

Library funding changes location

Hubbard library endowment part of city holdings

BY COREY MEINTS
cmeints@iafalls.com

The Hubbard Public Library has always been a part of the city's government. But unlike other city departments, the library was basically self-sustaining thanks to a large endowment. Now that endowment has been moved, though the library will still be using it to fund its needs.

Iowa code mandates that "A city shall keep separate accounts corresponding to the programs and items in its adopted or amended budget, as recommended by the committee. A city shall keep accounts which show an accurate and detailed statement of all public funds collected, received or expended for any city purpose, by any city officer, employee or other person, and which show the receipt, use and disposition of all city property. Public moneys may not be expended or encumbered except under an annual or continuing appropriation."

The Hubbard Library had been issuing its own checks out of the earnings of the endowment to pay for needs. A recent visit from a representative of the State Library pointed out that goes against code.

To remedy that, the Hubbard City Council adopted Resolution #804 which closed the library's checking account at



COREY MEINTS/TIMES CITIZEN

The Hubbard Public Library will no longer be writing its own checks using earnings from an established endowment after the city moved the funds into its own holdings to meet state code. The endowment will remain untouched, with the money it generates still being used by the Library Board as needs arise.

Security State Bank and moved all funds into a savings account.

"Because the State Library official came and was told that they had their own a checkbook and were writing checks and the state says no, that's got to go through the city," said Mayor Lance Below. "So, basically, it's just moving it from the way they did it before to the proper way that the state says this is the way it has to be happening."

There are some hang-ups regarding the change, however. Council member and Library Committee Chair Chad Ball said it will take some getting used to both by City Clerk Marie Neubauer and the Library Board.

"The State Library representative echoed all the things that we've been trying to say for the past few months as far as the library having activity accounts

and the checkbooks, and all the things and doing all the day-to-day business there," Ball said. "He said that's the clerk's job and that helped a lot. It's been it's going to be a learning curve, and it's going to be a new mindset of things to do and Marie and I were at the last meeting last week is that it walking through the budgeting and the revenues and the expenses and all the things, so I think it's going to be a little bit of learning curve for them right now."

Ball added that the biggest concern was that the endowment would be absorbed by the city. Neubauer said the city is not allowed to touch it, but rather serves as manager of library funds from now on as a designated fund.

"Their whole concern is that the endowment that was set up to support the library, is now going to be absorbed into

the City of Hubbard's general fund, and if we're \$300,000 short to fix the streets, hey, we got 300 grand in the library endowment, let's fix the streets," Ball said. "It took us a long time to be like, okay this endowment funding - yes, it's in the city of Hubbard's name but it's in your own bucket. This is what needs to happen. We're all going to be good stewards of this funding."

Discussed progress on two dilapidated properties. The one at 114 N. Minnesota is in a holding pattern currently, with the council electing to send the issue to court. That was one of three options facing the council, the others being continuing to send order of abatement, the other being the continued fining penalties.

The council agreed that neither of those options would lead to getting the property

cleaned up. The option to go to court and have a judge declare a course of action also included the City Attorney talking to the bank about the property's \$17,000 outstanding mortgage, which is believed to be higher than the value of the property, in order to negotiate a price to purchase the property and resell it.

The other location, at nearby 117 N. Minnesota, is already in city custody. With \$4,800 already spent on the property, along with writing off \$750 in back water fees, the council decided to sell the property as-is with a contingency that it be cleared out within 90 days of purchase.

While there is an interested buyer, the city must put the land to bid. The city must also hold a public hearing, which was scheduled for Sept. 9, before accepting sealed bids. ■

Felony auto theft tops charges for Iowa Falls woman

BY GENE NEUGAARD
gnewgaard@iafalls.com

A 51-year-old Iowa Falls woman is facing multiple charges including two Class D and one Class C felonies and multiple misdemeanors including auto theft and burglary.

Vanessa Lillian King is charged with one count of first-degree theft, a class C felony, two counts of second-degree theft, a Class D felony, one count of burglary, a King class D felony, and multiple counts of disorderly conduct, interference with official acts for resisting arrest, and public intoxication resulting from incidents that occurred between July 21 and Aug. 4.

