

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2001

7:00 P.M.

AT

**CITY OF UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS CITY OFFICE
1004 MELROSE AVENUE**

AGENDA

Call to Order.

Minutes of January.

Other Business: Discussion of FY2001 Budget

Public Input.

Treasurer's Report. Payment of Bills.

Mayor's Report.

Clerk's Report.

Legal Report.

Engineer's Report.

Police Report.

Committee Reports: Finance
 Building, Zoning and Sanitation
 Fire and Police
 Meeting with Johnson Co Sheriff
 Street and Sidewalks
 JCCOG

Next Meeting: March 13, 2001

Gloria Jacobson, Mayor

Telephone: 338-3489

February 13, 2001

Mayor Jacobson called to order a regular meeting of the Council at 7:02 p.m.

Present: Mayor Jacobson; Council Members From, Gay, Jones, Martin, Schoenmaker; Attorney Ballard; Chad Lambi, Shive-Hattery Engineers & Architects; Police Chief McDonald; Treasurer Reitz; Clerk Birk.

Others Present: Steve Kuhl, Greenwood and Crim.

Absent: None.

ALL VOTES UNANIMOUS UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

MOTION by Martin, second by From, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting in January as corrected.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: Mayor Jacobson, Council Member Martin and Treasurer Reitz met with Steve Kuhl of Greenwood and Crim after last month's meeting to submit the information for the FY2001 (July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002) budget that was supplied and discussed at the January Council meeting. Mr. Kuhl presented the proposed budget. He gave the recent history of the City's levy rate. This year it is \$7.75, and for the three years preceding it was \$7.40. Revenues remain fairly stable, while expenses are increasing. By law the levy rate cannot rise above \$8.10 without a public hearing and an election. The "wish list" submitted by Council requires the maximum property rate of \$8.10 and would be \$38,000 over budget. Also, University Heights includes debt service as a budget item.

Council discussed ways to reduce the budget. Mayor Jacobson commented that Council needed to decide whether to give the police a one-time increase in pay in one year or to spread it over two years, whether to do all the proposed street repair projects, or perhaps to use bonds for the street repair projects thereby freeing up money for other expenditures.

The proposed street projects were discussed. They include: repair to Mahaska Court (\$37,000); adding subdrains to Highland Drive (\$12,000) and Mahaska Drive (\$16,000; and adding a left turn lane to westbound Melrose Avenue at Sunset Street (\$6,000 for the City's share of this project). Assessing adjoining property owners a portion of the cost was mentioned, but in 1996 the Council decided to bear the entire cost of street projects, thereby spreading the cost among all property owners. It was decided to delay the Mahaska Drive and Highland Drive projects until next year. The Melrose Avenue turn lane will be funded at 80% by JCCOG, and needs to be done in FY2001.

Council discussed police salaries. Council Member Jones commented that University Heights is perceived as a safe community and that this is largely due to the police protection. Council had hoped to provide a 11½% increase to the full-time officers. Based on other budget considerations it was decided that a 3½% raise next year (plus the 3½% cost of living increase for City staff and part-time police officers) and a 3½% raise the year after that was within the means of the community.

If these changes are made, the budget will be within \$10,000 of expected revenues and the shortfall will be taken from City reserves.

In the past, a property tax freeze caused the City's reserve funds to become depleted. Prior to that a reserve fund equal to one year's operating budget was maintained. Currently, the City's reserve fund is \$147,000, equal to 29% of the FY01 budget.

Next year's budget has no surplus fund built into it to be added to the City's reserve fund.

MOTION by Gay, second by Jones, to accept the proposed FY2001 budget with the following changes: increasing salaries for full-time police officer by a total of 7%, revising the proposed street budget by removing the Mahaska Drive and Highland Drive projects, and increasing the millage rate from \$7.75 to \$8.10.

Carried.

In March, there will be a public hearing on the budget that will be followed by the regular monthly meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Reitz distributed the reports for January. To avoid bank charges, Treasurer Reitz asked that checks under \$100 clear with only one signature.

MOTION by Jones, second by From, to authorize Iowa State Bank to forego the two signature requirement for checks written for less than \$100.

Carried.

MOTION by Martin, second by Jones, for payment of all the bills.

Carried.

