

**APRIL 26, 2010 STUDY SESSION MEETING PUBLICATION MINUTES  
6:00 P.M. – CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Mayor Jerry Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Council present: Diana Willits, Charlene Butz, David Jenison, Betty Glover, and Steve Peterson. Staff present include City Administrator Marketa Oliver, Public Works Director Jason VanAusdall, Police Chief Gary Walters, Fire Chief Chris Cross and Community Services Director Josh Heggen.

2. Discussion regarding the proposed wind turbines ordinance.

Chris Shires, West Des Moines Community Development Department presentation recommendations made to the Metro Advisory Council. The MAC had been given the task to create a small wind turbine ordinance as a model for all metro communities to adopt. Glover asked if larger turbines create more power. Shires responded that it may take 4-5 smaller turbines to get the power of one larger turbine. He said the higher the turbine can go, the better quality wind that can be used by the turbine. He said to have a turbine, most likely a person would need an acre of land. This ordinance would not allow building mounted turbines. He said the turbines require they are a safe distance from power line and other easements. He said this ordinance does not get into any sound produced by the turbine, that most local communities have sound ordinance to handle that issue. He said most units he's seen are not any louder than a residential air conditioner. Willits asked if schools have looked at them. Shires said some schools have looked at them, more for educational purposes than real function purposes. He said some building mounts may be allowed in commercial area, but they'd have to follow some strict rules. He said shadow flicker doesn't seem to be an issue with small turbines. Shires said he's not aware of small residential units failing and falling apart, causing any safety issues. Shires said multiple smaller turbines would be needed to even power a single house. He said it may be difficult for several homeowners to go together to get the 1 acre needed because they then may be consider an electrical utility. Chief Cross said his truck ladder would not reach the highest wind turbines if there was an issue. Shires said advertising is not allowed on the turbines and any onsite storage building would have to conform to any current building codes within the city. The council agreed to continue to refine the ordinance to bring back for council approval.

3. Discussion regarding a payment in-lieu of taxes (PILOT) program.

The council reviewed the PILOT documents and asked if staff could provide on their monthly reports calls of service to the non-profits so the council can get a better idea of what services they are using.

4. Discussion regarding a dog park.

Public Works Director Jason VanAusdall said he would like to collect fence to put in a fence area south of the interstate for a dog park. He's working to get fence donated to the city. Butz asked about animal waste. VanAusdall said he recently put in a bag dispenser south of the interstate and they would put garbage cans out. She also asked about a fee. VanAusdall said he would support not having a fee. VanAusdall said he believe the entire project might cost \$1000 for concrete. Jenison asked if the area could be used as a community garden. Butz said that wouldn't be the best area because of the number of trees. Heggen and VanAusdall noted the area does have a lot of trees. Willits asked if we could ask for donations for the facility when people get a pet license. For security, VanAusdall said the back of Budget Storage has lights and the park does close at dusk. VanAusdall said some strict rules would be created and posted. The council gave support to the idea of putting in a fenced area that would be a dog park on city owned land, south of the interstate. The Public Works Department is soliciting fence donations for the project. Staff will develop rules and regulations for the council to approve for the park.

5. Update and discussion regarding a deer hunting ordinance.

VanAusdall reported that in the entire metro, 660 deer were taken out of the population via hunting. Peterson asked what a good harvest in Windsor Heights would be. VanAusdall said 15-20 deer would be good. Glover asked what time of year the hunt would occur. VanAusdall said during the state regulated bow season. Butz asked if the hunt should just be staff. Glover asked if the trail has to be shut down, is that too much of a burden. Jenison said he'd support letting qualified city staff do the bow hunt. Butz voiced concern about people still feeding deer. Jenison asked who wrote the ordinance. Heggen said he put it together in January and that this was the same ordinance the council reviewed at that time. Jenison said that the tree stands should be portable. Heggen said if council just wants to allow staff, then just a simple resolution would be needed. Jenison said he doesn't think the hunt should take place near the school. VanAusdall said the deer would be donated to the HUSH program. The council discussed and gave direction to staff to come back with a resolution, allowing deer hunting by Windsor Heights Staff trained in specific areas.

6. Discussion regarding partnership with the Neighborhood Finance Corporation.

Glover said last week some council members and staff met with staff from the Neighborhood Finance Corporation about their program. They provide finance for doing rehab on homes. The idea was to use the funds from the sewer district to help individual pay for sewer repairs when the city does their project. Butz asked if it would cover backflow valves. Oliver said it could cover whatever the council wants. Jenison said the program could be expanded in the future to cover other things. Glover said there is a forgivable loan component, which helps provide the incentive to do the work. The council agreed that it is a good idea to pursue the Neighborhood finance Corporation and Polk County support to help individual homeowners with the upcoming sewer project in the city.

7. University Avenue Signage for Colby Park

Jenison talked about directional signage for Colby Park. Oliver showed some drawings she had put together that she would have an artist look at to do some drawing plans for some potential signs. Jenison said he doesn't want to leave Lion Park out, that the signs would be used for both Colby and Lions Park. John Thompson, 6900 School St. voiced his displeasure with the I-jobs sign on the Colby Park sign at Colby Park. The council discussed and gave direction to staff to work to develop a sign for Colby Park and Lions Park with an artist.

8. Discussion regarding garbage and recycling pickup days.

VanAusdall expressed his interest in pursuing an one day garbage and recycling pickup day in Windsor Heights instead of two days. He hopes this will help eliminate problems with garbage cans in the street, confusion on pickup days. Peterson said he thought it was a great idea. The council discussed the possibility of having one day garbage pickup within the city. Willits thought it was a good idea. Butz said it sounded good. Peterson asked to see what it would cost to also have recycling every day. VanAusdall said he would look into it. The council agreed to further study and review this option as long as garbage and recycling collection remained on the same day for a home owner.

9. Other

Peterson discussed the possibility of adding handicap doors to city hall. VanAusdall looked into the issue and got some bids, both of them came in around \$3000. The council discussed adding handicap doors at city hall and agreed it was a good idea to move forward.

Heggen reviewed the plan for benches and garbage cans and the planting plan. Peterson said he thought the planting plan was over planted. Glover asked if Keep Windsor Heights Beautiful could review the plan. Butz expressed concern about the locust trees. Willits said the planting plan looks nice, but wants to make sure we have season long color variety. The council liked the bench plan and wanted to add a garbage can up-front and just have one bike rack in the back. The council reviewed the proposed planters for the new community center and liked the rust color and asked staff to bring back cost quote for approval. They also reviewed the planting plan and asked to have Earl May come to the next Keep Windsor Heights Beautiful meeting so they could review the planting plan.

10. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

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Jerry Sullivan, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Marketa George Oliver, City Administrator/Clerk