Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Johnson County Board of Supervisors, City of Iowa City, City of Coralville, City of North Liberty, City of Tiffin, City of Hills, City of Swisher, City of University Heights, Iowa City Community School District Board, and Clear Creek Amana School District on Monday, July 15, 2019 at City Hall in Coralville; Council Chambers at 4:30 pm. A recorded webcasts of the Joint Meeting is available online at www.coralville.org/coralvision.

Mayor John A. Lundell welcomed everyone and had them introduced themselves.

Johnson County Board of Supervisors present: Green-Douglas, Heiden, Rettig, Sullivan

Iowa City Council present: Mayor Throgmorton, Thomas, Taylor,

Coralville Council present: Mayor Lundell, Foster, Goodrich, Gross

North Liberty Council present: Mayor Donahue, Hoffman, Smith

University Heights Council present: None

Hills Council present: Knebel

Solon: None

Swisher Council present: Mayor Taylor

Iowa City Community School District Board: Roesler

Staff members from the school districts and local governments were in attendance along with members of the public. Lundell welcomed Brent Smith as the newest appointed official.

Joint Climate Resolution. (Iowa City Community School District)

Iowa City Community School District (ICCSD) Board Member Paul Roesler reported the ICCSD is working on a resolution to address climate change through education, clean energy and sustainability and he passed out a copy of the resolution. This will affect all the schools in the district. The ICCSD is working with UNI to take a look at their facilities so they know what they need to do. The ICCSD Board will take one last look at the resolution on July 23rd and approve it at the next Board Meeting in August.

Updates from Jurisdictions on various climate action efforts. (Iowa City)

Iowa City Mayor Jim Throgmorton reported Iowa City will be discussing a climate action resolution tomorrow night at 5:00 pm at City Hall at their work session. It will increase Iowa City’s rate of carbon emission reductions from a 26% to 28% reduction by 2025 to a 45% reduction by 2030 and a reduction of 80% by 2050 to a 100% reduction by 2050. This is compatible with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPPC)’s recommendations to keep the global increase in temperatures at 1.5 degrees Centigrade. The big question is how to do this when MidAmerican Energy electric production supplies 42% of the carbon emissions in Iowa City and the University of Iowa is responsible for another 14% to 15% which is 57% from two entities Iowa City doesn’t
have any control over. Iowa City learned from the State they cannot enact energy standards for new buildings that are stricter than the State Energy Code after being pressured by the Climate Strikers. North Liberty Mayor Terry Donahue asked about the State adopted 2012 Standard. Throgmorton responded the State is currently using the 2012 International Code Standard and they have not adopted the 2015 International Code Standard. The State is working on 2018 International Code Standard. The 2015 Standard calls for a minor decrease and the 2018 standard would help more but it is still lower than the Iowa City’s target. Gross asked if they are starting the discussion with a blank slate to achieve these reductions. Throgmorton responded they are starting with their adopted Climate Action Plan based on the Paris Accord signed by President Obama that called for a 26% to 28% reduction by 2030. Iowa City’s reductions have already reached 21% primarily because of MidAmerican Energy but they still have a way to go. Gross asked for a copy of the Climate Action Plan so everyone could work to be on the same page. Throgmorton agreed to send a copy to everyone. (Here is the link https://www8.iowa-city.org/weblink/0/edoc/1803121/Climate%20Action%20Plan.pdf)

There was a discussion on how to get around the State’s restrictions but Throgmorton noted the biggest obstacle to reducing carbon emissions is getting homes and businesses to use less natural gas and Iowa City has some ideas they will discuss to the work session. North Liberty Councilperson Chris Hoffman asked if there were things the City could do without violating State restrictions like solar and Throgmorton responded they have done a lot in regard to activities Iowa City has direct control of including having staff work on solar arrays on top of the new public works facility and near the Terry Trueblood Recreation Area. Iowa City Councilperson Pauline Taylor noted Iowa City was able to install solar panels on top of their bus shelters without going to committee. Iowa City Administrator Geoff Fruin noted there have been some unsuccessful efforts to remove State restrictions on Cities having stricter energy standards and the effort continues. Throgmorton added there are opportunities for local entities to influence the content of the 2021 International Code Standard, which he has signed on to do and hopefully the State will adopt them.

