

Coralville City Council

Work Session

April 28, 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, City Attorney Kevin Olson, Director of Finance Tony Roetlin, Community Development Director Dave Johnson, Chief of Police Shane Kron

Mayor Lundell opened the meeting at 7:40 pm.

1. **May Re-zonings:** There were no submittals for review. However, City Administrator Kelly Hayworth introduced Community Development Director Dave Johnson, who began work in late March. Hayworth noted Johnson has experience in both the building and planning aspects of the position. Johnson said he is a 1999 graduate of the University of Iowa with a BS in geography and also has an MPA from the University of Missouri. Johnson said he started his career near Chicago in residential plan review, and then with the City of Dubuque beginning in 2005, where he worked with zoning, planning, subdivision review, variances, and facilities management.
2. **Police Department Report:** Chief of Police Shane Kron presented his departmental report. He noted Karen Mutchler will celebrate her 42nd anniversary with the department on May 15, which will also be her retirement date. Regarding other staffing updates, Kron said Rich Smith retired in the last year, three new officers were hired, and K-9 Roxi was added. Kron said there were 37,163 calls for service in the last year which was pretty consistent with recent years, and the southwest area of the city is the most frequent area of calls. Kron said 911 hang-up calls, medical calls, and animal bites of other animals are up. He reported 53 deer were taken in the hunt last year which is fairly consistent with recent years. Related to COVID-19, Kron said Safety Village 2020 has been cancelled, overall calls are down, and calls regarding domestic disputes, neighbor disputes, and medical concerns are up.
3. **COVID-19 Response:** Hayworth noted closures of city facilities were extended to May 15 based on Governor Reynolds' proclamations, and expressed his hope that indications of reopening would come one to two weeks in advance as they have thus far. Hayworth said discussions will begin with Management Team regarding steps to prepare for reopening beginning April 29. He also reported that he and Assistant City Administrator Ellen Habel had discussed Mayor's Clean Up Week and the importance of providing that service, although perhaps delayed from the original date. He said Habel suggested a second

collection of trash as an option for residents to discard some additional items since they are home more. Hayworth said information about those events would be finalized soon.

Regarding utility billing, Hayworth said forgiveness of bills would be a real challenge, and other cities were saying the same thing. He noted there are covenants with the State Revolving Fund regarding coverage that would require offsetting losses with the General Fund. Hayworth suggested continue the plan of not shutting off water and not charging late fees until a certain date, then at some point work with each household on a repayment plan. He stressed the importance of covering the city's expenses and the fairness issue associated with those who would have charges forgiven versus those who wouldn't. Hayworth said he would provide additional information regarding the delinquent bills and what type of accounts those are.

Regarding 4th Fest, Hayworth said the Committee will meet again in 2 weeks for further discussion.

4. Financial Review: Director of Finance Tony Roetlin reviewed estimates for revenue sources with COVID-19 impacts, including hotel/motel tax, property taxes, road use taxes, and utility accounts. He also reviewed anticipated departmental revenue losses and expense reductions. Hayworth commented this would not be a one-year issue.
5. City Administrator's Time: Hayworth reported on the following:
 - He commended Parking and Transit Director Vicky Robrock for working with Latitude regarding daytime transit service that would expand destinations for residents of Latitude and increase ridership and revenues for Coralville Transit.
 - Hayworth shared information regarding weather siren locations. He noted the siren at Brown Deer Golf Club had been moved south to the roundabout to allow for development, which also provides better coverage in the Iowa River Landing. He said another siren would be required farther north to provide complete coverage, and that siren locations required elevation and access for siren service and maintenance. He said proposed locations were Auburn East at 1st Avenue and city property south of that location. He said a proposed location on Rustic Ridge did not provide the access required for maintenance. Hayworth said he had spoken with the neighbors and would get additional maps of siren coverage, and right now the location south of Auburn East at 1st Avenue appeared the best. He said the location at Kiddie Korral would also be reviewed since it is older and has a very small coverage area.
 - Council member Goodrich suggested the City Council recognize Karen Mutchler for her service.

Adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Notes taken by Ellen Habel, Assistant City Administrator