

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
Special Meeting
Monday, January 15, 2018

CALL TO ORDER: By Mayor Lewis, Monday, January 15, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Lewis, Councilmembers Bahmer, Johnston, Mitchell, Russo, Baker, City Manager Guetschow, Community Development Director Myrkle and City Clerk Terpstra.

ABSENT: Council member Ridge

DISCUSSION REGARDING RV PARKING:

Community Development Director Myrkle gave an overview of the RV Parking discussions held at the Planning Commission level and of the survey that was sent out with those results. He discussed the ordinance and what is defined in the current ordinance as recreational vehicles.

Council member Ridge arrived at 7:03 P.M.

Community Development Director Myrkle stated that Marshall and St. Johns have ordinances that address this issue with a variety of different approaches.

City Manager Guetschow stated that council should also think about things like utility and boat trailers when addressing this issue. He stated that administration is looking for some parameters for drafting an ordinance to address concerns for enforcement.

Mayor Pro-Tem Baker stated that after reading the survey he feels that it may be advantageous to conduct a survey to the entire city. He stated that years ago the city allowed them to be parked on side yards and in the back of the house. There were not as many back then as there are now.

Council member Ridge questioned how the enforcement has been carried out with the current ordinance.

Council member Johnston stated that he feels that it is the property owners right to have these vehicles as long as it has an up to date plate and/or it is functional.

Council member Mitchell stated that there was already an ordinance for unlicensed vehicles.

Council member Bahmer noted that there were only 145 responses to the survey. He stated that he would agree with increasing the height restriction for accessory structures to accommodate some of these vehicles. He stated that he would like to see the commercial vehicles left out of the regulations as some people use them daily for their occupations.

Council member Ridge stated that she feels that recreational vehicles should be properly covered for the season.

Mayor Lewis stated that boats, motorhomes and utility vehicles need to be addressed with possible size requirements or limitations for front yard etc. He suggested that something that is easier to enforce and information that can be distributed to residents that is clear to understand is the goal.

Discussion was held on having City administration draft an ordinance for review with enforcement not starting until around the first of June.

Council member Ridge suggested having a community meeting to discuss the changes.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ned Dills, 220 Prairie, stated that he is concerned with the changes as an RV owner. His RV is 112' long, however he parks it 100' back

from the street. He agrees that some of them parked near the street are a vision hazard for neighbors. He appreciates the consideration that the council is giving to this.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

- Council member Johnston stated that he feels this was a productive meeting.
- Council member Mitchell stated that he doesn't feel they want to recreate the wheel but need to find a way to solve the problems.
- Council member Russo stated that it is all about being reasonable and respecting other people's rights.
- Council member Ridge stated that she appreciates the opportunity to discuss the issue. She likes the idea of taking time and not putting anything into effect until June. She thanked Mr. Dills for sharing his thoughts.
- Mayor Pro Tem Baker echoed the previous statements and feels that taking time makes good sense.
- Mayor Lewis thanked everyone for attending.

Mayor Pro-Tem Baker moved, supported by Johnston to adjourn at 7:47 p.m.

Tim Lewis, Mayor

Ginger Terpstra, City Clerk, CMMC