

JOHNSTON CITY COUNCIL
Worksession No. 17-09
Johnston City Hall, 6221 Merle Hay Road
April 17, 2017
6:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Gerd Clabaugh called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
Mayor Dierenfeld arrived at 6:13 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Clabaugh, Lindeman, Brown, Cope, Temple
Absent: None
Council Member Cope arrived at 6:02 p.m.

3. CLOSED SESSION

Per Iowa Code §21.5.1 (j): To discuss the purchase of particular real estate only where premature disclosure could be reasonably expected to increase the price the governmental body would have to pay for that property. The minutes and the tape recording of a session closed under this paragraph shall be available for public examination when the transaction discussed is completed.

Council Member Cope arrived at 6:02 p.m.

Motion by Lindeman, which was second by Temple to enter into Closed Session

ROLL CALL: Aye: Lindeman, Brown, Temple, Clabaugh
Nay: None

Motion Approved: 4-0

The meeting entered into Closed Session at 6:01 p.m.

The meeting entered into Open Session at 6:07 p.m.

4. CLOSED SESSION

Per Iowa Code §21.5.1 (j): To discuss the purchase of particular real estate only where premature disclosure could be reasonably expected to increase the price the governmental body would have to pay for that property. The minutes and the tape recording of a session closed under this paragraph shall be available for public examination when the transaction discussed is completed.

Mayor Dierenfeld arrived at 6:13 p.m.

Motion by Lindeman, which was second by Cope to enter into Closed Session

ROLL CALL: Aye: Lindeman, Brown, Cope, Temple, Clabaugh
Nay: None

Motion Approved: 5-0

The meeting entered into Closed Session at 6:08 p.m.

The meeting entered into Open Session at 6:27 p.m.

5. UPDATE ON CONSOLIDATION AT JOHNSTON-GRIMES METROPOLITAN FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Jim Clark provided background for this item. Clark stated that administrative staff from both Johnston and Grimes met to discuss language contained in the 28E agreement that limits the movement of personnel. Grimes Administrator Kelley Brown stated during that meeting that it may be a good time for the councils to hear from the fire fighters in terms of how the consolidation is working from their viewpoint. With that introduction, Chief Clark invited any staff member present to share information from their perspective with the Council.

Lieutenant Sean McAndrew addressed the Council and provided background on his tenure here. McAndrew stated that when he was originally hired it was always under the premise that the cities would work collaboratively. McAndrew stated that over the past 5-6 years those collaborative efforts have increased.

McAndrew stated that both cities have the same equipment and that over the past year they have really enhanced the feeling that they are one group comprised of members of both cities. McAndrew stated that he feels while there will be challenges, this collaborative model is delivering the best services to citizens in both communities.

Council Member Cope thanked Lt. McAndrew and all the members of the fire department for their service and dedication to working together.

Other members of the Fire Department including Lieutenant Johnson and Lieutenant Price spoke and stated that they appreciate the collaboration between the two cities and all the positive growth over the past two years. They both stated the feeling among staff is that they are one unit and any language in the 28E Agreement should reflect that and the ability to remain cohesive. Firefighter Ginger McAndrew also addressed the Council, relaying her belief that the collaboration is a positive for both communities.

Firefighter Sean Benberg spoke and stated that as a tenured member he has seen a lot of changes and different service models. He stated that the current model is the most effective and efficient use of the cities' professional services. Benberg also stated that he feels the collaboration works best for the department and the citizens served.

Mayor Dierenfeld expressed gratitude to the staff for working through any issues and their collaborative work, plus their dedication and professionalism.

With some time left prior to the conclusion of the Work Session, City Administrator Jim Sanders began the Staff Comments of the Council Meeting. Sanders went over the bow hunt report and mentioned that this was the 18th year of having a safe and productive hunting season. Sanders mentioned the policy and direction is at a maintenance level now for maintaining the population. Council Member Temple asked if all approved properties actually had been hunted. Sanders replied that he believes they all do.

Sanders went over the resolution that was provided to the Council that came from the Central Iowa Regional Drinking Water Commission. The resolution passed by the Board also had a letter with it from the Board. Council Member Lindeman stated that the last minute Special Meeting had great attendance and that the three water boards have shown a willingness to work together. Council Member Lindeman stated the Board is still contemplating an appeal to the court ruling of the lawsuit. Lindeman also responded that Des Moines Water Works has been active with the Commission in the past and looks for continued and potentially enhanced involvement. Lindeman stated that he believes regionalization would be a good thing and that discussions over the past six (6) months will hopefully help toward that goal.

Sanders discussed a initiatives from Metro Waste Authority including an abundance of compost that is being made available to communities for public purposes. Johnston has taken advantage of that opportunity. Council Member Brown stated that he encourages the City to use as much as possible. The City of Johnston did not support single stream with comingling the compost and solid waste, but it is more likely to be necessary if there is an overabundance of compost without Metro Waste having a use for it. Sanders stated that the other initiative is a pilot program to collect plastic bags. The City is participating in it and if citizens bring in plastic bags they will receive a reusable bag.

Sanders stated that he, Public Works Director Matt Greiner, and Council Member Brown have been working with MidAmerican Energy to deal with the resident concerns and complaints over the street lights from the brighter LED lights.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Paula S. Dierenfeld, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cyndee Rhames, City Clerk