



The Stehly Report

Winter 2020 Newsletter

Sioux Falls City Council Update from Councilor Theresa Stehly

USF hosts first "Sioux Falls Sings"



Sioux Falls Sings (left to right) Bruce Naasz, (Singing Legionaries). Theresa Stehly, Jonathan Neiderhiser (USF Chamber Orchestra), John Mogen (Mogen's Heroes).

Many citizens joined us for a community "sing along" in October on the campus of USF. I partnered up with Mogen's Heroes, The Singing Legionnaires and the USF Chamber Orchestra to provide an afternoon of singing. We featured patriotic, oldies, folk tunes and hymn favorites. This FREE event was a great way to bring people together and join our voices in song. Many thanks to KELO TV and KSFY for their coverage of the event. We hope to bring it back again next year.

Caring for Our Community



Dear Citizens,

Happy New Year and best wishes in 2020. As I reflect back on these four years on the City Council, it has been a pleasure and a

blessing to meet many of you, and to assist you in your concerns and questions about City Government. These past years the City Council has been faced with issues such as budgeting more of your tax dollars to street repair and ramping up police presence for community safety. I have personally been addressing concerns about the \$21 million multi-use downtown parking ramp, holding the line on property taxes and assessments, protecting the integrity of neighborhoods,

and to assist you in your concerns and questions about City Government. These past years the City Council has been faced with issues such as budgeting more of your tax dollars to street repair and ramping up police presence for community safety. I have personally been addressing concerns about the \$21 million multi-use downtown parking ramp, holding the line on property taxes and assessments, protecting the integrity of neighborhoods,

I have been especially grateful to Councilors Janet Brekke and Pat Starr for their collaboration on projects, ordinances and resolutions that will benefit you. As I say frequently at the meetings: "It's the citizen's money, and the citizen's business." Thank you for your support and prayers. GOD bless you, Theresa Stehly

Veterans Cemetery Update

Guest Column by Larry P. Zikmund



Larry P. Zikmund is our S.D. District 14 Representative

The South Dakota Veterans Cemetery is going to become a reality, thanks to the efforts of many. The cemetery, located at 25965 477th Avenue, (North of I-229 and I-90), will truly be great for our Veterans and their families, for Sioux Falls, and South Dakota. Currently, we are projecting that the cemetery may be opening in the spring 2021. The South Dakota Veterans Affairs Office is accepting applications

to pre-establish eligibility for burial at the cemetery. Basic eligibility for burial in the cemetery is eligible veterans, their spouses and eligible dependents. There are NO residency requirements. For more information please visit: <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov/default.aspx>. You may also contact Terry Paulsen at terryp@ncpva.org or call 605-336-0494. It has truly been an honor to be the prime sponsor in the SD State House of Representatives for this bill to move the cemetery forward. Please do not hesitate to call me should you have any questions.

APRIL 14, 2020 CITY COUNCIL RACE

Mark your calendars for this City Council Race. Four seats are up: Mine (At Large), Greg Neitzert (Northwest) Pat Starr (Northeast) Marshall Selberg (Southwest)

I have not decided if I will run for reelection. I have

been praying about it for months. There is a "BIG MONEY" SPECIAL INTEREST effort to take my seat on the Council.

I have always worked to put the citizen's best interests first in all my decisions. I

have also stood firm in my integrity, faith and campaign promises. If I don't continue to serve you as your City Council representative, please remember that I love the residents of Sioux Falls, and will always seek to help people.

Neighborhood Watch

In August we had our Neighborhood Watch picnics across town. I was able to stop by nine of them and greet the crowd. It was so impressive to see the fellowship and community within these neighborhoods. Neighborhood Watch is an effective tool in keeping safety a priority. Please think about starting one in your area. Contact me or the police department at 978-6866.

Lessons Learned from the Problematic Parking Ramp



As you may remember, in 2017, Councilor Pat Starr and I worked diligently to stop the funding for the problematic \$21 million parking ramp. I felt so strongly about this that I mailed a postcard to citizens asking them to reach out to city council members and encourage a vote No on moving forward with this project.

Our concerns were largely ignored and we now have the empty concrete parking ramp on 10th street that is costing us a yearly bond payment of approximately \$1 million.

