

September 8, 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 September, 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, Brennan McGrath and Amy Moore. Staff present: Engineer Bilskemper, Attorney Ballard, Treasurer Kimura, Police Chief Fort and Clerk Anderson. Also present were Pat Bauer, Mackenzie Elmer, Linda Fincham, Mike Haverkamp, Carl Orgren, Yon Schoenmaker, Dave Stannard, and Larry Wilson.

The minutes of the August 11, 2009 meeting of the Council were presented and approved by **unanimous consent**.

Public Input: Carl Orgren commented that the library levy was for five years and will expire between elections; on June 30, 2011. Attorney Ballard is working with the Auditor’s office to determine if the levy will be on the ballot this year or next.

Pat Bauer handed out an information sheet on the candidate forum to be held October 20, 2009, from 7:00-9:00 pm at the UI Athletic Club. Based on the number of candidates and limited time, questions will be prepared in advance and submitted to the candidates. Citizens can submit questions to the forum organizers by Friday, October 9th. Attorney Ballard will research if candidate information can be legally posted on the city’s website.

Pat Bauer handed out a flyer and invited all city officials and staff to the Koser Avenue Block Picnic which will be held on September 13, 2009, 4:00-7:00 pm.

Yon Schoenmaker addressed the council regarding problems with 14 Leamer Court; five or six cars are parked there at various hours. Schoenmaker asked that the council speak with the neighbors about the problems and why the rental ordinance is not being enforced. Clerk Anderson stated there are only two names listed on the permit; Police Chief Fort confirmed three of the cars are registered to women who have apartments in Coralville.

Council member Dudler asked if the cars were parked legally; Schoenmaker replied they are parked on the driveway and a parking pad adjacent to the driveway. Council member Laverman commented that the renters may not be violating the ordinance but it is annoying to the neighbors and diminishes the quality of life.

Attorney Ballard will follow-up on this issue in conjunction with Police Chief Fort.

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

Mayor From read a thank you proclamation for Patricia Yeggy of her volunteer efforts in compiling University Heights historical information for the City and the University Heights display at the Historical Museum.

Legal Report: A written report was presented.

MOTION by Moore, seconded by Giese to approve Resolution 09-07, setting a public hearing on the proposal to exchange certain real property with the owners of 10 Koser Avenue and the terms of such exchange. **Carried.**

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

The public hearing has been set for September 24, 2009 at 7:00 pm.

MOTION by McGrath, seconded by Laverman to approve Resolution 09-08, appointing Patricia Yeggy as City Historian. **Carried.**

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

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

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

MOTION by McGrath, seconded by Moore, for third consideration of Ordinance 172, concerning placement of portable toilets and establishing a procedure to grant variances in cases of substantial hardship. **Carried.**

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

Attorney Ballard addressed the council about establishing a committee or task force, including council and citizen member, to discuss possible changes or enhancements to the city’s Rental Housing Code. Ballard commented that the city has multiple ordinances at its disposal but not a good mechanism to tie all the ordinances together to address rental issues.

Mayor From asked Council member McGrath is he is interested to serve on the committee; Council member Dudler and Laverman also expressed interest.

Council member Moore stated that she would like to see the city contract for a Rental Housing inspector that can address the issues the city is facing; the council has tried to enact ordinances but it is time to start citing people and to rescind rental permits. Council member McGrath agreed and feels that the city “can’t legislate its way out” of the issues and problems; he would like to see some of the sales tax money used for this purpose.

Council member Laverman knows of a potential candidate that he could bring to the September 24th meeting; Council member Moore commented that there needs to be a clear plan for revocation of a rental permits. Council member McGrath would like to increase the fine to keep in line with Iowa City’s fees; from \$250 to \$750, first offense.

Attorney Ballard stated there are approximately four properties that have rear entrances to garages; he is refining the ordinance to address this and will present at the October meeting.

Clerk’s Report: A written report was presented. Clerk Anderson updated the council on information concerning the status of potential rental properties. There are potentially 34 properties at the Grandview Condominiums that may be rental property.

Finance Report: Clerk Anderson stated that the first LOST check had been received; \$10,650.55

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Kimura stated there was an additional bill that would be paid. All bills, as amended, were approved by **unanimous consent.**

Kimura also stated that the city accountant would need a resolution passed for a report he needs to send to the Iowa DOT by the end of September.

