

September 24, 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.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSAL TO SELL AND PURCHASE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 10 KOSER AVENUE

Mayor From called the public hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. regarding the proposal to sell certain city property generally east of 10 Koser Avenue to the owners of 10 Koser Avenue and to purchase certain property generally north of 10 Koser Avenue to become additional right-of-way along Melrose Avenue. No member of the public was present to speak regarding the proposal and no written comments were received by the mayor, council persons, or clerk. The mayor adjourned the public hearing at 7:01 p.m.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL

The meeting was called to order by Mayor From 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, and Clerk Anderson. Also present were Pat Bauer, Laura Bowers, Mary Sue Bowers, Norm Cate, Mackenzie Elmer, Terry Goerd, Steve Kuhl, Larry Wilson and Pat Yeggy.

Public Input: City Attorney Ballard commented on his conversation with the owners of 21 Highland Drive who received notice from the city that they were in violation of the rental ordinance; the property is presently occupied by 3 non-related individuals. The owners have asked to have until the end of the semester to come into compliance; Council member Laverman stated the owners have been responsive to the situation and he recommends allowing the property until the end of the semester to become compliant. The council agreed to give the property until the end of the semester.

Finance Report: Steve Kuhl, accountant for the city, distributed a hardcopy of the Street Financial Report.

MOTION by Laverman, seconded by Moore, to adopt Resolution 09-09, approving City of University Height's street report to be submitted by Steve Kuhl to the Iowa Department of Transportation for 2008-2009. **Carried.**

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

Legal Report: Engineer Bilskemper distributed 3 drawings regarding the transfer of property between the owners of 10 Koser Avenue and the city. Bilskemper commented that the city and the property owners are in agreement to the exchange.

City Attorney Ballard commented on some of the details of the agreement between the City and the owners of 10 Koser Avenue. Some of the details include: the owners clearing snow from four feet of the sidewalk, the parking pad that is in existence is allowed; the city will maintain the retaining wall and a percentage of the wide sidewalk, replace the boundary pins, pay any transfer expenses and update the abstract for 10 Koser Avenue to show the conveyance to the city.

MOTION by Giese, seconded by McGrath, to adopt Resolution 09-10 authorizing the mayor to sign one or more purchase agreements 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 property to become additional right-of-way along Melrose Avenue, generally north of 10 Koser Avenue. **Carried.**

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

MOTION by Laverman, seconded by Moore, to amend the city’s Website Content Policy to permit information about candidates for city offices to be included. **Carried.**

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

Council member Dudler will add a link to the city website.

Street & Sidewalks: Engineer Bilskemper distributed bids for the 2009 Street Improvements Project; all the bids had the required materials and regulatory documentation.

MOTION by Laverman, seconded by Giese, to accept the bid of \$28, 396.50 from Eggleston Concrete Contractors, Inc. for the 2009 Street Improvements Project. **Carried.**

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

Building, Zoning & Sanitation: Council member Laverman introduced two candidates for consideration of hiring them as part time Rental Housing and Building Inspectors for the City. Council member Laverman stated he worked with these candidates and therefore recused himself from further discussion.

Terry Goerdts has worked for the City of Iowa City for 20 years; currently he is employed as a Building Inspector. Goerdts has experience in a variety of areas and has done inspections for Riverside, Durant and West Liberty. Norm Cate has worked for the City of Iowa City for 14 years; 10 of those years as Senior Housing Inspector. Cate outlined programs that have worked regarding problem rental properties, including a “nuisance property” ordinance where owners and tenants were aware of the terms and conditions for offenses. Cate also spoke of an “information disclosure statement” which was created and added as an addendum to leases which outlines the roles and responsibilities of the tenant and landlord. As a team, the fee would be \$35 per hour with a two hour minimum and mileage reimbursement.

After discussion, it was decided that Mayor From, City Attorney Ballard and Council member Moore would meet with the two candidates to determine a scope of services and bring a recommendation to the next council meeting.

Announcements: City Attorney Ballard commented that an application for a portable toilet exemption had been received by the city for 121 Highland Drive but could not be considered until placed on the October council meeting agenda. The council discussed that no penalty would apply for the next two home games until the application could be reviewed next month. In the meantime, the property owner will be directed to move the portable toilet to the back of his property, away from the street.

Council member Giese commented on the deterioration of the intersection of George St. and Koser Avenue; it is beyond patching. Giese requested bids for fixing that section. Engineer Bilskemper will provide information at the next meeting.

Council member McGrath stated that St. Andrew Church will have a representative at future council meetings to answer questions on the Church’s proposed move and development of the property.

The meeting was adjourned by **unanimous consent at 8:10 p.m.**

Attest: Christine M. Anderson, City Clerk

Approved: Louise A. From, Mayor