

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE AMES CITY COUNCIL

AMES, IOWA

JULY 27,

2010

The regular meeting of the Ames City Council was called to order by Mayor Campbell at 7:00 p.m. on July 27, 2010, in the City Council Chambers in City Hall, 515 Clark Avenue. Present from the Ames City Council were Davis, Goodman, Mahayni, Orazem, and Wacha. *Ex officio* Member England was also present. Council Member Larson was absent.

CONSENT AGENDA: Mayor Campbell announced that Item #6 on the Consent Agenda relating to revisions to the City's Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual had been pulled by City staff. Council Member Goodman asked to pull, for separate discussion, Item No. 8 (Master Services Agreement for processing credit/debit card payments on utility accounts), and Council Member Wacha asked that Item No. 11 (contract for CyRide Building Expansion Study) be discussed separately.

Moved by Goodman, seconded by Wacha, to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:

1. Motion approving payment of claims
 2. Motion approving minutes of Regular Meeting of July 13, 2010, and Special Meeting of July 20, 2010
 3. Motion approving civil service applicants
 4. Motion approving Report of Contract Change Orders for July 1-15, 2010
 5. Motion approving renewal of the following beer permits, wine permits, and liquor licenses:
 - a. Class B Beer – Pizza Ranch of Ames, 1404 Boston Avenue
 - b. Class B Beer & Outdoor Service – QDOBA, 806 South Duff Avenue
 - c. Class C Liquor - Capones, 2518 Lincoln Way
 6. RESOLUTION NO. 10-347 approving 2010/11 Contract for Human Services with Camp Fire USA
 7. RESOLUTION NO. 10-349 approving preliminary plans and specifications for construction of Vet Met Substation Expansion; setting August 25, 2010, as bid due date and September 14, 2010, as date of public hearing
 8. RESOLUTION NO. 10-350 awarding contract for Vet Med Substation SF₆ Circuit Breakers to Mitsubishi Electric of Warrendale, Pennsylvania, in the amount of \$192,715.64
 9. RESOLUTION NO. 10-352 approving renewal of contract with EMC Risk Services, LLC, to provide Third Party Administration for Worker's Compensation and Municipal Fire and Police Systems
 10. RESOLUTION NO. 10-353 approving renewal of contract with Baldwin Pole of Bay Minette, Alabama, for the purchase of Distribution Class Wood Utility Poles
 11. RESOLUTION NO. 10-354 approving contract and bond for Vet Med Substation Power Transformers
 12. RESOLUTION NO. 10-355 approving Plat of Survey for 615 Kellogg Avenue and 621 Kellogg Avenue/314 - 7th Street
 13. RESOLUTION NO. 10-356 approving Plat of Survey for 420-450 East 7th Street
- Roll Call Vote: 5-0. Resolutions declared adopted unanimously, signed by the Mayor, and hereby made a portion of these minutes.

AGREEMENT FOR PROCESSING CREDIT/DEBIT CARD PAYMENTS ON UTILITY ACCOUNTS: Council Member Goodman wanted to discuss the City charging a service fee for customers making utility payments on line via a credit card. He noted, however, that the proposed contract would decrease the service charge from \$4.95/transaction under the current contract to

\$3.50/transaction. Utility Accounts Manager Mike Wheelock advised that staff attempted to work with the company currently under contract with the City to get lower fees, but was unsuccessful.

Mr. Goodman said his concern was that, depending on the size of the utility bill, the service fee could be large. Also, he noted that no service fee is charged when customers pay parking fines online. He asked to know why there was a difference. Mr. Wheelock said that the main difference is that there are other options for utility bill payment, e.g., auto pay and a payment drop box. He advised that, due to the potential large cost of merchant fees, staff was asked to look for options where the City would not incur additional costs and then have to pass those on to all customers, not just those using the credit card services.

According to Mr. Wheelock, approximately 3% of the utility customers pay online with a credit card. In comparison, auto pay is used by approximately 18% of the total number of customers. He said that customers will have the option of auto-recurring payments under the new contract.

Moved by Goodman, seconded by Mahayni, to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 10-348 approving the Master Services Agreement with PaymentUS Corporation for processing of credit and debit card payments on utility accounts.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0. Resolution declared adopted unanimously, signed by the Mayor, and hereby made a portion of these Minutes.

CYRIDE BUILDING EXPANSION STUDY: As the City Council representative on the Transit Board, Council Member Wacha asked Transit Director Sheri Kyras to explain the contract in more detail. Mr. Wacha noted that the work under this contract has already started.

