

Coralville City Council

Work Session

July 28, 2020

Via Electronic Meeting because a meeting in person is impossible or impractical due to concerns for the health and safety of Council members, staff, and the public presented by COVID-19

Present: Mayor John Lundell; Council Members Laurie Goodrich, Meghann Foster, Jill Dodds

Staff Present: City Administrator Kelly Hayworth, Assistant City Administrator Ellen Habel, City Attorney Kevin Olson, Director of Finance Tony Roetlin, City Clerk Thor Johnson, Community Development Director Dave Johnson

Others Present: Zachary Oren Smith, Iowa City Press Citizen; Lee Hermiston, The Gazette; Brian McClatchey, Cambus; Peter Abbott, 6th District Department of Correctional Services; John Weihe; Kathy Hotsenpiller; Mr. and Mrs. Brown; Aleka Stanton; Barb Richmond

Mayor Lundell opened the meeting at 8:30 pm.

1. August Planning and Zoning Submittals: Community Development Director Dave Johnson shared Lot 6 Coral Ridge Commerce Park Phase 6, Amended PUD Site Plan. Johnson said this was reviewed in June but the building materials changed significantly so the submittal will be considered again by both the Planning and Zoning Commission and the City Council. He noted the site is south of the Burger King on Coral Ridge Avenue and includes two buildings, one restaurant and one retail, with no change to the footprint.
2. Discussion on Filling Council Vacancy: City Administrator Kelly Hayworth said there are two options for filling the vacancy left by Tom Gill: appointment or election, and the decision needs to be made within 60 days of July 20, which was Gill's date of resignation. Hayworth said if no action is taken the opening will be filled by election. Hayworth said he spoke with County Auditor Travis Weipert, who told him there are currently three other vacancies in Johnson County, but school board elections are very different so sharing in election costs shouldn't be a consideration in making the decision. Hayworth said an election would cost \$10,000 to \$20,000 and the City can request the precincts be combined to lower costs. He also said absentee voting can occur for up to 29 days. Hayworth explained that if the Council chooses to appoint, 195 or 196 signatures would be required on a petition to force an election, and that would be due either 14 days after notice is made to fill by appointment or 14 days after the appointment is made. Hayworth said the process for appointment can be set by the Council and an appointment would last until November 2021; after the November 2021 election, any change in the office would take place immediately. Hayworth said if an election is chosen, it must be held at least 32 days after it is called for. Mayor Lundell asked the Council to be prepared to discuss and vote on this issue at the next regular meeting.

3. Discussion of Timeline and Priorities of Racial Justice Proposals: Hayworth shared data on arrests and citations, noting citations are tickets, and some are mandatory, such as when there is a car accident. He noted the compilation took longer than expected because of the death of the long-time administrative assistant in the Police Department who typically used the reporting system. Hayworth said the breakdown includes resident and non-resident categories, with more non-residents than residents arrested every year. Hayworth also provided use of force data and noted that has been in the department's annual reports, and a significant number of those involve animals. Hayworth said the race data is what is required by the state. Councilor Foster said it appears that there is disproportionality on arrests and if that is the case, would like to discuss how to address it. Hayworth said Chief Kron has been reviewing a University Heights ordinance that was developed with the NAACP, "University Heights Community Police Relations Ordinance: An Ordinance Prohibiting Racial and Other Profiling; Providing for Law Enforcement Implicit Bias and Other Training; Directing the Collection and Reporting of Data; and Establishing a Citizens' Advisory Board." Hayworth said Kron talked to the NAACP Director, who believes the ordinance is well done. Hayworth added that the ordinance could be adapted to Coralville's form of government. Hayworth then noted that Dr. Christopher Barnum, a professor at St. Ambrose University, analyzes law enforcement data for Iowa City and University Heights in a two-year process. Hayworth said the first year involves gathering baseline data and Dr. Barnum requires a two-year memorandum of understanding. Hayworth said that Chief Kron had good conversations with the NAACP and they can also help with providing or recommending training. He said that in University Heights, the NAACP had identified a person for the Citizens' Review Board. Regarding the data, Hayworth noted that one suggestion made by other cities is that the data is on the drivers license so is more available and easier to collect. Hayworth said he would talk to the NAACP staff regarding attending a meeting and would also share the University Heights ordinance. Councilor Dodds referenced Iowa City's Truth and Reconciliation Council and noted that all of the police departments signed a memorandum of understanding with a duty to intervene; she would like to consider a statement from Council. Councilor Foster said she is organizing conversations and will invite participation.
4. City Clerk Report: City Clerk Thor Johnson provided his report, noting cemetery plot sales increased by 5; cigarette licenses increased by 2; beer licenses decreased and liquor licenses increased; taxi licenses are on hold because of COVID 19 and no new inspections; peddler permits are down by 4; transient business permits are up by 1; block party permits are down by 1; and sound permits are down by 3 compared to fiscal year 2019.
5. City Administrator's Time: Hayworth reported on the following:
 - The study on Marriott operations is complete.
 - Dates are set for opening events for Xtream Arena and those will be shared soon; construction will be complete on August 14.
 - Staff is working with Latitude on several items that need to be completed.
 - The fire at Days Inn did not result in any injuries but there was significant damage.

Adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Notes taken by Ellen Habel, Assistant City Administrator