

**Windsor Heights (Iowa) City Council Regular Meeting Minutes – January 7, 2008
Council Chambers, 1133 66th St.**

Item 1: Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Jerry Sullivan called meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. Council present: Carole Tillotson, Flo Hunter, Diana Willits, and Charlene Butz. City Administrator Marketa George Oliver and Assistant City Attorney Rebecca Dublinske also present. Absent: Council member Steve Peterson.

Item 2: Approval of the Agenda - Roll Call 001

Hunter moved Willits seconded to approve agenda as amended. Voice vote unanimous.

Item 3: Good of the Order

Mayor Sullivan asked Council Member Butz to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 4: Approval of the Minutes - Roll Call 002

Willits moved Tillotson seconded to approve December 17th regular meeting minutes both published and unabridged versions and the December 15th study session minutes, both published and unabridged versions. Voice vote unanimous. Butz abstained.

Item 5: Consent Agenda - Roll Call 003

Willits moved Hunter seconded approval of claims and payroll. Voice vote unanimous.

Item 6: Consideration of Resolution 08-0107/004 authorizing a change order to the contract with Elder Corporation for \$850 for additional survey work on the Colby Park project – Roll Call 004

Oliver noted when the City moved the location of the performance pavilion from the original site plans to its current location, it required additional survey work. Tillotson moved Hunter seconded approval. Roll call vote unanimous.

Item 7: Consideration of Resolution 08-0107/005 changing the Council meeting time to 5:15 p.m. - Roll Call 005

Oliver said the change in time was requested in order to allow more citizens to get to the council meeting after work. Willits moved Hunter seconded approval. Roll call vote unanimous.

Item 8: Discussion and possible consideration of Resolution 08-0107/006 authorizing an increase in the water capital rate to \$1.00 per thousand from \$.25 per thousand gallons of water to be used for water infrastructure projects - Roll call 006

Oliver noted that several areas in the City are in need of updated water main infrastructure. Several areas have experienced water main breaks due to the age of the water mains and the size of the water mains. Jerry Reno, 7060 El Rancho, asked what happens when all the projects are finished. Oliver said that by the time all projects get finished, it would be time to start over. Bob Bishop, 1128 64th St, stated he supported increasing the water rate to do capital projects because he lives in an area that has experience frequent water main breaks. He is worried about fire coverage with the quality of water pipes in his neighborhood. He asked how the decisions will be made about what projects are done first. Oliver said that projects will be prioritized according to the age and condition of the pipes and the number of main breaks. Bishop asked if this increase will be sufficient to finish everything in a timely manor. Oliver said that Des Moines Water Works has said that this will raise enough capital funds to do the need projects. Tillotson moved Willits seconded approval. Roll call vote unanimous.

Item 9: Consideration of Ordinance 08-01 extending no parking zone from 100 ft to 200 ft on west side of 68th Street from south boundary of Hickman road – final reading - Roll Call 007

Vicki Sodawasser, 2101 68th St, said the area is increasing in traffic and the current parking situation makes the corner dangerous. She believes changing the parking will help the situation. Linda Smith, 2019 68th said she was in favor of the ordinance and said moving the post office boxes would also help with parking. Vicki Harris, 2019 68th, said that this should not affect the apartments on 68th that much because when the snow ordinance is in effect, there is sufficient parking at the apartments. Willits moved final reading of ordinance, Tillotson seconded. Roll call vote unanimous.

Item 10: Discussion and Possible Consideration of Ordinance 08-02 adjusting Stormwater Drainage Utility rates – Roll Calls 008 and 009

Oliver noted that the additional funds will be used to pay for the dredging of the creek around the Buffalo Road which is needed to help avoid future flooding. Coleen Carlson, 6501 Lincoln, asked why the City was raising this rate when it raised the rate six months ago. She noted the City has a large financial reserve and is in good financial standing, why the City cannot pay for this project from another source rather than raising a rate. Oliver explained the Stormwater Utility fund is specifically set up to pay for projects related to stormwater because it is an enterprise fund. It is true that the City’s general fund has a healthy reserve, but the stormwater fund does not. Most recently when the City raised the stormwater utility, it did so to pay back a loan from the general fund which was used for a project that was to improve drainage conditions on the College Avenue Bridge. (Editor’s note: The most recent stormwater rate adjustment took place in July, 2006, approximately 18 months ago.) The new rates would be:

Category:	Monthly rate:
Residential	\$3.50
Commercial-Small	\$17.50
Commercial-Medium	\$31.50
Commercial-Large	\$56.00
Commercial-Major	\$84.00

Tillotson moved first reading of ordinance, Willits seconded. Roll call vote unanimous. Tillotson moved the second reading of ordinance, Hunter seconded. Roll call vote unanimous.

Item 11: Public Comment

Jerry Reno, 7060 El Rancho, is concerned about the number of unrelated individuals living in a single family home. He says too many people in a small home will hurt the home values in Windsor Heights and hurt the City’s infrastructure. Oliver noted the City was looking at an ordinance similar to an ordinance in Ames that restricts the number of people who can live in a residence. Dave Jenison, 6531 Del Matro, asked if the City had made any progress towards getting the lights changed at 70th and Hickman. John Weidman noted that this spring the City is going to be redoing that intersection and adding a turning lane. Jenison asked for increased police patrol around 64th and College during school dismissal because lots of people are parking illegally. He also wanted the City to check its website because the code enforcement section says the City does not accept anonymous complaints. Bonnie Gusland, 7105 Reite, said she believes the City should limit the number of unrelated people in a single family home to 3 people. She said home values are traditionally strong in Windsor Heights and she doesn’t want that to change. She is also concerned about the amount of people living in a group home across the street from her house. The Council asked if they could receive a list of all the group homes in Windsor Heights. Linda Smith, 2019 68th St asked if state law supersedes City law. Chief Gary Walters said that when City code and state code conflict, state code supersedes City code. She also asked if the City could increase police patrols through Budget Storage early in the morning. Vicki Harris, 2019 68th stated that the construction fence at budget storage is very poor and often down. Gary Bahr, 7214 Bellaire Ave, complimented the public works department in their excellent snow removal. Jerry Reno, 7060 El Rancho asked if the City knew of any businesses going into the new construction on University. Oliver said the City has not received any information about confirmed businesses for that location.

Item 12: Council Member Comments

The Council Members welcomed new Council Member, Charlene Butz.

Item 13: Mayor’s Inquiries

Mayor Sullivan welcomed Council Member Butz.

Item 14: Adjournment - Roll Call 010

Hunter moved Butz seconded to adjourn to 5:00 p.m. on January 21st at 5:46 p.m. Voice vote unanimous.

Jerry Sullivan, Mayor

ATTEST:

Marketa George Oliver, City Administrator/Clerk