Ms. Kyras discussed the timeline for this project. She said CyRide had been working on the expansion of its building for over two years, and federal funding had been earmarked by the Congressional Delegation. One of the earmarks totaling approximately \$500,000 is set to expire in September. The City recently learned that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) was going to allow the funding to lapse unless the City could show forward movement on the project. The funding could be retained if work on the Expansion Study commenced. According to Director Kyras, the work did commence, is approximately 50% completed, and federal funding has been retained.

Moved by Wacha, seconded by Davis, to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 10-351 approving the contract with URS for the CyRide Building Expansion Study.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0. Resolution declared adopted unanimously, signed by the Mayor, and hereby made a portion of these Minutes.

PUBLIC FORUM: Nitin Gadia, 3129 Maplewood Road, Ames, said that he was recently made aware that the Union Pacific had notified the City that it was going to tear down what is referred to as “the Dinkey Bridge.” He recalled that the City had made an offer to purchase the bridge from the Union Pacific, which it did not accept. Mr. Gadia said that he then personally got in touch with Brenda Mainwaring of the Union Pacific to ask why the Railroad did not accept the City’s offer. According to Ms. Mainwaring, the Railroad was not agreeable to adding a crossing on Hazel Avenue if there were a bike trail installed in the future. She also said that land is an asset, and the Railroad would not donate two acres. Mr. Gadia advised that he asked if the City’s proposal would be acceptable if the requirement for a crossing at Hazel were taken out. Ms. Mainwaring said that the Railroad was not willing to provide \$30,000 in financial assistance to

the City to make needed repairs to the bridge. She also alluded to the number of pedestrian/train fatalities occurring in Ames and said the Railroad did not want to encourage any more pedestrian traffic.

According to Mr. Gadia, thousands of Ames residents care about the bridge and feel the real value of the bridge is immense. Referencing a petition formerly provided to the Council, Mr. Gadia said that represented only a small portion of the people who want the bridge saved. He urged the City Council members to visit the bridge in the next couple days and envision what it could be. Mr. Gadia requested that the City renegotiate with the Railroad to save the bridge. He recommended that the City modify its proposal to ask for \$30,000 in financial assistance for repairs to the bridge, but not require the crossing at Hazel.

No one else wished to speak, and the Mayor closed Public Forum.

NEW 8-MONTH SPECIAL CLASS C LIQUOR LICENSE FOR OCTAGON CENTER FOR THE ARTS: Moved by Mahayni, seconded by Davis, to approve a new 8-month Special Class C Liquor License for Octagon Center for the Arts, 427 Douglas Avenue.
Vote on Motion: 5-0. Motion declared carried unanimously.

5-DAY SPECIAL CLASS C LIQUOR LICENSE & OUTDOOR SERVICE FOR TASTE! TO GO: Moved by Davis, seconded by Mahayni, to approve a 5-Day Special Class C Liquor License & Outdoor Service for Taste! To Go and Catering at Reiman Gardens, 1407 University Boulevard.
Vote on Motion: 5-0. Motion declared carried unanimously.

JENSEN AVENUE PARKING REGULATIONS: Traffic Engineer Damion Pregitzer noted that a resident had made a request to restrict parking along one side of Jensen Avenue due to safety concerns in allowing two-way traffic along the street with parked vehicles on both sides. It was pointed out that if cars are parked on both sides, the street is reduced to one travel lane. That travel lane equates to approximately 14 feet, and the City prefers a 20-foot path for emergency vehicles. Mr. Pregitzer advised the Council that if this were a new subdivision, parking would be restricted on the side of the street where fire hydrants are located.

Council Member Wacha asked how it was determined to restrict parking on the east side, rather than the west side, of the street. Mr. Pregitzer advised that the City policy is to restrict parking on the side that contains the water main. Fire hydrants are normally located on the side with the water main. Mr. Wacha noted that, in this case, the hydrants were on the west. Addressing that, Mr. Pregitzer said that staff was attempting to be consistent with the City's policy to restrict parking on the side with the water main.

Council Member Goodman asked if having parked cars on the street was considered a traffic-calming mechanism. According to Mr. Pregitzer, maintaining two-way traffic and fire and police access outweighs the benefits of traffic-calming. A safety study had not been done, however, Mr. Pregitzer did not recall any accidents occurring in the location in question.