In November of 2019, the City Council was asked to approve another \$1.5 million for the unfinished parking ramp. Remember, this is in addition to millions we have already spent. There are many unanswered questions.

The lessons learned from this costly taxpayer mess are:

■ It is imperative to know who the investors are.

■ It is imperative to listen to the concern/input from the citizens.

■ It is imperative to get solid warranties and confirmation of the ability of partners to actually pay for a project.

■ It is imperative for your City Council members to ask the tough questions and vet the proposals brought forth from City Staff. Unfortunately, all the original staff members associated with this project have left City Government except one.

We hope we can get this ramp generating income soon. However, those who don't remember history are doomed to repeat it. We must NOT forget how we got here. We must ensure that taxpayer's interests are better protected in the future.

Presort Standard
US Postage Paid
Permit #32
Sioux Falls, SD

Governor's House Program

Guest Column by Lynne Keller Forbes, Executive Director South Eastern Council of Governments (SECOG)



The South Dakota Housing Development Authority Governor's House Program offers high quality two- or three-bedroom homes for income qualified South Dakota residents. The current income limits are \$52,710 for a 1-2 person household, and \$60,240 for a household of 3 or more. The homes are highly energy efficient and resilient using advanced building techniques and components. The price of a two-bedroom is \$49,700 and three-bedroom is \$56,700, delivered to the customer's approved site within the state.

The program has been a highly successful and effective

program since its inception in 1996. It has given more than 2,500 South Dakota families, the opportunity for a high-quality home they can call their own.

The homes are constructed at the Mike Durfee State Prison as part of an extensive inmate training program including formal apprenticeships in carpentry, plumbing and electrical. Inmates accepted into the programs receive both classroom and hands-on training in highly sought-after fields greatly expanding the opportunity for employment after release.

Governor's Houses are sold locally by the South Eastern Council of Governments. Find more info at www.secog.org or by calling 605-367-5390.



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Should Cell Phones Be Banned At Meetings?

Guest Column by Councilor Janet Brekke



Councilmembers Brekke and Stehly recently proposed an amendment to City ordinance that would restrict the use of electronic devices during official city council meetings. There are currently no restrictions on the use of cell phones or laptops during official public meetings.

Councilmembers can and do communicate with each other and members of the public in private conversations outside the parameters of the meeting process. This unrestricted access to electronic communication allows for a “meeting beneath the meeting” to occur. What you see during the meeting is not all that is happening.

As a result of texting and emailing, opportunities exist for an entirely separate dialogue to take place out of the view, and thus out of the scrutiny of the public.

The ordinance proposed by Councilmembers Brekke and Stehly would have allowed the use of electronic devices to access research and meeting support materials.

However, it would have prevented the use of electronic devices to engage in private conversations with citizens and private conversations with other councilmembers during official city council meetings. It also would have required councilmembers to step out of the meeting to engage in personal non-city business. The proposal failed 1st reading: Erickson, Neitzert, Kiley, Selberg, Soehl voting NO and Brekke, Stehly, Starr voting YES.

Allowing unrestricted private conversations and conducting personal business during official public meetings undermines the public meeting process and compromises the City’s commitment to perform the public’s business in full view of the public. As technology evolves, it is important that the City Council set standards of conduct that create confidence in the integrity of the government process. This issue will not go away. Establishing standards of conduct for city councilmembers is an ongoing process and is part of how the City defines democracy and open government in the information age.

A Word About Our City’s Mayor

May 2020 will mark the two year anniversary for our Mayor Paul TenHaken. One of the things that I have appreciated is the responsive attitude of his staff toward citizens and those of us on the Council. Anytime we see people treated with respect and a willingness to help, it is a blessing indeed.

I also appreciate that the Mayor was open to meeting with Councilor Brekke and me to partner with us to bring back the popular Neighborhood Summit. This is a morning of fellowship and support for the Neighborhood Watch and Neighborhood Association programs.

Please feel free to contact me if you are interested in starting one of these in your neighborhood.

The Mayor was also open to my request that we waive the landfill fee after a summer storm knocked down branches. The citizens appreciated it.

I frequently pass citizen concerns forward to the Mayor and I am deeply appreciative when he responds.

Working together as a City Council and the Mayor’s office, we can better serve you, the citizens. It’s your money, and your business.

