

JOHNSTON CITY COUNCIL  
Worksession No. 16-09  
Johnston City Hall, 6221 Merle Hay Road  
April 18, 2016  
6:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Dierenfeld called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Clabaugh, Lindeman, Brown, Cope, Temple

Absent: None

Council Member Clabaugh arrived at 6:27 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.

Motion by Brown second by Lindeman to enter into Closed Session.

ROLL CALL: Aye: Lindeman, Brown, Cope, Temple

Nay: None

Motion Approved: 4-0

The meeting entered into Closed Session at 6:06 p.m.

The meeting entered into Open Session at 6:20 p.m.

4. DISCUSS POSSIBLE GUIDELINES TO ADMINISTER THE STORMWATER UTILITIES HOMEOWNER GRANT PROGRAM

Community Development Director David Wilwerding introduced Planning Intern Clayton Ender, noting that the proposed grant program would be managed by the new Planner position anticipated to be filled in the new fiscal year.

Ender reviewed the proposed guidelines, including what other metro communities were doing. Ender noted that staff recommended not limiting the program to a single practice, such as rain barrels, but allow homeowners latitude with their projects. Ender noted that there was currently one-percent, or approximately \$7,000, of the Stormwater Utility dedicated to the grant program but that amount could be increased in future years. Ender noted that staff was recommending a maximum award of \$750 for best management practices, and \$75 for rain barrels.

Council members noted they were in favor of the project but would like to see additional funding in future years.

5. DISCUSS CHANGES TO CHAPTER 170 ZONING CODE, SIGN REGULATIONS AND PERMIT FEES FOR SIGN PERMITS

Building Inspector Eric Rehm addressed the Council regarding the sign permit fees. He noted that the fees had remained unchanged for the past 13 years. He also noted that as currently structured, the existing Ordinance imposes a flat fee for signs, which disproportionately equates the value of the sign cost to the property.

He noted that staff suggests going to a fee structure based on the square footage of the sign. Council members noted that they were supportive of the change but also suggested that staff look at the existing Ordinance related to sign materials being comparable to the architecture of the building being signed.

6. DISCUSS CHANGES TO CHAPTER 99-SEWER USER CHARGE AND CHAPTER 92-WATER RATES

Water/Wastewater Superintendent Shane Kinsey reviewed the proposed changes, noting that the first consideration of the changes was also on the non-consent agenda. Kinsey noted that the rates had not been changed since at least 2002. Kinsey advised that the sewer rate change was related to the issuance of a Construction Sanitary Sewer Permit which would allow up to 210 days of unmetered sanitary sewer usage for the construction of one residential single-family dwelling.

Kinsey noted that the water fee changes would allow new residential builders the unmetered water for 210 days, as well as increase the deposit on hydrant meters. He also noted that the changes would increase the fees associated with disconnection and restoral as well as increasing the deposit that new customers would pay when they start service without a letter of credit from a previous utility.

Council members noted that they were supportive of the changes.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cyndee D. Rhames, City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paula S. Dierenfeld, Mayor