It was pointed out by Council Member Davis that there are parking regulations on Jensen, north of 24th Street, but none south of 24th Street. Mr. Pregitzer said that he could not find any historic information as to why the parking regulations did not continue south on Jensen; however, he

surmised that it was not the City's policy at the time the street was constructed to restrict parking on one side. City staff is now attempting to apply a current standard to an existing street.

Richard Grieve, 2031 Jensen Avenue, Ames, advised that he was the person who had made the initial request to restrict parking along one side of Jensen Avenue. He showed pictures evidencing cars being parked on both sides. Mr. Grieve said that he personally didn't care which side of the street contained the parking restriction, but thought it should be consistent with the regulations on Jensen north of 24th Street.

Tera Lawson, 2103 Jensen Avenue, Ames, expressed her opposition to restricting parking on the east side of Jensen Avenue. She doesn't understand why the City is proposing to restrict parking on the east side of the street when the west side includes two intersections and fire hydrants. Ms. Lawson noted that allowing parking on the side with the hydrants creates a safety concern for the residents of the area. She indicated that she was not opposed to allowing parking only on one side; however, she thinks it should be the west side.

Council Member Goodman noted that staff had received seven responses out of the 34 residents of Jensen Avenue. Two were not in favor of the City's proposal, but no reasons were given..

Mr. Pregitzer noted again that the staff's recommendation was made due to the City's policy of restricting parking on residential streets on the side that contains the water main. The existing hydrants on Jensen are located very close to 24th Street on one end and Barr Drive on the other end. There would be no-parking indicators painted on the curbs near the intersections and fire hydrants.

Council Member Orazem asked if additional hydrants would be placed on Jensen Avenue. Mr. Pregitzer clarified that there would not be. He said that, in case of a fire, the Fire Department would access the closest hydrant. Council Member Wacha inquired if the fire truck would be parked on Barr or 24th Street in order to access one of those hydrants. Fire Chief Clint Petersen said that as long as parking is not allowed by the fire hydrants, it would not matter to the Fire Department which side of the street contains the parking restriction.

Council Member Orazem pointed out that there would be more net parking spaces on the east side because there are no intersections on that side. Mr. Pregitzer said that the intent is not to maximize parking; it is more to maintain consistency with current City policies; i.e., restricting parking on the side of the water main. If the consistency issue is put aside, Mr. Pregitzer said staff would not have an issue with the parking restriction being on the west side. He said it was important to restrict parking on one side or the other so that a two-lane street would be open to traffic and emergency vehicles.

Moved by Wacha, seconded by Orazem, to direct the City Attorney to draft an ordinance modifying *Municipal Code* Section 18.31(133) to establish "No Parking" regulations along the west side of Jensen Avenue from 20th Street to 24th Street for all hours of the day.

Council Member Goodman advised that he would not be able to support the motion because there appeared to be disagreement in the neighborhood as to whether a change was needed. He believes that there are hundreds of streets throughout Ames that would have the same situation. It is his desire to have 100% of the neighbors in favor of a change before one is made; otherwise, he defers to the status quo.

Vote on Motion: 4-1. Voting aye: Davis, Mahayni, Orazem, Wacha. Voting nay: Goodman. Motion declared carried.

Council Member Pregitzer advised that no motion was needed directing staff to paint the curb around the intersections and/or hydrants. Individual property owners may ask staff to do that.

REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS FOR PROPERTY LOCATED IN BOONE COUNTY: Planning and Housing Director Steve Osguthorpe explained the request of Melvin Bell for a waiver of the City's subdivision standards for a 40-acre parcel in Boone County. The proposed division of land is intended to transfer the portion of the parcel lying south of U. S. 30 to an abutting landowner. The land will continue to be used for agricultural production, as is consistent with the Urban Fringe Plan Land Use Map. According to Mr. Osguthorpe, City staff did not feel there was a reason for the property owner to go through the subdivision process.

Moved by Mahayni, seconded by Goodman, to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 10-357 approving the request of Melvin Bell for a waiver of subdivision regulations for a 40-acre parcel located in Boone County.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0. Resolution declared adopted unanimously, signed by the Mayor, and hereby made a portion of these Minutes.

HEARING ON 2010/11 CDBG PUBLIC FACILITIES NEIGHBORHOOD INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM: Mayor Campbell opened the public hearing. No one wished to speak, and the hearing was closed.

Moved by Davis, seconded by Mahayni, to adopt RESOLUTION 10-358 approving final plans and specifications and awarding a contract to Manatt's, Inc., of Ames, Iowa, in the amount of \$315,507.00.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0. Resolution declared adopted unanimously, signed by the Mayor, and hereby made a portion of these Minutes.