She is charged with stealing a 2013 White Honda Pilot in Iowa Falls which was later located in Eldora. The owner discovered the vehicle missing after someone had knocked on her door the morning of July 21. According to the arrest report, when taken into custody, King not only admitted taking the vehicle in question but also to breaking into a neighboring residence searching for keys to a white Jeep Wrangler on that property.

On July 26, King was arrested for disorderly conduct-abusive epithets and threatening gestures, and public intoxication after Eldora Police received a report of a woman yelling down the street at the intersection of 17th Avenue and 15th Street at 2:06 a.m. The reporting party said that

the woman had gotten in his truck and was asking odd questions. Upon his arrival, Officer Jose Velasco said that King took off down 15th Street and went east on 19th Avenue. When the officer caught up to her, she initially refused, but later stopped. Having smelled alcohol, Velasco asked if she had been drinking and she said she had a bottle of wine. Velasco called EMS, but King got angry saying she didn't like white people and refused treatment. She also resisted arrest.

On Aug. 3, a Franklin County Deputy was called to the Iowa Select Farms Truck Wash north of Iowa Falls. The truck wash's manager reported that King had come onto the property and refused to leave. She had been told that it wasn't safe for her to be on the property and was asked to leave because she was disturbing workers. When the deputy arrived, he found King on the ground outside. When he attempted to speak to her, she stood up and attempted to get away. She then refused to identify herself, went toward workers, and began screaming. She was ar-

rested and also cited for first offense trespass.

The following day the Hardin County Sheriff's Office received a report of a vehicle out of gas. On arrival, the deputy determined that the black, 2010 Volkswagen Routan, was stolen from Hampton and that King was in control of it. She admitted stealing the vehicle. After questioning, King resisted arrest resulting in a charge of interfering with official acts to add to the first-degree auto theft charge, she received.

First-degree theft is punishable by up to 10 years in prison and a fine not to exceed \$13,660. Second degree theft carries a penalty of up to five years in prison and a fine not to exceed \$10,245. Each charge of disorderly conduct can result in up to 30 days in jail and/or up to a \$855 fine. Interference with official acts carries a fine of \$250 to \$855 and up to 30 days in jail, and public intoxication, a fine of \$105 to \$855 and up to 30 days in jail.

King is being held under \$10,000 bond at the Hardin County Jail in Eldora. A preliminary hearing was set for Aug. 14. ■



Laborshed study currently being conducted in Iowa Falls area

The Iowa Falls Area Development Corporation (IFADC) is partnering with Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) and Iowa Economic Development Authority to complete a Laborshed employment study for the Iowa Falls area. This study will geographically define which communities contribute to Iowa Falls' workforce, regardless of political boundaries. This defined area is called a Laborshed area and is based upon commuting patterns.

The purpose of this Laborshed study is to measure the availability and characteristics of Iowa Falls' area workers. Laborshed studies are useful tools for economic development teams and existing or prospective employers to understand the local labor market, make informed expansion and site selection decisions, and maintain/recruit a high-quality workforce.

For the success of this study, letters are being



sent to randomly selected households asking residents to take a confidential online survey. Survey questions will cover topics such as: employment status, current and desired wages, current and desired benefits, education level, and type of occupation, among other things. However, Iowa Workforce Development will not be asking survey takers identifiable information such as: name, social security number, or date of birth. Participation in this workforce study is greatly appreciated regardless of employment status whether you are currently employed, unemployed, a homemaker, retired, etc. Your input is highly valued.

Following the conclusion of the online surveying efforts IWD will conduct telephone surveying in the area through a third-party vendor. The same survey questions asked in the online survey will be asked of those who participate in the survey on the phone and again, no identifying information will be collected. All the survey answers collected will be combined and reported together. Individual answers are completely confidential.

Every year Iowa Workforce Development conducts Laborshed studies across the State. The results of each analysis are publicly available online at workforce.iowa.gov/laborshed. If you have any questions about the Laborshed project, please contact Bridget Weddle at bridget.weddle@iwd.iowa.gov or 515-281-7525 or Mark Buschkamp, with Iowa Falls Area Development 641-648-5549 or director@iowafallsdevelopment.com. ■

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