2,000 from FEMA with the assistance of the EMA Committee. It will be used to purchase a generator for city hall in the event of a power failure or catastrophic event; Police Chief Fort and Paul Moore are researching the best model to purchase. The Chautauqua will be held June 14, 2009 from 1:30-4:00pm. This event will include a baking contest. More information will be posted on the city's website.

From reminded the council that a special meeting and public hearing will be held May 18, 2009 to approve the amended budget.

Legal Report: A written report was presented.

MOTION by Giese, seconded by Dudler, to approve the contract with Paul Moore for the lease of City Hall with an increase from \$750 to \$867 based on the CPI increase. Carried.

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

MOTION by Giese, seconded by Dudler, to approve, in accordance with the terms of the current city hall lease, to pay for the 10% increase in property taxes and liability insurance. Carried.

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

Consideration of temporarily lowering the speed limit on Leamer and Olive Courts, due to construction activity on the former Neuzil property, was tabled until the next council meeting so that Council member Moore could participate in the discussion.

MOTION by Laverman, seconded by McGrath, to approve Resolution 09-05, the 28E agreement with Iowa City for provision of transit services. **Carried.**

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

Council member Laverman would like to see analysis done on the ridership that the city is paying for; there is a concern that we are paying for more than our share of riders. Mayor From commented that she has spoken with Chris O'Brien, director of Transportation Services, regarding this matter and he will be speaking with the council at either the July or August meeting.

Attorney Ballard addressed the issue of real estate signs at Grandview Court that was brought up at the last Zoning Commission meeting. Currently, University Heights does not have a sign ordinance regulating the number of signs on a property or length of time they can be shown. A former council member had drafted an ordinance regarding this issue but it had been tabled. Council member Laverman is not interested in pursuing an ordinance for one situation; multiple units are for sale and there would be resistance because condo owners will want their signs as conspicuous as possible.

Attorney Ballard commented on the Zoning Commission meeting on April 29, 2009, at the University Athletic Club (UAC), to consider the proposal to develop the current St. Andrew property. If the commission does not take action at the May 20th meeting, the developer will need to be approached about waiving the 45 day timeframe for the commission to make a recommendation to the council. At the meeting, a petition was signed that triggers a super-majority vote by the council.

Chair Bauer commented that more than 100 people attended and 15 people spoke and it was a very orderly meeting.

Mary Matthew Wilson questioned who pays for rental fees for the UAC for these meetings and also if the June council meeting will be held at city hall or the UAC; Attorney Ballard responded that the June council meeting will be held at the UAC and the developers cover the costs for the public meetings.

Clerk's Report: Clerk Anderson handed out two reports to the council; one an update of new rental permits and the other a list of the new building permits for the calendar year. Rental permits for 2009-2010 will be mailed out in June.

Linda Fincham inquired if it would be possible to have the license plate numbers for occupants of rentals properties to insure that the property is in compliance; Police Chief Fort said that is already being utilized.

Finance Report: There will be a special council meeting to address the budget amendment on May 18, 2009. Council member Laverman commented that the sales tax option did pass in University Heights and Iowa City but not in Coralville; Laverman stated that Iowa City has more retail sales than Coralville so while the pool of money has decreased, our portion of the pool has increased.

Treasurer's Report: All bills presented were approved by **unanimous consent.**

Warrants
April 15, 2009 through May 12, 2009

Name	Amount	Name	Amount
Matthew Fort	1,198.56	IPERS	41.32
Ronald Fort	974.71	MidwestOne Bank	3,285.54
Benjamin Lord	725.90	Paul Moore	750.00
Brad Reinhard	1,340.88	City of Iowa City	13.56
Donald Strong	1,057.80	ABC Solutions	14.41
McLeod USA/PAETEC	124.36	SEATS	689.86
MidAmerican Energy	35.10	Paul Moore	35.00
MidAmerican Energy	26.94	Greenwood and Crim, P.C.	800.00

MOTION by Giese, seconded by Laverman, to approve agreement with Shive Hattery for Melrose wide-sidewalk project. **Carried.**

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

Bilskemper commented on a list of driveways that could be in violation of the city's driveway-pavement ordinance. Currently, there are 35 properties on the list, with 11 in compliance, 5 with "unique geometry", 8 properties that are close to being in violation and 11 that are non-compliant. Bilskemper did field measurements but did not cross into the owner's yards for the measurements.

Building, Zoning & Sanitation: Council member Laverman stated that the city-wide volunteer clean-up was very successful; 3.69 tons of trash and 2.66 tons of yard waste were removed from University Heights. Laverman would like to do this again next year. He thanked the city volunteers who participated and MidAmerican Energy for the \$250. grant monies. Laverman will discuss the final landfill costs at a future council meeting.

E-Government: Council member Dudler asked that people let him know of items to post to the website. Mayor From thanked Dudler for his diligence in keeping the website updated.

JCCOG: The next meeting will be May 20, 2009.

Announcements: Council member McGrath stated that he and Pat Yeggy have attended two meetings of the JCCOG Cool Cities Task force which recently changed its name to Community Climate Action Task Force. Each city is looking at their impact on the environment and trying to determine their carbon foot-print. McGrath and Yeggy are looking at ways to reduce energy use at city hall.

Boy Scout Troop 211 will retire flags on Flag Day, June 14, 2009. Flags can be left in a container at St. Andrew Church or with Council member Giese.

The meeting was adjourned by **unanimous consent at 8:45 p.m.**

Attest: Christine M. Anderson, City Clerk

Approved: Louise From, Mayor