HEARING ON SALE OF 1620 CLARK AVENUE AND 1621 CLARK AVENUE: The public hearing was opened by the Mayor. She closed same after no one came forward to speak.

Housing Coordinator Vanessa Baker-Latimer explained that the properties located on Clark Avenue were purchased by the City with Community Development Block Grant funds. These would be the seventh and eighth projects with Habitat for Humanity of Central Iowa for the neighborhood sustainability acquisition reuse program.

Council Member Orazem asked if there was an estimate as to what the properties, once rehabilitated, would be worth. He also inquired as to how many homes the City could purchase per year for this purpose. Ms. Baker-Latimer stated that four homes were purchased during the past CDBG fiscal year, and one is planned to be purchased during this fiscal year. Those homes will be put back on the market and sold to qualified buyers. Mr. Orazem requested to know Habitat's capacity for rehabilitating homes.

Dave Olson, Woolstock, Iowa, identified himself as the President of Habitat for Humanity of Central Iowa. He advised that the volunteer labor force, which is fairly plentiful, controls its

capacity for rehabilitating houses. The other factor is finding partner families that are willing to take a rehabilitated home and that match up with the type of home that is available.

Mr. Olson noted that Habitat will invest a considerable amount of labor and money to rehabilitate the houses. The buyer will purchase a home at 0% interest. Per agreement, the houses in question will have to be rehabilitated by November 2010 and April 2011, respectively. Mr. Olson estimated that these houses will sell for around \$95,000, which should equate to a payment for the buyers of approximately \$500/month, which is inclusive of the house payment, insurance, maintenance fee fund, and taxes.

Moved by Wacha, seconded by Mahayni, to adopt RESOLUTION 10-359 approving the sale of 1620 Clark Avenue and 1621 Clark Avenue to Habitat for Humanity of Central Iowa.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0. Resolution declared adopted unanimously, signed by the Mayor, and hereby made a portion of these Minutes.

ADOPTION OF 2009 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING, RESIDENTIAL, FIRE, EXISTING BUILDING, MECHANICAL, PLUMBING, AND FUEL GAS CODES: The Mayor advised that adoption of the *2008 National Electric Code* had been done by Ordinance No. 4001 on July 28, 2009, and will not be part of the discussion at this meeting.

David Brown, Building Official, advised that the Inspections Division has three main responsibilities:

1. Building Construction Inspection. This includes building, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, and fire inspections.
2. Rental Dwelling Maintenance. Noting that he had responded to a number of emails concerning the *Rental Housing Code* changes, Mr. Brown ensured the City Council that the inspectors are all highly capable, skilled, trained, and ethical.
3. General Property Maintenance. The Neighborhoods Inspector responds to neighborhood complaints and rental housing exterior property maintenance inspection.

Mr. Brown briefed the Council on the *International Codes* proposed to be amended. He said that, in 2003, an ad hoc citizen committee recommended that the City update local *Building, Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing Codes* at three-year intervals to coincide with the release of updated editions of the model codes (*International Building Code, Uniform Plumbing Code, and National Electrical Code*). The Insurance Services Office, a risk-rating organization, recommends adoption of model codes within one year of publication. The *Codes* are updated and published on three-year cycles. Mr. Brown added that in 2005, there were 93 pages of local amendments; in 2007, it was reduced to 67 pages; and in 2010, it has been further reduced to 49 pages.

Mr. Brown acknowledged the members of the Building Board, Plumbing and Mechanical Board, and the Board of Electrical Examiners.

Council Member Orazem asked what the Council will receive in its packet to prepare for the hearing. He requested to have a report on the changes. Chief Petersen said that a 23-page

supplement detailing the *Code* changes is available if the City Council members would like to review it.

According to Chief Petersen, the 2009 edition of the *International Residential Code* contained a sprinkler system requirement for new single-family homes. That requirement provoked heated national discussion and was successfully halted by the State due to opposition from Iowa's Home Builders. After a lengthy discussion in Ames, it was decided to recommend removal of the requirement by means of a local amendment until further state and national trends are identified.

Mr. Brown advised that the proposed 2009 *Codes* were reviewed with all members of the Building, Electrical, and Mechanical/Plumbing Boards during seven monthly public meetings. He stated that adoption of the current editions of the *International Codes* has the full support of all members of those Boards with the sprinkler requirement removed.

