

Coralville City Council

Work Session

August 18, 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, Mitch Gross

Staff Present: City Administrator Kelly Hayworth, Assistant City Administrator Ellen Habel, Director of Finance Tony Roetlin, Chief of Police Shane Kron

Others Present: Dhuha Tawil

Mayor Lundell opened the meeting at 7:50 pm.

1. Urban Chicken Discussion: Dhuha Tawil of the Coralville Urban Chicken Network noted that chickens are a sustainable food source and she would like to see an enforceable, reasonable, responsible, and practical ordinance that allows up to six hens and no roosters in Coralville. Councilor Gross said concerns in the past were the attraction of predator animals and allowing roosters, and it appeared those concerns have been addressed. Tawil commented that most cities require a well-kept coop and hawks are the number one predator but chickens will be safe if in a secure pen. She also said education is important and suggested requiring education prior to awarding a permit. Tawil said that local businesses and veterinarians would help with education. Mayor Lundell asked staff to review the draft. Councilor Foster said she has questions related to slaughter and does not support banding. Councilor Goodrich asked if staffing levels of one animal control officer were adequate with the addition of chickens.

Ms. Tawil left the meeting at this time.

2. Discussion of Racial Justice Proposals: City Administrator Kelly Hayworth said that Chief Kron has invited Kevin Sanders, president of the local NAACP chapter, to speak to management team about the organization, its resources, and how it can help. Hayworth said Betty Andrews, the president of the Iowa/Nebraska chapter of the NAACP, is available for the next council meeting to share her thoughts on the University Heights ordinance. Chief Kron reviewed the University Heights ordinance, noting three primary parts: a citizens' review board, study of data, and training. Regarding the citizens' review board, he said Coralville officers do a great job and he has no problem with another set of people reviewing. Regarding data, Kron said there is a lot of information and it needs to be broken down further and more thoroughly, and that started with the approval of the contract at the regular meeting. Regarding training, Kron said he speaks with Kevin Sanders regularly and that the NAACP has access to a lot of resources for both training and recruitment. Kron

said he has been working to diversify the department for three years and welcomes new ideas from Sanders. Regarding the testing for new officers, Kron said the test is the Iowa Law Enforcement Association standard. Hayworth added any changes needed to adapt the University Heights ordinance to Coralville are minor. He said the State of Iowa Civil Service statute addresses how officers are certified for hire through the Civil Service Commission and that the Commission is the appeal body for any discipline. Hayworth added that the collective bargaining agreement and state law do not allow anyone but the chief of police to discipline officers. Councilor Gross inquired about cameras. Chief Kron responded that on a regular shift all officers start with cameras but sometimes they malfunction or a battery goes dead; they are not activated when handling a sensitive case such as sexual assault where the victim is not identified. Kron said the car cameras are activated when the emergency lights are turned on. He noted that undercover officers and detectives do not wear cameras, and on days with many officers working there aren't enough cameras for everyone to wear one. Councilor Foster noted the Parks and Recreation Department budget is larger than the Police Department budget and it was important to look at how we engage with marginalized communities and what law enforcement is doing that isn't law enforcement. Kron noted the department responded to 37,000 calls for service last year, which is more than any other department of this size, and they are involved in thousands of calls a year that aren't police work but people don't know who else to call.

3. City Administrator's Time: Hayworth reported on the following:
 - Governor Reynolds provided \$100 million in CARES act funding for cities and counties in Iowa and the Coralville share is over \$500,000; the process to begin the claim will begin at the next meeting.
 - Arena opening dates of September 17 and 20.

The City Council briefly discussed the request and recommendation to suspend the social services application process for two years.

Adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Notes taken by Ellen Habel, Assistant City Administrator