**Update on Facilities. (Iowa City Community School District)**

Roesler reported they are working hard to get Grant, Mann and Lincoln Elementary done and they a currently on schedule to open this school year. Alexander Elementary has an addition being added. North Central Junior High School has a big addition being worked on now that includes more class rooms, expands the cafeteria and library, and adds another gym. Southeast Junior High School is moving along with its expansion which includes a new library, new classroom space, new family consumer science space. Tate Elementary construction has started and the students will go to the old Hoover Elementary Building through December and move back in January. Liberty High School’s fields are almost done and they include baseball, softball, tennis and soccer fields, which will be ready to go next school year. Improvements to West High School are continuing. They will have bids for the City High School improvements in time for their July 23rd Meeting. They are staring the projects for Grant Wood, Kirkwood, Lemme, Shemik and Horn Elementary and Northwest Junior High School by completing the design phase or getting their plans approved. The ICCSD is getting close to completing its 10-year plan. Throgmorton added July 24th at 5:00 pm in Iowa City City Hall Opticos Design headed by Dan Parolek will make a presentation to the Planning & Zoning Commission and City Council on the design for the neighborhood around Alexander Elementary, which will address missing middle housing and Alexander Elementary is a core part of the design. Roesler added they have almost completely moved out of
Roosevelt Elementary and will put that site up for sale. Proceeds of that sale can now go into the general fund instead of just facilities to help with budget needs.

**Update on Safety Committee Work. (Iowa City Community School District)**

Roesler reported the ICCSD had their Safety Committee Report come back a month or two ago and the ICCSD decided to move forward with most of their recommendations including having Safety Resource Officers in all the secondary schools and forming a Threat Assessment Team made up of mental health professionals, councilors and police like the University of Iowa is currently doing. Those trained staff will come together whenever a student is in need or struggling so they can make sure the right people can get in touch with them for counseling, tutoring or whatever a student needs to make sure they do not fall through the cracks. The ICSSD has applied for a grant to fund a coordinator position in the District or they will look for another way to fund the position if they don’t get the grant. Coralville City Councilperson Meghann Foster asked for more information on the Threat Assessment Team and how the police will work with the mental health professionals in the schools. Iowa City Police Chief Jody Matherly responded the Team is multi-disciplined so it will have mental health professionals, school counselors, law enforcement and probation officers so when an event arises they will receive information on the threat, gather the facts as quickly as possible, evaluate the threat including if it happened, and decide what action should be taken. Usually the student involved is already in a program or therapy so if they already have a background the Team can use to determine what should be done and they can work with the correct people to correct the situation ideally before an arrest is made, neutralize the threat and make sure everyone is safe, determine the right course of action to rectify the situation. The key to this is it is done quickly, there is accountability and there is good communication with everybody. Right now, everybody is doing their own separate part and they are not on the same page so this Team will meet often, train often and know each other and each other’s role so they know what to do during these incidents. North Liberty Councilperson Brent Smith asked how the chain of command will work and who will have the ability start the process and determine if it is a police issue or internal issue. Matherly responded if there is a threat to someone’s safety right now the police are called in and told there is a problem so they normally take the lead and the school is only involved to the point they can be by providing information sometimes limited by FERPA and they do what the can to protect their property, staff, faculty and students and they try to touch base on what the resolution was and try to work together. Many times, they find no one knows what happened after the fact and sometimes the situation soon occurs again in a different arena or avenue and they still do not communicate well as they would if they acted together as a group. With the team they will know who is responsible for what, where the records are and who will follow up so students don’t fall through the cracks and in the case of the school district is multi-jurisdictional the team will be made up with the right people in the jurisdiction where the incident occurs. The Team would do the same thing if something involving a student attacking a teacher, parents of a student, an outside intruder or employee who is having issues or been terminated including safe keeping a weapon until things have been resolved. Right now they have to figure a lot of these things out after the event because nothing is in place especial when it come to getting mental health and social services involved which are preventative agencies that really could help keep the person out of jail and getting a criminal record when they go through a crisis situation before something happens or becomes severe.

**Iowa City Hate Crime Ordinance. (Iowa City)**
Matherly stated this is to update everyone on a Hate Crimes Ordinance recently passed by Iowa City and handed out a copy of the Ordinance. Matherly explained how Iowa City keeps track of possible hate crime complaints and even though most incidents are considered free speech they have found some of the incidents escalate over time with the same individuals. They found the State law governing hate crimes only covers four types of crimes, which are assault, criminal mischief which is vandalism, arson and trespass that are done to people from a protected class. The law takes the level of an existing crime like a simple misdemeanor and if it happens because the person is from a protected class increases the level of the crime in this case to a serious misdemeanor. The law has become dated and doesn’t cover harassment that occurs now because of people becoming bolder and the internet and social media. So, the police have been involved in efforts to add harassment to the State hate crime laws and met locally with groups like the NAACP and the Johnson County Interfaith Coalition (JCIC) to help. JCIC went further and worked with the University of Iowa law students to craft a local ordinance that can make harassment and trespass a hate crime. The Iowa City Police Department helped make sure the ordinance was fair and usable as a tool for law enforcement officers to help someone being harassed because of their protected class. The ordinance states you can’t harass someone or trespass without a legitimate purpose because of their protected class. The ordinance protects the person and their property. The State law on harassment states you cannot communicate with someone without legitimate purpose with the intent of frightening them, annoying them and/or threatening them. The ordinance just adds you can’t harass a person due to their protected class; this includes trespassing on their property to place a note on their door or take an action like burning a cross in order to harass them. This law does not impinge on a person’s free speech, but it does increase the penalty. Since, local jurisdictions are not allowed to increase charges by State law are increasing the penalty by adding 3 to 7-days jail time for the first offense and 30-days jail time for another offense. This sends a strong message to everyone that Iowa City is an inclusive community and you don’t have to worry about being who you or being part of a protected class and being harassed. There was an additional discussion about the differences between free speech and harassment and how it has been tested in the courts. Matherly noted you can say anything you want until it impinges on another person’s rights. Throgmorton asked if it would protect a person from being harassment for their political affiliation and Matherly responded this ordinance does not protect that.