Per Chief Petersen, the issue of revitalizing second stories in the Downtown, (specifically what additional costs are being necessitated by *Code* requirements) arose after the Boards voted to adopt the 2009 editions. He told the City Council that it could have further dialogue on that issue if it so chose.

Chief Petersen explained that Chapter 13, the *Rental Code*, refers to some portions of the *Building Code*. Separate public meetings of the Property Maintenance Appeals Board to discuss the *Rental Code* have been scheduled on August 5 and September 2. Additionally, a Special City Council Meeting has been tentatively set for September 21 on the issue. Assistant City Manager Bob Kindred advised that there are some conflicts with that date, and it is subject to change.

Jim Gunning, 119 Hickory Drive, Ames, representing the Ames Rental Association, requested a two-month delay in implementing the new *Code* editions. He specifically requested to be provided with (1) a timeline of when the *Codes* were originally adopted in Ames, (2) a listing of changes, and (3) an opportunity to work with staff on discrepancies. According to Mr. Gunning, the delay would allow rental property owners to meet with City staff. He pointed out that rental unit turn-over in Ames occurs during the last two weeks of July and first two weeks of August. It is his feeling that adopting the 2009 *Codes* at this point only "muddies the water" and "adds an additional layer of interpretation."

Brad Heemstra, 2078 Michael Lane, Ames, shared his views as a first-year Building Code Board member. He felt it was productive to have all three Boards meet together. Mr. Heemstra noted that the Boards' discussions centered around technical construction-related issues, primarily pertaining to new construction.

Specifically referencing an email received pertaining to a commercial project (the Cyclone Cinema), which was a proposal to redevelop an old Campustown theater, Council Member Goodman asked staff to comment on that process. Chief Petersen said that that particular project required a multi-step process involving several entities. Ultimately, a compromise was able to be worked out between the University and the owners. He explained the differences between that type of project and rental property renovations.

Mayor Campbell noted that there were other possible dates that could be set for a public hearing on the adoption of the 2009 *International Codes* if the Council felt there were other issues that needed to be addressed. Assistant City Manager Kindred explained that there were very minor

changes from the 2006 to the 2009 editions. Mr. Heemstra noted that the Building Code Board did not spend a lot of time on the *Rental Code*; it dealt mainly with building codes for new construction.

Council Member Orazem said that he would like to start the process on August 10; however, not necessarily adopt the changes on that date. The Mayor noted that the hearing could be opened on that date and continued.

Council Member Davis noted that the *Codes* are very technical, and he would prefer to have a summary of the changes provided to the Council members as soon as possible so that they would have adequate time to review it. Council Member Goodman said it was important to him that all perspectives be heard.

Council Member Orazem asked staff to cover, at the Council's August 10 meeting, what defines a renovation versus a repair.

Moved by Goodman, seconded by Davis, to direct staff to provide a summary of changes to the *2009 International Building, Residential, Fire, Existing Building, Mechanical, Plumbing, and Fuel Gas Codes* to the Council for its meeting of August 10; after which a future hearing date would be set.

Vote on Motion: 5-0. Motion declared carried.

Chief Petersen recalled that it had been alleged that there are barriers for redevelopment of the Downtown Business District that have been created by *Code* requirements. If the Council is under that same assumption, it should direct staff to convene an ad hoc group to explore alternatives.

Moved by Mahayni, seconded by Orazem, to direct staff to consider alternatives for removal of *Code* barriers to the revitalization of the Downtown and Campustown areas.

Chief Petersen advised that there is no one identifiable group representing Campustown, which makes it more difficult to address issues. Assistant City Manager Kindred said that he had just recently seen the By-Laws for a new organization, the Campustown Action Association, which could serve that purpose.

Vote on Motion: 5-0. Motion declared carried unanimously.

URBAN DEER MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE: Chief Chuck Cychosz summarized eight recommendations proposed by the Urban Deer Task Force. These were created in an effort to increase participation in the program and create opportunities for neighborhoods to address the deer problem while at the same time avoid disruption of park users and respect those who have concerns about hunting in or around parks.

Moved by Goodman, seconded by Davis, to approve bow hunting in designated locations, including the park system and City property as detailed in the rules and Urban Deer Management Ordinance.

Vote on Motion: 5-0. Motion declared carried unanimously.

TEMPORARY INCREASE IN POLICE PERSONNEL: Chief Cychosz explained the Police Department's request to hire new officers as soon as a retirement or resignation date is known.

