

**Windsor Heights (Iowa) City Council Regular Meeting Minutes – February 18, 2008  
Council Chambers, 1133 66<sup>th</sup> St. (Unabridged Version)**

**Item 1: Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Jerry Sullivan called meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. Council present: Diana Willits (at 5:15 p.m.), Carole Tillotson, Flo Hunter, Charlene Butz and Steve Peterson. Staff included: City Administrator Marketa George Oliver; Gary Walters, Police Chief; Christopher Cross, Fire Chief; John Wiedman, Director of Public Works; and Assistant City Attorney Rebecca Dublinske also present.

Mayor Sullivan asked Greg Edwards to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Item 2: Approval of the Agenda - Roll Call 036**

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

**Item 3: Good of the order.**

None.

**Item 4: Approval of the minutes - Roll Call 037**

Peterson moved Willits seconded to approve February 4<sup>th</sup> regular meeting minutes both published and unabridged versions are the same. Voice vote unanimous.

**Item 5: Consent Agenda - Roll Calls 038-045**

Tillotson moved Peterson seconded approval of setting the date of public hearing for the FY 2009 City Budget for March 3, 2008 at 5:15 p.m.; outdoor service privilege of alcohol at the Twisted Parrot Lounge on March 14, 15, 16 and 17<sup>th</sup>; liquor license for Ebenezer Frog's, 7460 Hickman Road; Duncan Larsen's Eagle Scout Project; January report for Police; January report for Fire; January report for Public Works Claims and Payroll. Voice vote unanimous. Vicki Sodawasser, 2101 68<sup>th</sup>, expressed concern at the Twisted Parrot and their outdoor service. She noted that many of their customers park across Hickman Road in Urbandale and are forced to cross the busy road, which creates a safety issue. Patricia Schneider, 6609 Lincoln Ave, is concerned about people crossing Hickman Road to go to the Twisted Parrot. She is also concerned about the city approving four days of outside drinking and believes if the Twisted Parrot has such large crowds, they should find an alternative location. Tillotson asked Police Chief Walters if he could monitor the area.

**Item 6: Presentation about the Convention and Visitors Bureau**

Greg Edwards, Executive Director, gave a presentation about the Convention and Visitors Bureau and shared with the council statistics about tourism in Central Iowa.

**Item 7: Consideration of a resolution 08-0218/046 approving the City of Clive's request to use Windsor Heights' right-of-way to connect the current end of the sidewalk at 80<sup>th</sup> Place and Hickman Road in Clive to the Urbandale trail system and the Windsor Heights trails at its intersection with the Urbandale Trail - Roll Call 046**

Butz moved Willits seconded approval. Roll call vote unanimous.

**Item 8: Consideration of Resolution 08-0218/047 fixing the date of March 3, 2007 for a meeting on the authorization of a loan agreement and the issuance of not to exceed \$1,500,000 general obligation capital loan notes for a City Hall project of Windsor Heights, Iowa and provide for publication of notice thereof - Roll Call 047**

Steve Peterson asked if "City Hall" could be added to the Agenda Statement. Betty Glover, 6803 Del Matro, asked what the City Hall project involved. Oliver said the money will be used for a redesign and upgrade of City Hall. Currently City Hall utilizes five heating units, which takes up a large amount of closet space. The City wants to utilize one central heating and cooling system, possible a geo-thermal unit. Oliver also noted the current layout of City Hall makes it difficult for people to function as their job should. Vicki Sodawasser, 2101 68<sup>th</sup>, noted that the Council's agenda for March 3<sup>rd</sup> is going to have lot of items. Melanie Hansman, 6605 Lincoln, wants to see a breakdown prior to bonding. Tillotson explained that it is like getting a pre-approval for financing a home. You figure out how much you have to spend and then you

work with it. Oliver noted that the specifications for the project would be developed and brought to Council with full cost estimates prior to any construction. Staff has been engaged with some preliminary meetings with architects to develop this information. At this point, it was necessary to include the item in the budget in order to move forward with it. Tillotson moved Willits seconded approval. Roll call vote unanimous.

**Item 9: Consideration of Resolution 08-0218/048 fixing the date of March 3, 2007 for a meeting on the authorization of a loan agreement and the issuance of not to exceed \$2,000,000 general obligation capital loan notes for the park redevelopment project of Windsor Heights, Iowa and provide for publication of notice thereof - Roll Call 048**

Tillotson moved Willits seconded approval. Roll call vote unanimous.

**Item 10: Consideration of Resolution 08-0218/049 fixing the date of March 3, 2007 for a meeting on the authorization of a loan agreement and the issuance of not to exceed \$5,000,000 general obligation capital loan notes for the Hickman Road Redevelopment Project of Windsor Heights, Iowa and provide for publication of notice thereof - Roll Call 049**

Melanie Hansman, 6605 Lincoln Ave, said she was disturbed and not happy with the burden that these bonds would place on the taxpayers. She asked why the projects cannot be done in a piecemeal fashion. Patricia Schneider, 6609 Lincoln Ave, asked if there would be an additional turn lane added to Hickman and 63<sup>rd</sup>. Oliver said the plan included a second, northbound turn lane at 63<sup>rd</sup> and Hickman. Tillotson moved Peterson seconded approval. Roll call vote unanimous.