**Warrants
August 12, 2009 through September 8, 2009**

Name	Amount	Name	Amount
Matthew Fort	1,238.51	Paul J. Moore	867.00
Ronald Fort	834.79	Communications Engineering	335.36
Benjamin Lord	653.38	Guardian ID Services, Inc.	17.50

Brad Reinhard	1,227.00	Hollywood Graphics	57.50
Donald Strong	1,127.98	City of Iowa City	21,268.80
Iowa City Press-Citizen	554.55	SEATS	689.86
McLeod USA/PAETEC	126.18	Hollywood Graphics	57.50
MidAmerican Energy	40.13	Galls Incorporated	93.92
MidAmerican Energy	96.55	Johnson County Refuse, Inc.	1,738.50
MidAmerican Energy	611.37	Iowa City Press-Citizen	177.76
MidAmerican Energy	29.03	Pyramid Service Inc.	86.84
Matthew Fort	1,149.79	Tip Top Tree Service	1,050.00
Ronald Fort	1,011.75	Nate Moore Wiring Service	2,798.12
Lori Kimura	221.72	OMB Police Supply	19.99
Benjamin Lord	942.56	Racom Corporation	79.60
Brad Reinhard	1,429.18	Staples	199.68
Donald Strong	1,122.16	Ultramax	338.00
Wellmark BC/BS	1,245.50	VISA	1,092.68
Christine Anderson	335.97	Verizon Wireless	90.02
MidwestOne Bank	3,479.52	James P. Glasgow	140.00
IPERS	2,266.74	Paul J. Moore	35.00
IPERS	79.43	Leff Law Firm, L.L.P.	15,623.84

Total Receipts

\$38,217.20

Total Warrants

\$ 66,681.26

Community Protection: Police Chief Fort commented that the first home football game went well and there were no major problems. Due to issues across the bridge into Iowa City, the traffic was backed-up to the interstate; also, the police arrested a man for selling illegal t-shirts.

Council member McGrath commented on the steady stream of bicycle traffic on the north side sidewalk of Melrose Avenue; the cyclists do not use the bike lane and McGrath asked if something could be done. Police Chief Fort replied that he has no authority to cite them for riding on the sidewalk.

Dave Stannard, Fire Chief for the Coralville Fire Department handed out a hard copy of the annual fire report. Currently there are 60 volunteer members and a second fire station is being built off of Highway 965 and Holiday Court. The department recently started using a web-based responding system, "I am Responding" and this is the first month of usage. The department is currently being reviewed for their ISO rating and Fire Chief Stannard feels the rating will go up to a 3; only 15 departments in Iowa have that rating. A 3 is the highest rating in the State currently.

Stannard distributed an informational sheet on the history of the University Heights contract which began in 1978. The UH contract has been the same amount since 1988.. Stannard calculates what the rate would have been if the contract increased by 3% each year; \$55,000 verses the current contract of \$29,719.

Mayor From asked if the fire station on Melrose Avenue would respond to an emergency in University Heights; Stannard replied that Coralville and Iowa City provide "mutual assistance" on calls and the personnel would respond if needed.

Streets and Sidewalks: Council member Giese asked that Attorney Ballard send a letter to the Tar Haar property manager to trim the maple tree prior to the next football game. There are fruit trees on Koser which are dropping fruit onto the city's right-of-way; complaints have been received about the hazards to people biking and walking with the fruit on the ground. Council member Laverman stated he will talk to the property owners about the issue.

The city handyman will be installing "No Parking" signs by 50 and 100 Highland Dr. and should be done by the next football game.

Giese addressed renaming the city park to "Eagle Scout Park" and also noted that the Scouts were considering adopting a park for maintenance and upkeep. Council member McGrath commented on an e-mail received from the city garden committee and given there is limited community space, he would like to wait on renaming the park.

McGrath felt a plaque should be installed in the park to commend the Scouts for all of their work. It was decided to not rename the park at this time.

Council member McGrath asked about the tree trimming at the corner of Koser and Highland; the stop sign had been adjusted down to be visible. Police Chief Fort stated he would trim the branches and adjust the stop sign.

Engineer Bilskemper commented that the inspectors completed the list for tree trimming; the list was given to the City Clerk who will work with the City Attorney and Council member Giese to create a friendly leaflet which she will deliver to the property owners.

Engineer Bilskemper stated he received preliminary comments from the Iowa DOT regarding the arterial street panel replacement project which is being funded by \$50,000 of Federal Stimulus funds. The DOT wants the curb-ramp updated at the southwest corner of Melrose Avenue and Sunset Street.

Bilskemper also commented that the surveying has been completed for the Melrose Avenue wide-sidewalk project. He also stated the MS4 storm water permit renewal is due soon; \$1,600 for five years.

Building, Zoning & Sanitation: Council member Moore stated that leaf vacuuming will occur on Thursday, November 5; The free leaf-bag pick up is Saturday, November 14th; and Christmas tree pick-up on January 5th and 12th. If a citizen misses the January tree dates, it will take 2 yard stickers for the tree to be removed.

E-Government: No report.

JCCOG: The next meeting is September 9, 2009.

Announcements:

Mayor From stated she is starting to organize a committee for the celebration of University Heights' 75th Anniversary. The tentative date for the event is Sept. 2010. If there is anyone who would like to help or has ideas/suggestions, to contact her.

Council member Laverman stated October 24, 2009 is "Make a Difference Day" for southeast side of Iowa City; lunch will be provided. Citizens should contact Laverman if they would like to assist with clean up.

The meeting was adjourned by **unanimous consent at 9:15 p.m.**

Attest: Christine M. Anderson, City Clerk

Approved: Louise A. From, Mayor