He noted that replacing a police officer is a very time-intensive process. The six-month lag time between hiring new officers and their being able to operate independently in the field has become increasingly important in the City's ability to maintain a full complement of officers on the street.

Council Member Goodman asked how this concept would be funded. Chief Cychosz said that it is possible that the additional funding to provide for overlap will not be necessary, since salary savings from the retirement of a more senior officer could be sufficient to cover the additional cost of an early hire. There is also salary savings from an officer on extended deployment in Afghanistan. In addition, \$40,000 was included in the 2009/10 Adjusted Budget, but not expended. If needed, the 2010/11 Budget could be amended in February to cover the costs.

After being questioned by Council Member Orazem, Chief Cychosz advised that officers may not attend the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy until the officer has actually been hired by a law enforcement agency.

Moved by Mahayni, seconded by Goodman, to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 10-361 approving a temporary increase in Police Department personnel.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0. Resolution declared adopted unanimously, signed by the Mayor, and hereby made a portion of these Minutes.

STORM UPDATE: Public Works Director John Joiner gave a chronology of events that followed the severe storm that hit the City on July 18. He said that expenses related to clean-up only are estimated to be approximately \$250,000. Certain planned street projects have had to be delayed and reprioritized due to the additional labor needed for storm clean-up. Assistant City Manager Kindred noted that the costs of the storm will significantly impact the City's General Fund. He said at this time, the City is not eligible for federal aid as the state of Iowa has not been declared a Federal Disaster Area. However, the County's Emergency Management Coordinator is working on gathering information in anticipation of pursuing federal funding.

Electric Services Director Donald Kom advised that in the early morning hours of July 18, over 2,300 calls for service were received. Mr. Kom explained the major electrical-related events that occurred during the storm and detailed the City's response. He said areas were prioritized as to the amount of damage incurred. Crews were working up to 18 hours straight. Many did not want to stop then, but the contract prohibits them working longer than that.

Council Member Goodman asked who was responsible for removing limbs from damaged trees. Mr. Kom said that the City has a contract with Asplundh Tree Service to clear limbs in the electric service areas, but the home owner is responsible for clean-up of other areas. He added that the City would, however, look at all unique situations.

Council Member Orazem noted that the City experienced 70-mph winds for a sustained amount of time. He felt that many residents did not realize the true magnitude of the storm. Mr. Orazem asked if the City had a count on the number of trees that were downed or damaged. Mr. Joiner said that the City did not have that number now, but would in the near future because it is required for FEMA.

Assistant City Manager Sheila Lundt recognized the volunteers from other agencies assisting the

City in the aftermath of the storm, specifically naming the RSVP and the Red Cross.

Police Chief Cychosz noted that no major injuries were reported from the severe storm. He said that the City had received a number of concerns about the sirens not being sounded. Chief Cychosz explained the policies to be followed, i.e., in response to a tornado warning or actual siting. Those policies are currently being evaluated; however, the sirens are designed as an Outdoor Warning System. If a person is inside, he suggested using weather radios.

Assistant City Manager Kindred advised that the City lost approximately 20 trees on its property. A major incident occurred when a tree on City property fell on a house. A crane had to be brought in to remove the tree; that cost approximately \$50,000. He also noted that volunteers are needed to clean up the limbs and other debris in City parks. Mr. Kindred asked that citizens notify the City if they see any hanging tree limbs that could be dangerous.

ORDINANCE VACATING JACKSON DRIVE RIGHT-OF-WAY ADJACENT TO 1605 AND 1609 JACKSON DRIVE: Moved by Goodman, seconded by Davis, to pass on second reading an ordinance vacating Jackson Drive right-of-way adjacent to 1605 and 1609 Jackson Drive.
Roll Call Vote: 5-0. Motion declared carried unanimously.

CONSERVATION SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE: Moved by Goodman, seconded by Davis, to pass on second reading the Conservation Subdivision Ordinance.
Roll Call Vote: 5-0. Motion declared carried unanimously.

COMMENTS: Again raising the issue of service charges for on-line debit or credit card utility payments, Council Member Goodman said he would like the City to explore other alternatives to charging customers.

Moved by Goodman to direct staff to look at other alternatives that do not include the \$3.50/transaction fee.

Council Member Davis noted that, since the City Council had approved the contract, alternatives could possibly be explored for next year.

Motion died for lack of a second.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Davis to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

Diane R. Voss, City Clerk

Ann H. Campbell, Mayor