WARRANTS & INCOME – JANUARY

12366	Paul J. Moore, Melrose Avenue Building	Gen:P&A-Rent	650.00
12409	Phillips 66 Company	Gen:CP:Vehicle Maintenance/Supplies	12.00
12410	City of Iowa City	Gen:Fuel/Bus Service	2,522.78
12411	Iowa City Tire and Service	Gen:CP:Vehicle Maintenance	47.93
12412	Hawkeye State Bank	Gen:P&A-Safety Deposit Box	25.00
12413	Galls Incorporated	Gen:CP:Equipment/supplies	301.39
12415	Johnson County Refuse	Gen:HCE-Trash/Recycling	1,350.00
12416	Latta Harris Hanon & Penningroth LLP	Gen:P&A:Accounting Fees	180.00
12417	Birk, Patricia	Gen:P&A/CP:supplies	165.31
12418	U.S. Cellular	Gen:CP-cell phone	98.19
12419	Zephyr Copies	Gen:P&A:Reports	9.64
12421	Johnson County Treasurer	Gen:CP:Sheriff/Radio contract	1,666.25
12423	Shimon, Brian S.	Gen:CP:Unif Allowance-Gall's (Shimon)	97.24
12424	MidAmerican Energy	Gen:P&A/CP:Utilities/SR:CP:Utilities	920.80
12427	Johnson County Refuse	SR:HCE:Snow Removal	12,420.00
12428	McLeod USA	Gen:P&A:Phone	113.09
12429	Shimon, Brian S.	Gen:CP:Unif. Allowance- Gall's (Shimon)	8.99
12431	Jayne Hansen	Gen:HD:Library Card	75.00
12432	Nadine Hardy	Gen:HD:Library Card	75.00
12433	Lori Enlow/Jim Trepka	Gen:HD:Library Card	75.00
12426	Best Buy	Gen:CP:Equipment - Laptop computer	1,079.98
12434	Birk, Patricia	Gen:P&A:Payroll	210.72
12435	McCune, Garry W.	Gen:CP:Payroll	1,738.21
12436	McDonald, Robert F.	Gen:CP:Payroll	1,996.46
12437	Reitz, Sharyn H.	Gen:P&A:Payroll	211.72
12438	Sharp, Shawn P.	Gen:CP:Payroll	554.36
12439	Shimon, Brian S.	Gen:CP:Payroll	1,645.60
12440	Stange, Steven R.	Gen:CP:Payroll	194.51
12441	IPERS	Payroll Liabilities	1,338.41
12442	IOWA STATE BANK & TRUST CO	Payroll Liabilities	2,187.36
12443	TREASURER STATE OF IOWA	Payroll Liabilities	319.00
TOTAL			32,289.94

INCOME

General
\$12,918.54

Debt Service
\$560.09

Special Revenues
\$5,942.51

Total Income
\$19,421.14

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Jacobson said that Laura Bowers agreed to serve another five year term on the Board of Adjustment. She announced that Marty Jones was appointed vice-chair of the JCCOG Urban Area Policy Board. Mayor Jacobson was invited to the Sertoma banquet on February 22 for Johnson County essay contest winners. She will be unable to attend and Council Member From will go. Mayor Jacobson attended a meeting on January 26 of the Johnson County Conference Board. They will hold a public hearing on March 5, which the Mayor will also attend.

A letter from the President of the Horn School PSTO was received asking for an independent walk cycle for the traffic signal at Melrose and Sunset. As Melrose is an arterial street and is also synchronized with signals to the east this may be not be feasible. Engineer Lambi will look into the matter, the Mayor will write a letter to Mr. Mebus, and the matter will be discussed next month. Council Member Jones pointed out that there has been a traffic turning problem at this intersection (Melrose and Sunset).

LEGAL REPORT: When the City has snow removed from a property's sidewalk, the cost of the removal plus administrative costs can be assessed to the property. Attorney Ballard prepared a Resolution stating that the administrative fee for such service is \$15.

MOTION by Jones, second by Gay, the adopt a Resolution (01-01) authorizing the City to assess an administrative fee of \$15 each time snow is removed from a property.

The roll was called and the vote was:

AYES:	NAYS:	ABSENT:	
X			From
X			Gay
X			Jones
X			Martin
X			Schoenmaker

Passed and approved this 13th day of February 2001.

Attorney Ballard spoke with Bernie Mauch of the University Athletic Club to determine if there are any issues to be addressed before final approval is given for the subdivision. Nothing has been heard from the real estate agent concerning the property on Highland Drive. Attorney Ballard presented a chart showing the progress of the rental property inspections. He noted that the rental housing ordinance supplements the zoning ordinance and that housing must still observe zoning requirements. Attorney Ballard will offer an in-service meeting with the University Heights police officers regarding City ordinances and changes in pertinent laws.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: A letter was received from JCCOG concerning changing out traffic signal lights to a type that would use less energy. The only cost would be for the labor. Engineer Lambi suggested replacing the bulbs on an as-needed basis. No action was taken and Engineer Lambi will investigate the matter further.

POLICE REPORT: Chief McDonald gave the police report for the month. Lockers were ordered and have been received.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BUILDING, ZONING & SANITATION: The new recycling bins will need City identification imprinted. There is only enough salt mixture left for eight more trips through the City.

FIRE AND POLICE: Council Member Gay met with the Coralville Fire Chief. There has been no response from Iowa City concerning animal control. Council Member Gay and Attorney Ballard met with Sheriff Carpenter concerning the City's cost for communication and protection services. Regardless of which services the City should choose to use, the cost will remain the same. A monthly log of the instances where deputies respond to calls in University Heights will be provided.

JCCOG: On March 21, training for weatherspotters will be held at the Johnson Co Fairgrounds. Council Member Jones presented a map showing arterial street improvement for the 2001 construction season in the Iowa City/Coralville urbanized area.

Upon motion the Council adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Approved

Gloria N. Jacobson, Mayor

Attest

Patricia Birk, Clerk

NOTE: Minutes subject to approval and corrections.