

**OCTOBER 27, 2009
CITY OF WINDSOR HEIGHTS
STUDY SESSION MEETING MINUTES
4:00 P.M. – Council Chambers
Unabridged version**

Item 1: Roll Call

Mayor Sullivan called meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. Council present: Charlene Butz, Carole Tillotson, Flo Hunter, Steve Peterson and Diana Willits. City Administrator Marketa George Oliver, Chief Gary Walters, Public Works Director Jason VanAusdall, Community Services Director Josh Heggen, and Fire Chief Cross all present.

Deer hunting and feeding discussion.

Brian Herrstrom from Polk County Conservation and the Polk County Deer Task Force spoke with the council regarding deer management efforts in Polk County, including deer hunting. Willits asked if the city has enough open land to allow for hunting. Herrstrom noted that in some occasions private homeowners put their land together for a deer hunting zone, since Windsor Heights has very little public land. Since lots of this area also has a bike path, most likely to get enough of a safe zone, the bike trail would need to be closed during hunting season. Hunter asked if deer feeding ordinances could help. Brian noted this would help by decreasing the food available to deer. He said Johnston and Urbandale have an ordinance prohibiting the feeding of deer. Tillotson noted she is worried about how it is enforced, that people could always just say they are feeding squirrels. Hunter said it would be good to do some educational materials on not feeding deer and put that in the newsletter. Peterson said he liked the idea of closing the trail to allow for deer hunting. Peterson suggested allowing hunting during the time when school is out, behind Clive Elementary, with the school's permission. Walters asked about the gutting of the deer. Herrstrom noted that some of the city ordinances require that the entrails of the animal be removed away from the city. The council asked that a hunting and no-feeding of deer ordinance be brought back for review and approval. Steve Peterson, along with Jason VanAusdall and members of the Polk County Deer Task force were going to walk the trail to see any areas would make sense for hunting. Ann Hoehle on 73rd Street suggested the feeding of the deer ordinance could be handled on a complaint basis, as it is in the other communities.

Dog Park

Oliver noted staff was brainstorming ideas regarding a location of a potential dog park. The Mayor of Urbandale contacted Mayor Sullivan about maybe doing a joint park. Staff thought about the location just north of Hickman Road, and West of Colby Woods Drive as a possible location.

Lead Paint

Peterson is on the Lead Paint Task Force in Polk County. He noted this is a serious issue in the metro and Windsor Heights. 94% of the homes in WH were built before 1978, meaning they most likely have lead paint. He shared with the council some policy suggesting the task force is suggesting cities look at and adopt. One suggested policy is requiring rental homes and day care centers be tested for lead paint. Willits asked if it can be required that all rental homes be lead free or at least lead be mitigated in the home. Tillotson asked if more data specific to Windsor Heights could be found. Peterson suggested getting our building officials trained as lead inspectors. As more information and suggestions become available, the council may require new ordinances.

Sanitary Sewer Improvements

Oliver updated the council on a recent meeting she and the public works director had with the Windsor Heights-Urbandale Sanitary Sewer Board regarding the videoing of the sewer system. She noted that Forest Aldrich from Veenstra and Kimm had made a presentation to the Council in September. During his presentation, he indicated that most of the City's sewer lines are in pretty good shape, but there were some

he was recommending for sliplining. There were other options but sliplining was recommended because it extends the life of the sewer line for 50 years. The board agreed to fund a program, up to \$250,000 next year for the city to slip-line the top 20 priorities where the most ground water infiltration is happening. Windsor Heights plans to partner with Urbandale to do a joint bid and will also identify the 10 next highest priority section of pipe in the event the City gets a really good bid and is able to do more.

The board also agreed to help fund a matching program for people who have private sanitary sewer lines where ground water in put in through sump pumps. This will be an incentive grant program and will most likely eventually have a sunset date where people then just have to fix the problem. Then in following years as the city videos' the sewer lines and finds problems, the sewer district will help pay in the most urgent of areas, to fix the problems. Butz asked about Washington Avenue since the engineers pointed out that this area's pipe is flat and can get clogged easily. Oliver stated that the slip lining in the areas leading into the Washington pipe should reduce or eliminate backups since a lot less groundwater will get into the pipe. When Aldrich made his presentation in September, he indicated that the water was flowing into the pipes northeast of Washington, hypercharging the sewer lines and then it flowed into the Washington Avenue line, which was relatively flat and overwhelmed that pipe. The elimination of the infiltration "upstream" will address the problem because the water will no longer be infiltrating and overwhelm the line. She also said the engineer noted that replacing that pipe and digging everything up would cost over a \$1,000,000, so that action will likely occur whenever Washington Ave is in need of being replaced and it can be done in conjunction with the street reconstruction.

Citizen Survey

The council reviewed the citizen survey from 2007 and made some suggestions for some minor changes. Staff will make changes and bring back a final product for the council's review and approval. Then staff will engage a consultant to do the survey and bring a contract for council consideration. For costs and consistency, council recommended doing a similar phone survey like last time.

Financial Forecast

Oliver reviewed with the council projected financial forecast for the city for the next two years. The city's finances are strong and should continue to stay strong, even under worst case scenarios of a dramatic decline in values. She pointed out that in the near future, the City would be able to repay an internal, interfund loan from the TIF fund to the General Fund and then release the TIF district value back in to general circulation.

Committee updates

Tillotson updated the council on the single stream recycling program and how well the city is doing with participation and increased recycling amounts. Windsor Heights had a nearly 90% participation rate.

The meeting ended at 6:20 p.m.

Jerry Sullivan, Mayor

ATTEST:

Marketa George Oliver, City Administrator/Clerk