

The Hiawatha City Council met in a work session on June 11, 2008. Mayor Theis called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Council members present: Linda Bendixen, Dick Olson, Marty Bruns, Bob Rampulla. Nancy Melsa arrived at 6:03 P.M. Staff present: City Administrator Dave Van Dee; Deputy City Clerk, Cindy Kudrna; City Attorney, Randy Scholer; Water Superintendent, Carl Ransford and Water Operator II, Marty Recker. Guest present: Dan Hoffman and ABC Disposal-Chad and Trent Carter.

Marty Bruns moved the approval of the agenda with the removal of item number four (4) Fire Department EMS Administrative Uncollectible Accounts due to Chief Nesslage assisting the surrounding community with flood preparation, second by Bob Rampulla. Motion carried.

#### **Code of Ordinances Chapter 57 Dangerous and Vicious Animals**

City Attorney, Randy Scholer provided the city council with the changes that he made to Code of Ordinances Chapter 57 Dangerous and Vicious Animals.

The changes discussed consisted of the deletion of 57.01 L. (5) Dogs of mixed breed or other breeds which are known as pit bulls, pit bulldogs, or pit bull terriers to read Any mixed breed of dog which contains as a partial element of its breeding the breed of Bull Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, or American Pit Bull Terrier. 57.01 L. (6) to additionally read American Staffordshire Terrier, or American Pit Bull Terrier, and the deletion of American Staffordshire Terrier, any other breed commonly known as pit bulls, pit bull dogs or pit bull terriers or a combination of any of these breeds and the addition of 57.01 L. (7) A DNA test that sets forth the breed or breeds of a particular dog shall be conclusive evidence of that particular dog's breed or breeds.

The City Council discussed the changes that were recommended by the City Attorney. After a lengthy discussion the city council agreed with all the changes being recommended by the City Attorney, but did not agree to add 57.01 L. (7) A DNA test that sets forth the breed or breeds of a particular dog shall be conclusive evidence of that particular dog's breed or breeds.

*Council instructed staff to place setting the public hearing date of July 2, 2008 for the consideration to amend the Code of Ordinances Chapter 57 Dangerous and Vicious Animals on the June 18<sup>th</sup> agenda. Council also noted that they will revisit the Dangerous and Vicious Animals chapter after forming a sub-committee to re-write the code*

#### **Code of Ordinances Chapter 106 Resource Recovery and Refuse Disposal Section 01 allowing for additional sizes of "Rigid Containers" for residential waste**

Trent and Chad Carter of ABC Disposal spoke with the city council to discuss automated residential garbage disposal services. Chad Carter stated that automated trash collection has proven to be safer and much more efficient than the current manual-loading method of trash collection. Automated collection also provides for fewer injuries and allows for a more accurate record of waste volumes. To provide such a service the city council would

need to amend the City Code of Ordinances Chapter 106 Resource Recovery and Refuse Disposal Section 01 to allow for automated services and additional cart sizes.

*Council instructed staff to place on the June 18<sup>th</sup> agenda setting a date of July 2, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. for the consideration of a public hearing to amend the Code of Ordinances Chapter 106 Resource Recovery and Refuse Disposal to allow for automotive collection services.*

**Discussion of a new ordinance regarding Geo-Thermal Well Standards**

Water Superintendent, Carl Ransford and Water Operator II, Marty Recker discussed with the city council the need for Geo-Thermal regulations. Ransford stated due to the high amounts of interest in geo-thermal systems, mainly the open loop system it would be in the best interest of the city to place some kind of regulation to protect the city's water aquifer or any aquifer the water department may draw from, from possible contamination.

Ransford spoke about the open loop geothermal system. An open loop system otherwise known as a "pump and dump systems" remove large amounts of water from the aquifer, heat and/or cool a structure then returns the water to the environment by means of streams, waterways, or injection back into the ground. This amount of water usage burdens the water system with increased costs of treatment, equipment and energy to operate. There are also infrastructure issues with the large amount of water that is being sent back into the environment.

Ransford suggested the following:

1. Prohibit open loop geothermal systems
2. Permit closed loop systems with horizontal looping, prohibit vertical looping (to prevent voids for leakage into aquifer)
3. Require a permit for construction of the geothermal systems

*Council additional requested that the geothermal re-injection should not be allowed.*

*Council instructed staff to place on the June 18<sup>th</sup> agenda setting a public hearing date of July 16, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. for the consideration of adding and/or amending the City Code of Ordinance to allow for Geothermal regulations*

**Cedar Rapids Sign on Lithia Dealership**

Mayor Theis asked the city council if he could talk to Lithia Auto Dealership located in the City of Hiawatha concerning the wording on their sign specifically the words Cedar Rapids.

*Council gave the Mayor the go ahead to contact the Lithia Dealership regarding their signage.*

**Citizens Survey-2008**

The City Clerk presented two citizens' survey samples, one from the City of Marion and the other from Ames. The sample surveys reflected opinion questions pertaining to the City itself and their quality of services, capital improvement priorities, neighborhood concerns and established open-ended questions.

Council member, Dick Olson shared with the council that he had e-mailed Jeff Schott of the Institute of Iowa Affairs regarding his thoughts on citizen's surveys. Schott was the City Administrator that implemented the very successful citizen's survey for the City of Marion. Additionally Schott suggested in his e-mail that he would be available to assist the City of Hiawatha in developing a Hiawatha citizen's survey for less than a \$1,000.00.