**Item 11: Ordinance 08-05 revising Chapter 41, Zoning Code, provisions related to conditional use permits - Roll Call 050**

Tillotson moved the final reading of the ordinance, Willits seconded. Roll call vote unanimous.

**Item 12: Presentation and discussion of the City's proposed FY 2009 Budget**

Oliver gave a presentation to the City Council regarding the FY 2009 proposed city budget. She noted that the City's largest on-going expenditures is public safety and the reason for the City's large budget both the re-estimated of FY 08 and the FY 09 budget is related to capital projects. Tillotson said for less than \$17 per month, the City was going to be able to make an investment and do projects that the citizen survey noted were identified by the residents as needing to be done.

Linda Smith, 2019 68<sup>th</sup> Street, had questions about the City's budget, which Oliver answered. Cindy Chamberlin, 1540 68<sup>th</sup> St, has some problems with the proposed 21% increase in rates. The City just increased sewer and water rates for infrastructure, how much more money does the City need? She understands the City wants to improve things, but doesn't think it should be at the expense of green space and established trees when we have new commercial areas without any current businesses in them. She stated that the increased rates will not make Windsor Heights attractive to young families. Steve Peterson stated the money raised by the water and sewer rates will only raise enough funds to make repairs every other year and that money is only allowed to be used for water projects, which are sorely needed in Windsor Heights. Cindy mentioned she believes that more homes will turn into rentals with any higher tax rates in Windsor Heights. Oliver noted that based on the amount of taxes people actually pay, Windsor Heights remains competitive with its neighbors. For example, Windsor Heights' taxes were approximately \$30 more than Clive and slightly less than West Des Moines. Oliver also cautioned that the use of "21%" is somewhat misleading, because any time you have small numbers and you increase them at all, the percentage looks extremely large.

Vicki Sodawasser, 2101 68<sup>th</sup>, had some specific question above several budget line items. Oliver offered to meet individually with Vicki to go over the line items before the next council meeting when the council will actually vote on the budget. Vicki asked if the city could require an off-duty police offer to attend any tent activates at the Twisted Parrot. She also asked if the cost for the ambulance was covered by the revenues. Oliver said the revenue from ambulance calls was approximately \$50,000 per year. Chief Cross said there were a total of 612 calls for service last year. Of those, approximately 60% were EMS and 40%

were fire. Not all of the EMS (Emergency medical service) calls resulted in the transportation of a patient. It is when the City transports a patient that a charge is made.

Patricia Schneider, 6609 Lincoln Ave, asked if there was any state or federal money that could be used on these projects. Oliver mentioned that the Hickman project has a \$1,388,000 state grant for road improvements. Schneider mentioned she believed raising the tax 21% is way too high. Tillotson stated that 21% increase on a small amount of money really is not much of a change in the amount of money paid each month for a home. The average home in Windsor Heights will pay about \$17 per month, but in the end will get a new shelter house at Colby Park, a redesigned City Hall and a new development on Hickman Road. Tillotson also noted that the effect to the levy rate is anticipated to be only three to five years. It is short-term pain for long-term gain. Schneider asked if the city has considered a special assessment. Oliver said that could be one option. Schneider then asked if the increase was only on the City's portion of her taxes and Tillotson said yes. Schneider said that she does not have a problem with it then. Oliver noted that city taxes are not the main portion of property taxes. The school districts are the largest. Schneider asked if Windsor Heights could leave the Des Moines School District, as it had higher rates than the West Des Moines district.

**Item 13: Public Comments**

Melanie Hasman, 6605 Lincoln Ave, stated that sidewalks all along 70<sup>th</sup> have not yet been shoveled and that this is a public safety problem. She asked why the city is not out actively enforcing the code that makes people shovel snow off their sidewalks. Oliver stated that the city does not have the resources to have someone out driving the streets looking to see whether people have shoveled their sidewalk, but if a citizen calls or stops in city hall to let the city know that a sidewalk needs shoveled, then the city will go out and look at the area and give people notices about shoveling their sidewalks.

**Item 14: Council Member Comments**

Peterson noted that there was an article in the Des Moines Register about a girl who was hit by a car after walking on the road because there were no sidewalks. She will spend the rest of her life in pain and in a wheel chair.

**Item 15: Mayor's Inquiries**

Mayor Sullivan announced the Community Coffee Club would be Saturday morning at Grounds for Celebration.

**Item 16: Adjournment - Roll Call 051**

Willits moved Hunter seconded to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. on March 3rd. Voice vote unanimous.

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Jerry Sullivan, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Marketa George Oliver, City Administrator/Clerk

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