

NOVEMBER 2nd, 2009
CITY OF WINDSOR HEIGHTS
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
5:15 P.M. – Council Chambers
Unabridged version

Item 1: Roll Call

Mayor Sullivan called meeting to order at 5:15 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, Fire Chief Cross and City Attorney Matt Brick present.

Item 2: Approval of the Agenda - Roll Call 293

Hunter moved Peterson seconded approval with noting item 6b should read September and October Report for Public Works. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Item 3: Good of the Order

Item 9 from the agenda was moved up at request of the mayor to be under good of the order. Vassil Petrov, lead architect for the Windsor Heights Community Center, updated the council on the new building. He showed various samples of stone and wood that will be incorporated into the Community Center. As of right now, in consideration of all the weather, the center is still on schedule to be complete on schedule. He said it will be a beautiful building.

Item 4: Approval of the minutes - Roll Call 294-295

Peterson moved Tillotson seconded approval of the October 19, 2009 and October 27, 2009 City Council minutes both published and unabridged versions. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Item 5: Public Comment

Roger Maxwell, 7803 College Drive noted he was disturbed about the tone of the election. He said Windsor Heights is one of the most transparent governmental bodies he has ever seen, and he has worked for various governmental bodies for many years. He noted a worker for Betty Glover's campaign stopped by his house last week told him that she is running for transparency. When he asked what she meant, she told him that the City had money to fix sewer lines from the house to the street in his area, but did not tell anyone and was hiding it. When he contacted the City to ask about this, because he did not believe the worker, he was told that no such money exists and if it did, the City would advertise it so people could take advantage of those funds. He wanted to talk about this at the forum, but it was so regulated that no one could ask anything. Maxwell asked Mrs. Glover to stop spreading this incorrect information and to withdraw is she is successful as a candidate for council, since she has her workers out spreading lies.

Betty Koepsel, 2250 70th Street, said she felt the opaque window at City hall is an example of the City not being transparent. Oliver noted that previously, City Hall was divided into two areas. When you entered City Hall, you would go into a door to the left to go to the Police Department or to the right, to go to the Administrative Offices. These two support staff positions were intended to be each others' back up and were intended to know each others' job responsibilities and processes. However, the physical barrier made this impractical. Therefore, when employees in these positions were at lunch or out of the office, the other people in the office routinely became the backup to wait on customers at the counter or answer phones. While the City Administrator, Police Chief, Chief Financial Officer and Community Services Director are all happy to serve customers, it became disruptive to their workloads and was an inefficient use of resources. It also left customers waiting and sometimes, left customers unsure of which area they should enter.

Now when customers enter City Hall, there is one stop shopping. There is a large window where a person can go to get assistance. The new layout also is a more efficient use of space. Before there were two reception areas, the reception now uses an area in the hallway that was previously unused and has freed up the former reception areas to allow for the expansion of a filing area in the Police Department and a staff working conference table in the Administration area. In terms of accessibility, Oliver explained that if any citizen stops by City hall and wants to speak with a City official such as herself, she will come and speak with them, either in the hallway or inside in the conference area, wherever they felt comfortable. Tillotson noted that in addition, the opaque windows now have a leaf design in them, so people can see inside.

Betty Glover, 6803 Del Matro, noted that Mr. Maxwell's comments represent why it is hard to get people into public service. She thought his comments were inappropriate to bring to a council meeting. She was referring to West Help, a program to help low-to-moderate income homeowners, when her campaign worker was talking about funds for sewer repairs.

Jan Fletcher, 2237 70th Street, asked if the City would consider a program similar to one in Madison Wisconsin where citizens can rake leaves to the curb and the City would use equipment to pick up the leaves, avoiding the need for people to put leaves in bags.

Bob Bishop, 1128 64th Street, noted that he has studied and found as the water level at Saylorville rises, so does the water level in the ground surrounding the metro, so even if it does not storm a lot here in the City, a light rain can overburden the sanitary sewer with storm water. He wanted the council to take a good look at what it can do to help homeowners. Tillotson asked Oliver to provide an update on what is being done to the sewer system. Oliver said to address infiltration coming from private lines, the sewer district had recently indicated it would support a de-coupling incentive program beginning in the next fiscal year.

Jennifer Konfirst, 6518 NW Drive noted she is relatively new to the community and just wanted to say she is really enjoying living in the City. She loved the fire trucks out on Trick-or-Treat night.

