

July 14, 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 July, 2009 meeting of the University Heights City Council to order at 7:02 p.m.

Present: Mayor From. Council Members Andrew Dudler, David Giese, Stan Laverman, Brennan McGrath and Amy Moore. Staff present: Engineer Bilskemper, Attorney Ballard, Treasurer Kimura, Police Chief Fort and Clerk Anderson. Also present were Linda Fincham, Dennis Hutton, Mary Mathew Wilson and Pat Yeggy.

The minutes of the June 9, 2009 meeting of the Council were presented and approved by **unanimous consent**.

Public Input: Pat Yeggy, 305 Ridgeview Avenue, asked the council to consider allowing the University Heights Garden Club to hold a fundraiser, selling chili, before an upcoming game of the Iowa Football season. Yeggy wanted to give the council ample time to ponder if it would be allowable to hold the fundraiser in the city park.

Dennis Hutton, 125 Golfview Avenue, addressed the council concerning a storage shed which is next to his lot line; the shed eaves hang over the lot line. Water is running onto Hutton's property, creating damage. Attorney Ballard will follow up on this issue.

Hutton also stated a stop sign had been moved in front of his property and now cars park up to the stop sign. He recommended a "no parking here to corner" sign be installed and the city enforces the one hour parking rule. David Giese and Ron Fort will follow up with this.

Mary Mathew Wilson, 308 Koser Avenue, asked the council about snow removal for the stretch of sidewalk on Melrose Ave. behind her home on Koser. She stated snow removal is difficult for some of her elderly neighbors on Koser and that long-time resident neighbors recall there being some sort of an agreement that when that sidewalk was installed the city would remove the snow. She said a neighbor remembers the city removing snow on that sidewalk for a time. Steve Ballard stated he has been city attorney for 18 years and was unaware of any such agreement, but would look into it. Ms. Wilson asked if she could review old minutes that could verify the facts relating to this. Ms. Wilson was informed that city records will be made available for her review.

Mayor's Report: A written report was presented. Mayor From highlighted that 2009 is an election year for University Heights and election papers can be obtained from the city clerk. Filing deadline is August 27th at 5:00pm. The city clerk will announce office hours next month.

From also stated in her written report that the US mail drop box in the city garden area had to be removed as it was destroyed by a delivery truck. From is inquiring with the local post office about replacement.

Legal Report: Attorney Ballard commented on the letters sent out to homeowners regarding front yard parking area measurements and that the deadline for compliance is the end of July. Ballard also commented on the lawn mowing letters and the response that was generated; he is going to work on creating a "form letter" for the city to use.

In order to "go green", Council member McGrath asked if all legal correspondence to the council members and staff sent by US mail could be sent electronically instead. Attorney Ballard stated he would work toward sending letters electronically.

Mayor From inquired how the port-a-potty complaints would be handled during this year's football season home games. After discussion it was decided that the council would handle any complaints of non-compliance.

Clerk's Report: Clerk Anderson handed out an updated building permit spreadsheet to the council. Rental permit letters, copies presented at the meeting, were sent out in June and Anderson will have a list of the FY10 rentals to the council, and for the website, at the August meeting.

Council member McGrath stated that many members of the community are concerned with the continued expansion of rental properties in University Heights. McGrath asked if the council would consider increasing the cost of new rental permits significantly, possibly to \$1,200 per year instead of the current \$100 per year fee. Council members Moore and Laverman discussed controlling the “bad” renters such as where there are over-occupancy issues. They both favored stricter enforcement for these landlords with fines for violations similar to those in Iowa City which are up to \$750. Attorney Ballard commented that revocation of the permit is also an option. Next month Ballard will bring back some options for council to consider.

Council member McGrath wanted to look into the possibility of hiring a housing inspector in University Heights. He will also meet with council member Laverman to discuss further and bring back some recommendations to council.

Finance Report: Council member Laverman reminded the council that in August the city should receive the first monthly payment of the local option sales tax. He would like to have these monies kept separate from the city’s general fund. He would like to see this money used to build up depleted reserves and for special projects. Laverman will bring back recommendations to the council in August. Council member McGrath stated the money was intended to be spent to “invigorate the community.” Council member Giese stated that the local option sales tax has nothing to do with the federal stimulus money and was available due to the flood. The city should consider using this money for future street repair projects, for possible repairs due to the increased traffic during the flood.