**Xtream Arena Update (Coralville)**

Lundell noted Coralville wants to give an update on the Arena project since it will be completed in August of 2020 and it will be used other local entities as well as by Coralville. Lundell introduced the General Manager Brian Hixenbaugh of the Xtream Arena and Fieldhouse who is an employee of Spectra. Spectra is one of the nation’s largest arena management firms who have the resources and knowledge to make this facility a success. They manage the Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines and the facility in Sioux Falls, as well as others nationwide. Hixenbaugh noted every group he has spoken to are excited and can’t wait for this project to be done and the content it will bring. Hixenbaugh reported the Arena structure is taking shape and the roof is almost complete. The E. 9th Street retail building is being framed and they will move on to the Fieldhouse next. Hixenbaugh showed a short video from the project’s architect touring a simulated model of the arena and fieldhouse. The University of Iowa Women’s Volleyball team is onboard to use the facility and they are open to hosting any type of event that
the public will see as a value including athletic events, concerts, comedy and any other event that makes sense for this size facility. Their goal is to be busy 365 days a year in both the Arena and Fieldhouse. Hixenbaugh showed a list of entities that have been involved with the project all along which includes community groups and entities from several different demographics the arena will try to attract and cater to. This includes community-based events by working with the Coralville Parks & Recreation, University of Iowa athletics, departments and student groups that can help with ticket sales, provide internships, lectures, sporting events and commencements. Spectra also wants attract employees from the University, community colleges and schools that can continue to be promoted within the company. They would like to attract commencement ceremonies, seminars, retreats, lectures and speakers from local schools and University of Iowa colleges. Local media outlets will be critical to the Arena’s success be it ad time or providing content through partnerships. Other events like basketball, volleyball, wrestling, tennis, jump rope could use the arena for main events and the fieldhouse as practice space of overflow for their events. They want to attract trade and craft shows and partner with the Marriott for more event space. The facility can hold 5,200 for hockey and volleyball and between 5,000 to 6,000 form most concerts. Hixenbaugh showed a list of regional and national entities they will work with to attract those events and who Spectra already works with for their Des Moines and Sioux City facilities. Hixenbaugh noted they could attract some of the groups that previously used Carver Arena are looking for a similar local venue to get back into the area. Foster asked for more details on community events. Hixenbaugh responded they meet weekly with the Coralville Parks and Recreation Department to work on hosting programs like youth and adult rec league sports and the community meal in order to free up the Recreation Center so it can provide free facilities and programs to the public. Lundell added the Iowa Antique Car Museum and Johnson County Historical Society Museum will move into the new building adjacent to the Arena. Hixenbaugh noted they want to partner with those attractions and other surrounding businesses by providing people attending the Arena and Fieldhouse reduced rates and deals while using them to attract events. Foster noted as a parent who has kids that travel to participating in youth sporting events and tournaments that already having restaurants, shopping and other venues close by is an attractive feature. Lundell reported on green aspects to the facility including a green roof open to the public and a 10,000-gallon cistern to harvest rainwater to water all of the Iowa River Landing’s plants. Johnson County Supervisor Rod Sullivan asked when the Arena will open. Lundell responded the Arena will open late August of 2020. Rettig asked if the fieldhouse will open at the same time. Hixenbaugh responded yes. Rettig then asked about moving the museums and what will happen to their current locations. Hixenbaugh responded the museums will have a 30-day window to move, but they may not have all their displays set up in that amount of time. Lundell responded the buildings will be torn down and redeveloped. Rettig asked when the hotel will open. Lundell responded that will be a little later and it will start coming out of the ground as soon as private developer completes the final design work.

**Other Business.**

Throgmorton volunteered Iowa City to host the next Joint Meeting on October 14th and if there is a problem with the date, they will let everyone know.

Lundell adjourn the meeting at 5:45 pm.

Notes taken by Coralville City Clerk Thorsten J. Johnson.