

**August 11, 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 August 2009 meeting of the University Heights City Council to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Present:** Mayor From. Council Members Andrew Dudler, David Giese and Amy Moore. Staff present: Engineer Bilskemper, Attorney Ballard, Treasurer Kimura, Police Chief Fort and Clerk Anderson. Also present were Pat Bauer, Laura Bowers, Mary Sue Bowers, Linda Fincham, Jackie Omahen Rasmussen, Doug Rasmussen, Larry Wilson and Pat Yeggy.

**Absent:** Council Members Stan Laverman and Brennan McGrath.

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

**Public Input:** Jackie Omahen Rasmussen, of 202 Highland Drive, addressed the council regarding ongoing issues with the owners of 205 Koser Avenue. Rasmussen read a letter requesting compensation for plants which were allegedly destroyed by Rasmussen. Rasmussen used a power point presentation to show the council the location addressed in the letter, as well as a pile of weeds she had cleared and hauled away; two truckloads worth. Rasmussen asked the council for direction in this matter and also stated that the owners were in violation of Ordinances 79 and 105. Attorney Ballard commented that this was a matter between property owners and not a city matter. Ballard commented he would look into any possible ordinance infractions.

Pat Bauer invited all city officials and staff to the Koser Ave. Block Picnic which will be held on September 13, 2009, 4:00-7:00 pm. Bauer requested that the police close the street during the picnic as they had in past years.

Bauer also stated that he and Dell Richard will host a candidate's forum sometime in October for those running in the November 3rd city election; location to be determined but possibly at Horn School or St. Andrew Church.

Pat Yeggy passed around copies of panels that will be located at the Coralville Historical Society on the history of University Heights. Yeggy is also working on historical information for the City's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary; Yeggy asked that if anyone has old pictures of the city or is aware of citizens who lived in the community to let her know. Larry Wilson commented it would be nice to have copies of the panels in the city, which could be displayed at city events. Mayor From thanked Yeggy for all of her work on these projects.

**Mayor's Report:** Mayor From stated that the mail drop box is back at the city garden space on Golfview; Paul Moore will install some type of barrier to prevent a vehicle destroying the box again. The generator has arrived and will be installed in the city office by Paul Moore by the end of August.

**Legal Report:** A written report was presented. Attorney Ballard commented on the letters sent out regarding parking on properties; several have garages in the back of their property. Currently, the ordinance does not address parking in the back, therefore those property owners are awaiting direction from the city. Per discussion by the council, Ballard will look at language that addresses this issue.

Citizens have been responsive to the letter concerning driveway larger than the ordinance allows; currently, one-third of the yard may be paved for a driveway.

Ballard stated the Garden Club, who wanted to sell chili at a football game as a fundraiser, would not be able as the City's vending ordinance prohibits these types of sales.

Regarding portable toilets during football season, several properties are affected by two city streets, which do not allow for the toilet to be hidden from view. Discussion ensued on what standard a property would have to make to be in compliance with the ordinance; Council members Moore and Giese felt that any infractions should be addressed on a case by case basis.



Giese stated that 10 mph signs had been installed on Olive and Leamer Courts and chevrons were also installed to further enhance the sign. Potholes are being filled throughout the city. The branches on Highland Drive and Koser Avenue have been trimmed as well as other areas of the city so that stop signs can be seen. Giese also commented the shrubbery and tall grass on Benton Street/Sunset St. behind Mahaska Ct. were addressed by the new owner.

Giese commented that the city may need to do a repair at the corner of George and Koser at the stop sign, where the pavement is pulling apart from the street. Currently this is not a budgeted repair and Giese commented maybe the sales tax money could be used for the repair. Engineer Bilskemper will do a cost estimate for the next meeting.

Engineer Bilskemper passed out drawings for the proposed acquisition/vacation of property belonging to 10 Koser Avenue which will impact the wide-sidewalk project. As outlined on the drawing, the gray area represents the new sidewalk and will widen from four feet on the ends to six feet in the middle.

The property owners are agreeable to working with the city to clean-up this area and had questions for the council including clarifying what their snow removal responsibilities are on the wider sidewalk, if the city would put in writing the parking pad could remain and compensation for the decrease in land if these plans were agreed upon. The council responded the home owners would be responsible for four feet of the sidewalk and that it was not the intention of the city to remove the parking area. Engineer Bilskemper will review the acquisition area to determine if it could be made smaller and what reasonable compensation might be. Laura Bowers stated they will move the shrub located next to the parking pad but would like to wait until after the first frost this fall. Bowers inquired if the city will pay for the expenses for updating their abstract; Attorney Ballard will check.

**MOTION** by Moore, seconded by Giese, to set a public hearing on the date of the next regular City council meeting, for the purpose of initiating proceedings to enter into an agreement with the owners of 10 Koser Avenue for the exchange of a portion of city property generally east of 10 Koser Avenue, for a portion of land to become additional right of way along Melrose Avenue, generally north of 10 Koser Avenue. **Carried.**

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

Bilskemper update the council on the status of the tree-trimming project; so far 40 properties have been inspected and 34 have trees less than 13 feet above the street and 17 properties are less than 8 feet above the sidewalk. Bilskemper will send a list to the city clerk who will create a friendly reminder notice to be left at the properties, similar to the snow-removal notice.

All information has been sent into the Iowa DOT for the Melrose Avenue wide-sidewalk project and they are reviewing it. The DOT will forward the agreement to the FHWA whose review and approval is required before work can begin on the project.

There have been no comments back from the Iowa DOT on the preliminary plan submittal for the Melrose and Sunset street repairs. This project is funded by the federal stimulus monies. Bilskemper will submit the check plans on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Bilskemper shared the proposal from L.L. Pelling for the pavement markings. Bilskemper recommended not repainting the parking stalls on Marietta at this time and only repainting the double yellow centerline on Melrose Avenue west of Sunset Street. A new crosswalk and stop bar will be painted at Birkdale Court.

Council member Moore inquired about the distance required for the Sharrow bike lane symbol; based on the recommended placement for this pavement symbol, approximately 24 Sharrows would be placed on Melrose Avenue and approximately 14 Sharrows on Sunset Street. After discussion, the council decided to wait on development of the Melrose wide sidewalk project before making a decision to place the Sharrow symbol on Melrose Avenue.

**MOTION** by Giese, seconded by Moore, to contract with L.L. Pelling to paint pavement markings as proposed by Engineer Bilskemper according to the proposal. **Carried.**

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

**Building, Zoning & Sanitation:** None.

**E-Government:** At the Mayor’s request, Council member Dudler is researching a way to create a city listserv for distribution of minutes, agendas and other city-related items.

**JCCOG:** Mayor From stated that the Regional Trails Bike Committee has a resolution for communities to consider and apply to be a “Bike Friendly” community. The city council can consider this in the near future. The next regular JCCOG meeting is September 9<sup>th</sup> at Johnson County offices and on August 27, 2009 @ 4:00pm there is an Affordable Housing JCCOG meeting at Coralville City Hall.

**Announcements:** None.

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

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**Attest: Christine M. Anderson, City Clerk**

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**Approved: Louise A. From, Mayor**