Kermit Staggers Remembered



Mayor TenHaken joined me in awarding our dear friend and former City Council member Kermit Staggers the “Citizen Recognition Award” last month. In the photo above, Kermit’s wife

June, daughter Ayn Bird and grandsons Matthew and Elijah Bird accepted the award.

Kermit died on Thanksgiving Eve 2019. We keep the family in our thoughts and prayers.

Small Business Success: Sub Zero Desserts Grateful for Help

Guest Column by Matt and Jessica Rooney



Owner Jessica Rooney and Councilor Stehly at the Sub Zero Desserts Shop.

Sub Zero Desserts opened for business in early June 2019, utilizing a repurposed shipping container. Prior to opening, the owners, Matt and Jessica Rooney, ran into some issues that delayed their planned business launch. With the resolve to get their business up and running as quickly as possible, and to take advantage of the full summer season, the Rooney's reached out to City Councilor Stehly, requesting her help.

Councilor Stehly quickly

jumped into action, seeing the opportunity to not only help a small business, but also to help bring additional business activity to the East 41st Street area.

Stehly reached out to the leadership in the Building Services office and was able to arrange for a meeting between Building Services, Zoning, Code Enforcement, and the Health Department with the goal of providing a workable solution which allowed for Sub Zero Desserts to open their doors to the public, serving up unique rolled ice cream creations.

The Rooneys were thrilled to be able to launch their business and to bring a new alternative to a brick and mortar shop using a shipping container restaurant concept to Sioux Falls. They remain grateful for the help that Councilor Stehly provided and the solution that Building Services Director Jeff Eckhoff helped reach.

OUR JOB IS TO GET IT RIGHT

Guest Column by Councilor Pat Starr



If I have heard it once I’ve heard it a thousand times: Why are you always against everything?

Each Council meeting contains as few as 50 and often a hundred or more agenda items. We review each and every one. Most items are routine but there is always one item that hits the media. The reason it receives attention is because some part of it is either controversial or not thought out.

It doesn’t make us “negative” people when we scrutinize an item, it just means we are doing our job. It definitely isn’t our job to “rubber

stamp” the workings of the administration

It is our job to ask tough independent questions. It is our job to inform the citizens of policy changes that will cost them more in taxes or provide less services. It is our job to lead our City into the next decade and beyond.

I can list the times when we haven’t asked enough questions and at the top of the list is the mixed use parking facility. It was a bad idea when it passed and is proving to be a very expensive mistake.

Just the other day a good friend and former state legislator reminded me it isn’t always the legislation you pass but the “bad ideas that you stop” that really serves the citizen’s best

Should nonprofits that receive city funds be open to more financial scrutiny?

These groups are receiving more than \$800,000 from Sioux Falls taxpayers:

- Forward Sioux Falls \$400,000
- Sioux Falls Development Foundation \$275,000
- USD Discovery District \$150,000

*Source: Patrick Anderson, Argus Leader, 01/10/20

interests.

Our job is to get it right for the Citizens of Sioux Falls. When we don’t get it right it costs all of us tens of thousands of dollars and sometimes a million “bucks”.

MAYOR TENHAKEN CREATES NEW STAFF POSITIONS

Our Mayor has added several new executive positions in his administration: Erica Beck as his Chief of Staff, TJ Nelson as his Deputy Chief, Rana DeBoer as his Director of Culture and Jason Reisdorfer as his head of IT. (Jason will be stepping down on January 25th.) I have included their pay/benefits below along with the Mayor’s and the City Council pay .Go to <https://www.siouxfalls.org/human-resources/all-jobs> under Resources on left side of webpage to see the job descriptions and view all city employee information.

	Salary	Benefits	Total
Mayor TenHaken	\$129,979.20	\$43,641.37	\$173,620.57
Jason Reisdorfer	\$155,792.00	\$48,197.33	\$203,989.33
Erica Beck	\$165,984.00	\$29,486.90	\$195,470.90
TJ Nelson	\$95,576.00	\$37,569.02	\$133,145.20
Rana DeBoer	\$115,876.80	\$56,216.28	\$172,093.08
City Councilor	\$19,496.88	NA	\$19,496.88

Community Helps with Sandbagging



George Hamilton (left) and Councilor Stehly (right) fill sand bags at Riverdale Park.