Item 6: Consent Agenda - Roll Calls 296-302

Peterson moved Tillotson seconded approval of: Set date for public hearing to Monday, November 16th at 5:15 pm for review and consideration of revised and updated Windsor Heights City Code, Progress Payment No 4 for the Community Center project in the amount of \$116,933.04 to Prostruct Construction, Fire Report for September, Works Report for September, Receive and File for Audit Monthly Treasurer's Report for June, Approval of the June Clerk and Investment Report and Claims and Payroll. Dennis Block, 6412 University Ave, voiced his concern regarding the code and some of the changes. He asked if there could be a red-line version. Oliver explained it was not feasible because it was an entirely different format. However, staff will get some type of executive summary of changes posted. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Item 7: Presentation from Maria Hobbs, Iowa Department of Transportation, regarding the noise wall plans in the Windsor Heights Area

Hobbs showed the council the design for the new wall in Windsor Heights. She noted the DOT did study a noise wall near 66th to 68th Street, but the study indicated that not enough homes, and a cost/benefit ratio, would meet the requirements to necessitate a sound wall. Willits said maybe some extra trees would help with sound in that area. Peterson asked if we as a community would put in a sound wall, trees, instead of the DOT. Hobbs indicated anything may help some, like trees or a wall. Butz asked if the City could do a wall. Hobbs said she would need to discuss that with officials at the DOT. Peterson asked if the City could explore a wooden wall. Hobbs said yes, most likely. John Thompson, 6300 School #222 noted he strongly supports a sound wall from 65th to 63rd. He said many homes and apartments are in that area. He said if they revised some number of residents, the cost benefit ratio would increase tremendously. Thompson submitted a petition from residents at 6300 School in support of a wall. John McRoberts, the owner of 6300 School noted during construction of 235 he asked for a sound wall, that sound comes right up towards his property. Hobbs noted that Federal policy does not allow them to count the homes at 6300 School in the cost per resident ratio so they cannot use the funds they have on this section for a sound wall.

Item 8: Public Hearing on proposed Amendment #1 to the Amended and Restated Urban Renewal Plan for the Consolidated Windsor Heights Urban Renewal Area of the City of Windsor Heights, Iowa. And Consideration of a Resolution determining an area of the City to be an economic development area, and that the rehabilitation, conservation, redevelopment, development, or a combination thereof, of such area is necessary in the interest of the public health, safety or welfare of the residents of the City; designating such area as appropriate for an Urban Renewal Project; and adopting Amendment #1 to the Amended and Restated Urban Renewal Plan for the Consolidated Windsor Heights Urban Renewal Area. Roll Call 303

Sullivan opened the public meeting at 5:55 pm. Oliver noted she had received written comments from Allen Sydnies, which were provided to the council. Allen Sydnies, 2012 66th noted Oliver had answered most of his question and concerns; however, he had some additional questions and concerns that he shared with the council in a written document that will be saved with the record. Anne Burgess, 7036 Wilshire said she had spoke with Krueger and he said the property has never been up for sale. Oliver indicated that was inaccurate and noted that the property has had several offers from developers that were never able to be executed due to one factor or another. In fact, approximately five years ago, Casey's went through the site plan process at that location. Dennis Block, 6412 University, asked about the Bassman property because it was once described as the most important properties in the Urban Renewal Areas. Oliver explained at this time, the City is no longer pursuing that property. Dave Burgess, 7036 Wilshire, asked if the Krueger property is listed with a real estate agent. Oliver noted the property is not listed with a real estate broker but is for sale. Roger Maxwell, 7803 College suggested preparing an historical statement about the project.

Sullivan closed the public meeting at 6:12 pm

Tillotson moved approval, Peterson seconded approval. Roll Call vote passed with Hunter, Peterson, Tillotson and Willits voting yes. Butz voted no.

Item 9: Moved to the good of the order.

Item 10: Presentation regarding website enhancements. Oliver reviewed with the council a new feature on the website where citizens can submit questions and have the answers posted online for the public to view. Dennis Block, 6412 University, asked what the criteria would be for posting a question. Oliver said it would be questions of general interest to the City. Peterson asked if a question regarding the state budget and how that affects the City could be posted. Oliver said she would post that question.

Item 11: Council member inquiries.

Willits stated she is really proud of everything the City has accomplished and noted she has been really upset with the tone and actions that have taken place during this campaign. Hunter noted she is also really proud of the City and encouraged everyone to volunteer to help the City get even better.

Item 12: Mayor's inquiries.

None

Item 13: Committee or staff updates, if any.

VanAusdall reported that lines will be striped on 70th and 73rd Street this week. He also noted the light at Colby Park had been turned back on. John Thompson, 6300 School Street, asked if the picnic tables at Colby Park could be painted and a sign removed at Colby Park.

Chief Cross showed Council an article about the Windsor Heights Fire Department program that was in a national publication.

Item 14: Adjournment - Roll Call 304

Tillotson moved Willits seconded to adjourn at 6:28 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. on November 16, 2009. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Jerry Sullivan, Mayor

ATTEST:

Marketa George Oliver, City Administrator/Clerk