

Minutes

Monday, April 21, 2008



Public Service Committee

3:00 p.m.
at the Carnegie Town Hall
235 West Tenth Street

Members Present: Vernon Brown, De Knudson, Kermit Staggers, and Bob Jamison

Staff Present: Assistant City Clerk, Tamara M. Jorgensen

Guests: Assistant Director of Public Works, Kevin Smith and Randy Janssen, Water Plant Superintendent; Health Department: Jill M. Franken, Assistant Public Health Director, HELP! Line Center: Carol Muller, Executive Director. Members of the media were present to film the water conservation portion of the meeting.

1. Call To Order

- Committee Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

2. Review and approval of Minutes dated 03/10/08

- A motion was made by Council Member Knudson and seconded by Council Member Jamison to approve said minutes. A voice vote was taken, all members present voted yes.

Item 4, Water Conservation, was discussed at this time. See item for discussion.

3. Child Care Regulations

A. Carol Muller, Executive Director of the 211HelpLine and Jill M. Franken, Assistant Director of Health for the City of Sioux Falls.

- On April 3, 2008, Muller brought together a group of parents who had been looking for childcare in the last few months. Council Members Staggers and Knudson attended this meeting along with LuAnn Ford from the City Health Department. Six parents attended the meeting representing a cross section of citizens; the children ranged in age from four months to school age and all of these families had switched daycare providers in the previous months.
- The following four questions were asked by Muller to the participants and their answers are listed with the questions.
 - What was your experience in searching for childcare?

Cost and time flexibility were factors in determining where to go for childcare. One child had been to five different daycares to date. One child was four years old and had been to four different daycares to date. One daycare had chickens in their back yard.

- What had been your experience in having children in the family daycare setting?

One person had a child that came home with bruises which the childcare provider blamed on 'just being a child'. One child went to daycare and cried a lot so they switched daycares. One felt that the providers 'heart' was not really into the business – that the children would be asleep at 5:30 p.m. in the afternoon. Napping schedules were not taken into consideration. One family had detectives contact them twice regarding a childcare provider. One situation the child was removed because of an allegation that was made, this provider is still providing childcare. One situation was that the child came home with bruises and a cut in the ear which the provider could not explain how that happened and the scar is still there; the parents stated that they are comfortable with the provider, but they come to pick up their child and while the provider is running errands, someone else in the home (spouse, teenage children, etc) is watching the

AGENDA for Public Services Committee

Monday, April 21, 2008

Page 2

children and they don't know who this person is. One parent stated that she had her children in a setting where the grandmother was the provider and was caring for her own grandchildren as well. This parent felt that her children were receiving 'secondary consideration' as they were not related.

- What do you understand to be the City's role in regulating childcare/daycare?

Muller was pleased to see that some parents knew that there were differences between the city and state regulations regarding childcare – the state licenses are renewed once every other year. One person knew that the city does not check on childcare providers. One parent knew that both the city and the state have limits on the number of children a provider can have.

- What do you believe the City's role should be?

Muller stated that the parents felt the City's role should be to make daycares safe for children by having regulations regarding health and safety standards at daycare facilities. The parents believe that the city should have unannounced inspections of homes, should visit and check on providers.

- Muller stated that one of strongest factors determining the welfare of the children was based on how many children were being cared for by the provider. When a provider had 8 to 12 children, along with babies, the parents felt that their children were less settled. When a provider had 6 to 8 children, the parents noticed that their children were happier and they felt their children were receiving better care. Muller further stated that two factors were paramount to the parents: 1) What was the education level of the provider and 2) How many children were being cared for by the provider.
- Muller asked for feedback from the Council Members who were in attendance. Knudson stated she thought the summary was good but that we had time limitations to this meeting as there were two subjects discussed. She would like to hear more. Stagers stated that he would like to see information and feedback available on the internet regarding what people felt about specific childcare providers. He also stated that the parents would be the best source for determining whether or not a childcare provider was doing a good job as the parents are in the facility on a daily basis and can see what is going on. City inspectors would only be there once or twice a year and may not see everything.
- Jamison asked if there was a shortage of daycare providers in the City; if someone wanted to change providers, would they be able to find a replacement? Muller replied that there is not an overall shortage of daycare providers but there is a shortage of people who will provide care for babies. There is also a shortage of centers that will provide daycare on a part time basis.
- Brown stated that the next step would be for the Public Services Committee to sponsor the resolution to the City Council. He also stated that Buseman had said there was a need for further research regarding inspections before this could be brought forward (capacity, manpower needs, etc.). Franken felt it would be a good idea to visit with daycare providers and get their feedback on what is needed. Brown and Buseman had a previous discussion reiterating the need to not duplicate what the state requires for these licenses. Knudson recommended that the Police Department be contacted for their feedback as well.
- This topic will be continued at the Public Services Committee Meeting scheduled for Monday, May 12, 2008, at 3:00 p.m. Council Member Jamison suggested that the new Council Members who are assigned to this committee attend the next meeting. Knudson stated that she had assigned Kenny Anderson Jr. to attend this meeting and that he had agreed to participate in the future.

4. Water Conservation

- A. Kevin Smith, Assistant Director of Public Works and Randy Janssen, Water Plant Superintendent.



Adobe Acrobat
Document

Items distributed at the meeting.

AGENDA for Public Services Committee

Monday, April 21, 2008

Page 3

- Discussion was held regarding information released from Harrisburg regarding water restrictions. A number of attachments were distributed including 2008 Water Restrictions, a draft of the water restriction ordinance (including overstrikes and underscores. Discussion and review of the ordinance including a breakdown on the changes and additions. Rebate programs are being offered to affect a greater population to modify their existing underground systems with newer timers that will recognize the odd/even timing schedules. Discussion held regarding the costs of the rebates to provide incentive to replace the older timers that cannot adapt to the odd/even system.
- Review of the rebate forms. The forms are available online at www.siouxfalls.org for citizens to download and fill out. The forms can be mailed back to the Public Works Department.
- Discussion held regarding the advantages of moving forward with the restrictions on an all year basis vs. just for the summer months. This process would begin in April and would continue until the City Council passes a resolution changing the times or dates.
- Discussion held between Stagers and Smith regarding the long term affects of the changes. Stagers stated he did not agree with the all year process as he feels it 'conditions' the citizens of Sioux Falls. Smith stated that the purpose of the year round restrictions are to ensure that future generations will have water all year without causing further restrictions during the summer months in the future. Jamison asked if odd/even really conserves water or is there a better system. Should we be looking at a different policy for a long term permanent fix. Smith replied that this has been reviewed a number of times in the past. The odd/even system does make a difference on peak day issues and the Public Works Department is comfortable with the proposed changes at this time. This could change if the river drops below 50 cubic feet per second – then a one day a week watering level would be proposed. This is a logical, responsible first step to meet the needs of the customers. The stages are indicated on the attached documents.
- A motion was made by Knudson to bring forward this ordinance/resolution forward to the City Council for scheduling as soon as possible.
- A motion was made by Knudson and seconded by Jamison to bring forward this ordinance/resolution forward to the City Council for scheduling as soon as possible and to amend the resolution so that the noon to 5:00 p.m. restriction is for all year vs. just the summer months. A voice vote was taken, Stagers voted no on this item.
- Jamison asked if residential would include multi-family, the answer is yes. Non-residential would be all commercial property.

5. Open discussion: There was none.

6. Adjournment

- A motion was made by Council Member Knudson and seconded by Council Member Jamison to adjourn the meeting at 4:00 p.m. A voice vote was taken, all members present voted yes.

Tamara M. Jorgensen
Assistant City Clerk