*Council instructed staff to proceed with the investigation and research for implementing a citizen's survey.*

**Council Discussion regarding Economic Development Policy-T.I.F**

The City Council reviewed the City of Hiawatha's Economic Development Policy Statement, the ABC's of Iowa Urban Renewal guide and Iowa State Code Section 15A Use of Public Funds to Economic Development for its purposes and its value specifically relating to the City of Hiawatha.

The Council additionally discussed the economic development incentives relating to remodeling, retail and residential. Traditionally the city has not done Tax Increment Financing rebates for remodels, however the assistance is allowable.

City Administrator states the reason for offering T.I.F. rebates for remodeling was for the purposes of rehabbing those buildings that are maturing. Olson iterated the exclusion of residential and retail. Olson speaks of the city's limitation of debt and land. Olson would like to see those dollars be used for new businesses only.

Bob Rampulla stated that the city would want and should maintain the portion of the rehabilitation policy for those buildings that are maturing. Rampulla also stated that the city only uses the increase from the assessed property value increase to determine the rebate amount.

Dick Olson suggested the city needs to maintain a watchful eye on our general obligation debt.

Linda Bendixen added that she felt the City Administrator had a good handle on our economic development rebates and that staff would inform the council if our T.I.F. dollars were not being spent wisely.

*Council would like the staff put a spread sheet together that demonstrates where the rebates are and what their current status is, the city's current obligations and what future funds are available for economic development rebates.*

**Chamber Dollars available for the City of Hiawatha**

The Cedar Rapids Chamber has been maintaining \$21,500.00 for the use of the City of Hiawatha. Council Member, Linda Bendixen spoke with the council regarding their thoughts on how to spend those dollars.

In an earlier meeting the council discussed the possibilities of a reader sign or a gazebo to be used in the city's future green space in front of the City Hall parking lot. The council further discussed the cost of installing and maintaining either option. If the council would choose the reader sign conduit for electrical wiring would need to be installed, the estimated cost of installation would be \$3,000.00.

Both Dave Van Dee and Dick Olson asked how long the council would have before committing to one option or the other and if the city needed to be specific as where the item would be placed.

Linda Bendixen stated that she would like to know what the council's preference is so that she could go back to the Cedar Rapids Chamber to insure the dollars are being earmarked for the use of the City of Hiawatha.

Council instructed staff to send a letter to the Cedar Rapids Chamber by September 1<sup>st</sup> recognizing that the chamber dollars are available, and that the City is interested in using those funds for purposes of a reader sign or a reader board, but at this time the City is not far enough in the planning stages to know where the City would place either option.

*Council instructed staff to prepare a resolution for the consideration of endorsing a reader sign and acknowledge the availability of those dollars for the purposes of the City of Hiawatha and place on the June 18<sup>th</sup> agenda.*

**Retaining Wall fencing adjacent the City Hall's east parking lot**

City Administrator, Dave Van Dee spoke with the council regarding his concerns with the drop off along the retaining wall adjacent to the city hall's east parking lot. To meet our city code requirements the city will need to install a fence along the retaining wall to ensure the safety of the pedestrians walking along the sidewalk.

Van Dee presented two quotes for black vinyl chain link fence they are as follows:

- D & N-\$5,750.00
- Lifetime Fencing-\$4,269.50 (commercial grade) or \$2,655.00 (residential grade) plus \$120.00 per sonotube for adjustment

Van Dee also noted this fence would only be temporary due to the Robins Road/North Center Point Road/Emmons Street future intersection improvements.

Dick Olson stated that he understood the importance of installing a fence along the retaining wall, but he would rather not install a black link chain fence. Olson suggested using some kind of decorative fencing instead. Bendixen agreed.

*Mayor Theis volunteered to research different styles of decorative fencing and its cost.*

**City Hall Parking Lot Bio-Swell**

City Administrator, Van Dee spoke to the council regarding the fill material needed for the city hall parking lot center island bio-swell. Van Dee stated that he had spoke with Curtis Contracting and Ricklefs' Excavating regarding hauling the fill material for the bio-swell. The fill would consist of backfill material of 50% sand, 30% black dirt, and 20% compost.

The quotes were as follows:

- Curtis Contracting- \$40/yard X 120 yards= \$4,800.00
- Ricklefs'-\$2,950.00

Van Dee determined that Curtis Contracting in the amount of \$4,800.00 was the appropriated quote. Curtis Constructing is the sub-contractor who poured the concrete for the new city hall parking lot project and who currently holds the liability on the installation of the concrete.

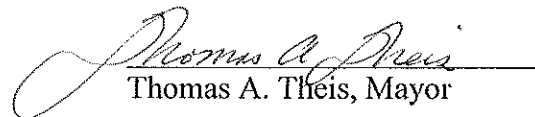
Council instructed staff to prepare a resolution for the June 18<sup>th</sup> agenda to consider awarding the bio-swell.


**Import Specialties-Landscaping Issue**

Mayor Theis stated that he was contacted by the owner of Import Specialties to discuss the removal of the bushes along North Center Point Road that are placed along the front of his business. Theis stated that he will visit with Import Specialties; however he was not sure that they would come to an agreement.

Bendixen stated that the City should take a serious look at the city's landscaping along North Center Point Road and the other business district areas.

Marty Bruns moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 P.M., second by Dick Olson. Motion carried.

  
Thomas A. Theis, Mayor

ATTEST:   
Kim Downs, City Clerk