

Coralville City Council

Work Session

July 7, 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, Tom Gill

Staff Present: City Administrator Kelly Hayworth, Assistant City Administrator Ellen Habel

Others Present: Dr. Melvin Donaldson, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics; Kate Payne, Iowa Public Radio; Kathy Hotsenpiller, resident

Mayor Lundell opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

1. COVID-19 Pandemic Discussion: Councilor Dodds shared information regarding transmission of coronavirus, asked people to be role models for wearing masks, and provided tips for encouraging people to wear masks. Dr. Melvin Donaldson, a resident at UIHC, reiterated Councilor Dodds' information and modeled various types of masks. City Administrator Kelly Hayworth said the legality of mandating masks is a question, with the Johnson County Attorney and the Iowa Attorney General both determining it is not an action a city can take; the Coralville City Attorney concurs. Hayworth said a proclamation encouraging masks is an option. Mayor Lundell commented that he supported a proclamation. Hayworth said City staff are required to wear masks when they cannot practice social distancing. Council discussed the importance of encouragement rather than punishment. Hayworth explained why the City can enact a curfew but not mandate masks. Mayor Lundell noted that more people are wearing masks. He suggested the Council work on a proclamation for adoption at the July 14 meeting.
2. Presentation of Information Requested and Establishment of Timeline for Implementation of Racial Justice Proposals: Mayor Lundell said that he asked Councilor Gross to lead this initiative. Councilor Gross said Chief Kron has provided responses to a lot of the Council's questions and he or the staff will send out the information on July 8. Hayworth noted the information includes responses from several staff, including himself, the city attorney, the human resource/risk manager, and the chief of police. Hayworth said it would be important for the Council to review the document. In response to a question, he noted Coralville police have not fired a weapon in over 30 years. Regarding use of force, Hayworth noted that is provided to the Council annually by the Chief in his report and could be provided again. Councilor Gross commented that teachers today are called upon to be nurses, social workers, and other roles, and the same is true for police officers. He also commented that police have been called to schools for non-emergency situations and that needs to be corrected. Hayworth said the information for the Council includes the responses to schools

and patrols at school grounds. Councilor Gross said that of 157 calls for officers to Northwest Junior High in the last two years, all of the officers' responses were amazing, above and beyond. Councilor Foster said it is important that the public knows that the Council is working on this and it's a priority, but also a process that will take time. Mayor Lundell reminded the Council that it is easy to compare Coralville to neighboring cities that are much larger and have larger staffs.

Adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Notes taken by Ellen Habel, Assistant City Administrator