This has been a challenging year because of the natural disasters and the resulting property damage. This spring many homeowners were af-

ected with devastating flood damage as rain fell on frozen ground and the Big Sioux swelled to record highs. After hearing concerns from many citizens, the city put together a sandbag effort and the community stepped up to help. I volunteered with my good neighbor George Hamilton and many others to fill sand bags at the Riverdale Park sand bag operation.

I understand that FEMA is watching our 2020 spring very carefully because of the high water table and potential for more flooding. Hopefully we will be better prepared with the sandbag effort.

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PROPERTY TAXES TOO HIGH? Check your assessed value



City will be collecting approximately \$67 million in 2020 on your property taxes.) Unfortunately, the vote was 6-2 to approve the increase in your property tax.

These past years on the Council, Pat Starr and I have repeatedly voted NO on the annual property tax increase. We were even more committed to putting brakes on the tax increase this year because we have been given a glowing report about the surge in sales tax revenue collected. We felt it was time to give the homeowners some relief and cast our NO vote for the annual property tax increase. (Our

In March, we will be holding the board of equalization hearings. This is the time that homeowners can appeal their assessed value if they think it has been placed too high. Call Minnehaha Co. Equalization: (605) 367-4228

Lincoln Co. Equalization: (605) 764-2571 for more information. Call as soon as you get your valuations in the mail.

POLICE RIDE ALONG



Police protection and neighborhood safety are hot topics with citizens. Last summer over 350 people showed up for a neighborhood /police town hall meeting at the Kenny Anderson Community Center to address the string of shootings in eastern Sioux Falls.

On September 15th, I was able to do a 6-hour police ride along from 9pm to 4am. Most of the incidents that night dealt with intoxication. We certainly appreciate the effort put forth by these men and women who put their lives on the line to keep us safe.

I have been very supportive of our police department and both Councilor Pat Starr and I have stood up for their rights to have a fairly negotiated contract these past three years.

We are also asking the legislature to provide more training for police officers so we can add personnel to our growing community. Our Citizens want to have a good police presence in their neighborhoods.

Don't hesitate to call 911 for emergency or 367-7212 for police non-emergency.

Tornado Clean Up Efforts



Councilor Theresa Stehly (left) works with Councilor Janet Brekke helping with tornado clean up.

Historic disaster struck our community in September when we were hit with three tornadoes. Unfortunately the sirens did not go off in many

parts of town. The Mayor has assured us that the siren warning system has been addressed and won't fail again.

In the aftermath many residents desperately reached out to me and the City looking for assistance. I appreciate that the Mayor was open to hearing requests from the citizens, me and other elected officials to ramp up the disaster help.

Councilor Janet Brekke and I spent time with other volunteers in an effort to help homeowners remove tree debris. It became an outpouring of City/volunteer resources working for the relief of all our dear citizens.

Aquatic Subsidies for 2019

Total \$2,335,028

Indoor \$794,913
34% of the subsidy

Outdoor \$1,540,115
66% of the subsidy

Park Department has confirmed that Frank Olson, Kuehn and Mckennan Park swimming pools will remain swimming facilities and not be converted into spray parks.

Do we need outdoor pools on the North/South parts of our growing community?

Sioux Falls City Financial Info

Property Tax Collected for 2020 will be
\$67 MILLION

Total Debt on November 30, 2019...
\$288 MILLION

Total Budget 2020...
\$545 MILLION

Primary City Banking Institution...
First Premier Bank

City Ordinance mandates the use of Snow Gates. A group of us led a petition drive in 2012 for a vote. It passed with 75% approval. Email me at tstehly@sioux-falls.org with comments or concerns.

PIANO NEWS

The City Council position is part time and many of us have additional employment in order to make a living. I support myself by teaching private voice and piano lessons. I have been blessed to work with students of all ages, from 8-80.

I have served as the Sioux Falls Chairman for the National Piano Guild for many years. Each spring, The National Guild brings a certified judge to our community to adjudicate our students. It is a wonderful performance opportunity and a chance for the piano teachers to be evaluated as well.

I have also served as the President of our local South Dakota Music Teacher's Association. This group sponsors an annual piano festival and many wonderful workshops and presentations for its members. Please contact me if you would like any information about joining these professional groups. theresastehly@yahoo.com

The Importance Of A Community Newspaper

Guest Column

by **Bernie Hunhoff, Former Legislator and founder of the South Dakota Magazine**



Here's a recipe for business failure: triple your prices, abuse your employees and say "to hell" with quality.