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

**Warrants
June 10, 2009 through July 14, 2009**

Name	Amount	Name	Amount
City of Iowa City	13.91	Iowa Workforce Development	53.21
Matthew Fort	1,194.99	MidwestOne Bank	5,573.02
Ronald Fort	895.83	Treasurer State of Iowa	2,018.00
Benjamin Ford	801.59	IPERS	2,039.52
Brad Reinhard	1,264.08	IPERS	72.94
Donald Strong	1,146.78	Paul Moore	750.00
McLeod USA/PAETEC	123.68	City of Iowa City	13.56
NSF Check	10.00	ABC Solutions	14.41
Bank charge for NSF	5.00	SEATS	689.86
MidAmerican Energy	41.18	Welt-Ambrisco Insurance	393.00
MidAmerican Energy	29.23	Copyworks	60.00
MidAmerican Energy	610.90	City of Coralville	15,279.00
MidAmerican energy	86.53	Fesler’s Inc.	123.95
Christine Anderson	275.06	Galls Incorporated	88.43
Matthew Fort	1,247.70	G.A. Thompson Co/Adjusters	813.00
Ronald Fort	1,067.56	Greenwood and Crim, P.C.	1,360.00
Benjamin Lord	779.15	Hy-Vee Food Stores, Inc	62.00
Brad Reinhard	1,260.63	Iowa Prison Industries	118.36
Donald Strong	992.29	Johnson County Emergency Management	256.00
Andrew Dudler	184.70	Johnson County Refuse, Inc.	1,555.50
Louise From	454.13	Johnson County Sheriff	60.00
David Giese	184.70	Municipal Street Improvements, Inc.	1,408.00
Stanley Laverman	184.70	Racom Corporation	79.60
Brennan McGrath	184.70	Verizon Wireless	90.02
Lori Kimura	259.93	Westport Touchless Autowash	30.00
Matthew Fort	1,200.58	City of Iowa City	3,426.89
Ronald Fort	2,956.25	VISA	328.79
Brad Reinhard	1,168.44	Iowa City Press-Citizen	117.74
Wellmark BC/BS	1,024.74	Paul Moore	269.00
Dennis Culver	1.85	Mike Riley	65.00

Casey Hazen	1.85	Nate Moore Wiring Service	43.61
Josh Lefler	1.85	City of Coralville	1,790.00
Ryan West	1.85		

Total Receipts **\$17,306.58** **Total Warrants** **\$ 58,698.77**

Community Protection: Police Chief Fort informed the council that Officer Strong was back from his medical leave; also the old squad car was sold for \$5,000.

Council member McGrath has been researching for the purchase of a new car, possibly a hybrid. In 2011, Ford Motors might discontinue the Crown Victoria car which the police department currently uses. Some departments are using hybrids but for administrative staff not police patrol. McGrath stated that a hybrid police car would look good for the city as so much traffic travels through on Melrose. Council member Laverman cautions the city to being “on the cutting edge” in purchasing a hybrid car for police patrol and wait until hybrid patrol cars are more widespread.

Chief Fort was given permission to purchase a new squad car this year with retrofitting to be done professionally by CEC.

Streets and Sidewalks: Council member Giese stated that the 10 mph signs were installed on Leamer and Olive Courts due to the construction on the former Neuzil property and a 20 mph sign was installed on Marietta east of George Street. The city handyman continues to patch potholes throughout the city.

Engineer Bilskemper stated that the arterial street panel replacement project (Melrose Avenue and Sunset Street) was approved by the Iowa DOT to utilize the \$50,000 of Federal Stimulus funding that was received by the City. Preliminary plans are being developed, and will be submitted to the Iowa DOT on July 21, 2009.

The consultant agreement between the City and Shive-Hattery for engineering design and construction services related to the Melrose Wide Sidewalk project was approved by the Iowa DOT. The Iowa DOT will now request FHWA approval, and when obtained, Shive-Hattery can begin work to prepare construction plans for the new sidewalk. Shive-Hattery would like to submit preliminary plans by August 18th.

Bilskemper will contact Landa for a quote to replace pavement markings throughout the city. A crosswalk marking will be added this year at Birkdale Court. Mayor From suggested that pavement markings called “sharrows” – a painted symbol for bikes and cars to share the road – be applied to main streets in the city. The stencil can be borrowed from JCCOG. It was agreed by council to look into bike sharrow markings for Melrose, east Koser and Sunset streets. Bilskemper will contact Landa to obtain a cost for these additional markings, and JCCOG to get recommendations for spacing and locations within the street.

The manhole covers on Melrose Avenue should be fixed by the next council meeting and the street and sidewalk tree-trimming assessment throughout the city will begin soon.

Building, Zoning & Sanitation: None.

E-Government: None.

JCCOG: Written report part of Mayor’s report.

Announcements: None.

The meeting was adjourned by **unanimous consent at 8:55 p.m.**

Attest: Christine M. Anderson, City Clerk

Approved: Louise A. From, Mayor