

Minutes of the 10-5-15 Hampton City Council Workshop

The Hampton City Council held a workshop at 6:00 p.m. in city council chambers. Members present; Jay Hickman, Dick Lukensmeyer, Jim Davies, Dyanne Pralle and Meghan Freie. Absent; Harms. Also present were Mayor Brook Boehmler, City Manager Ron Dunt, Public Works Director Doug Tarr and Police Captain Mark Morrison.

Public Comment: Barry Lamos, 215 3rd St. SE, suggesting that the Hampton Tree Board consider logging all walnut trees in city ROW, due to the mess they make in storm sewers. He proposes using the proceeds to purchase replacement trees for parks.

Mike and Sue Rodemeyer, 514 3rd St SE, expressed frustrations with the accumulation of parts, trailers, vehicles and large steel storage containers on the lot adjacent to them, owned by Butch Gruelke. Jerald Whipple, 215 5th Ave SE, voiced similar concerns as well as pointing out that 522 4th St SE, owned by Guido Gutierrez Vidal, is a mess and reflects poorly on travelers entering Hampton from the south. Doug Tarr and Ron Dunt explained that Butch Gruelke has requested that the subject property be re-zoned to A-T. The Planning and Zoning Commission will be hearing the request on October 22, 2015, at 5:00 p.m. After much discussion, Mayor Boehmler encouraged all concerned to attend the Planning and Zoning meeting on the 22nd to voice their opinion on the matter.

Mark Crawford, CGA, discussed the alley approach on 1st Ave NE between 7th and 8th Streets. The property owner, Marion Johnson, was also present and expressed her concern with the height of the sidewalk being 15" higher than the height of the alley. Mark outlined the following options: the sidewalks to the east and west of the alley could be removed and replaced to meet the alley grade but would have to be installed per ADA standards or the alley could be filled to a level that meets the grade of the existing sidewalks. A third option would be to eliminate the sidewalks altogether was discussed. There was no consensus on who would pay for any of the options. Mrs. Johnson also explained that many years ago, (1970's) when Glendale Park subdivision was constructed, the city lowered 1st Ave in front of her property. The lowering of the street reduced the coverage of her water service line, and she froze up two years ago. The consensus of the Council was that they would have Mark Crawford compile cost estimates for the three alley options for Council consideration at a future meeting.

Mark Crawford then discussed his analysis of the complaint received from Steve and Mardell Van Kleeck, 612 8th St SW, regarding grass seeding and garden shed tipping, which they believe to be a result of the water main replacement project. Crawford reviewed photos he had taken prior to and after the project, and determined that the shed has not moved as a result of this project. He also explained that the grass seed should be given more time for growth before any further consideration. Doug Tarr also explained that he had held two public informational meetings with property owners and explained that the seeding would need to be watered by property owners and the full seeding may take a year to become established. Mayor Boehmler had also met with some property owners and viewed some tracks made by the contractor between two homes. Tarr explained that he wasn't aware of the tracks but would take care of filling them in, since the contractor obligations are completed.

Jordan Hansen, IDNR, presented information regarding deer populations within the city limits of Hampton and potential considerations of allowing an organized, city-sponsored hunting program. Information centered around safety of the citizens. After much discussion the Council did not reach a consensus for any changes at this time but asked staff to research other communities' ordinances.

Dunt handed out a draft Interment Rights Agreement (IRA) and Cemetery Rules and Regulations for Council to review and consider for revisions. Dunt will seek input from the City Attorney on the IRA and these documents will be discussed again at the next workshop.

The Council briefly discussed scheduling a Council Goal Setting session and will discuss further at a future meeting.

Dunt gave timeline of the library improvement projects as generated by Mike Danburg, SEH. The timeline estimates a bid opening on 11-12-15, approval of contract 12-10-15, construction of Division I beginning 3-28-16, construction of Division II beginning 5-30-16, with completion of Division II 7-29-15.

Meeting concluded at 8:07 p.m.