

January 15, 2019

Proceedings of the City Council of University Heights, Iowa, held at the Community Center, 1302 Melrose Avenue, subject to approval by the Council at a subsequent meeting. ALL VOTES ARE UNANIMOUS UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor From called the January 15, 2019 special council meeting of the University Heights City Council to order at 7:05 p.m.

Present: Mayor From. Council Members: Nick Herbold, Virginia Miller, Liesa Moore and Silvia Quezada. Staff present: City Clerk Chris Anderson and Treasurer Lori Kimura. Also present: Jon Fravel, Stepheny Gahn, Mike Haverkamp, Al Leff, Jan Leff, Scott McLeod, Sara O’Sullivan, Jacinda Petersen, Ben Mitchell, Paul Moore, Dan Stence, Sandy Stiles, Doug Swailes, Ken Yeggy and Pat Yeggy.

Absent: Council member Dotti Maher.

Discussion to invest city funds into a Certificate of Deposit was deferred until the February council meeting.

Announcements: On January 22, 2019, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. the University Heights Police Department (UHPD) is hosting “Pizza with Police” at the Community Center. On February 6, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. UHPD will hold a “Community Education Night” at the Community Center.

On February 9, 2019, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. the University Heights Community Event committee will host a Winter Festival near the dead-end of Golfview Avenue. Additional information will be posted to the city website.

The meeting was adjourned **by unanimous consent at 7:06 p.m.**

Attest: Christine Anderson, City Clerk

Approved: Louise A. From, Mayor

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WORK SESSION MEETING

Mayor From called the January 15, 2019 work session meeting of the University Heights City Council to order at 7:07 p.m.

Present: Mayor From. Council Members: Nick Herbold, Virginia Miller, Liesa Moore and Silvia Quezada. Staff present: City Clerk Chris Anderson. Also present: Jon Fravel, Stepheny Gahn, Mike Haverkamp, Al Leff, Jan Leff, Scott McLeod, Sara O’Sullivan, Jacinda Petersen, Ben Mitchell, Paul Moore, Dan Stence, Sandy Stiles, Doug Swailes, Ken Yeggy and Pat Yeggy.

Absent: Council member Dotti Maher.

Public Comments: The following addressed the council with their suggestions for the Swisher Tract:

Sara O’Sullivan - 23 George Street
Dan Stence - 310 Golfview Avenue
Al Leff - 215 Sunset Street

Jacinda Petersen - 309 Sunset Street
Mike Haverkamp - 315 Golfview Avenue
Scott McLeod - One University Way

Council member Miller presented a PowerPoint presentation on the topography, animal and plant species on the Swisher Tract. Miller commented the tract not only provides environmental benefits, but also economic, social and health benefits.

Miller proposes the city install trails confined to ridge tops and level to moderately level areas. The city should proceed slowly and observe the site for a year. Additionally, the city should request a stewardship plan from Mark Vitosh and engage local volunteers to help clear brush and logs. Miller showed a proposed timeline for 2019 outlining the various tasks.

Council member Quezada stated she would like the land kept “in its original intent”, ensure there are buffers or green spaces and ensure there is safe access for citizens and visitors. Quezada advocates for professional assistance in planning greenspace and parkland for the city.

Quezada would encourage people to walk or bike to the tract and only offer handicapped parking. Quezada would not support a playground on the property but like to see natural scape landscaping. Some residents would like to install memorial benches and viewing posts near the trails.

Council member Herbold stated he agrees with Miller’s suggestions and the proposed timeline. Herbold approved on removal of invasive plant species and trails located away from slopes.

The council will hold an additional work session on February 27, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. for additional citizen input for the Swisher Tract.

The meeting was adjourned **by unanimous consent at 8:11 p.m.**

Attest: Christine Anderson, City Clerk

Approved: Louise A. From, Mayor