Yet that's what many newspapers have done in the United States — especially those owned by conglomerates who have sacrificed long-term sustainability for short-term profits. They did so partly by taking advantage of loyal readers who felt it was their civic duty to read the local paper. Some papers raised subscription prices to \$500 or more a year — a month's groceries for many families. It's the proverbial "eating the seed corn." Newspaper subscriptions have become unaffordable to young families so the habit of reading the local newspaper is disappearing in just one generation.

Nearly 2,000 newspapers have stopped publication in the last 15 years and many others are on life support. Some have outsourced so many functions that they barely have enough staff to answer the phones. I'm told that one large South Dakota daily even keeps its front door locked?

I love the newspapers of South Dakota. All 124 of them. A half-dozen of them arrive in our mailbox at South Dakota Magazine. They are integral to our culture and commerce. And I'm saddened by their troubles.

Still, as I read today's papers, it strikes me that some seem healthy in the very same digital environment in which others are collapsing.

Is it a coincidence that two of the daily newspapers that seem to be surviving — Madison and Yankton — are both run by an owner/publisher? They both charge just over \$100 for a year's subscription, still affordable, and they have as many writers as some of the region's much-larger dailies.

What does it matter? Why not get your news on your phone? Because someone should be observing the school board. Someone should be challenging the mayor on potholes. Someone with professionalism and guts should be writing editorials about the county commissioners' closed-door meetings.

It's not too late to support newspapers that are providing a real service to our communities at affordable prices. Fortunately, South Dakota still has some.

AUDIT OF PARKING RAMP NEEDED



I have asked for an audit of the parking ramp project and the parking system, but we have encountered a conflict of interest issue with our internal audit manager.

April of 2019 I sent out a robo call (at my own expense) alerting citizens about a proposed problematic hire of an internal auditor with a conflict of interest. This person was married to the Parking Supervisor, had no audit experience and was employed with the city finance department that oversaw the parking

ramp project. The vote to hire this candidate was being rushed through in a six day turn around, the Tuesday after Easter, despite concerns from some of us on the council. I hoped that with enough public pressure, my colleagues would allow for a more thorough vetting to find a qualified, independent person with auditing experience who did NOT have existing personal ties to city government.

The vote was 5-3 in favor of hiring the wife of the parking supervisor for the downtown parking ramp as our new auditor. Because of this relationship, we now need to hire an outside firm to do the sorely needed audit of the parking system.

Fourth of July Picnic Served 5,000 Citizens



Cynthia Ohl Venekamp (left) and Councilor Stehly (right) at Forth of July picnic.

Once again this year, the City partnered with local businesses to bring a free Fourth of July picnic at Falls Park. I joined longtime volunteer, Cynthia Ohl Venekamp, city staff and others to serve food at the picnic. There was also a parade and a free concert by Mogen's Heros. It was a festive occasion for our community.

City Council meetings are the first 3 Tuesdays of each month at 7:00pm. Watch on Citylink (Midco channels 16 and 594; Vast channels 11 and 511) or online at www.siouxfalls.org. You can attend the City Council meetings at the Carnegie Town Hall, 235 West 10th St., Sioux Falls.

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Citizens Voice Concerns About Public Transit by Cathy Brechtelsbauer, Melanie Bliss, Phyllis Arends, and Cheryl Rath

Public transit should be treated more seriously. The city is proposing to pilot “on-demand” transit to see if it could replace our fixed-route system. The team charged with revamping public transit consists only of city employees from various departments.

- No professional transit planners have been consulted. However, in the past Sioux Falls has hired consultants for other projects. Recently a community group hired experts in skate park design.

- The planning team cannot point to any example of a city comparable to ours with a successful comparable on-demand system.

- The city has not tried ramping up and marketing our current system.

- Innovations such as increasing frequency on some routes, expanding service area and hours, and enhancing bus stops may create a more serviceable system.

- Fixed-route systems have more potential for environ-

mental benefit from increased ridership. Transportation is a top emitter of greenhouse gases.

- Public-private partnerships for “Zero-fare” rides should be explored.

- The proposed system runs on smartphones with an “app”. Many people lack smartphones (or sufficient data) or cognitive or language skills. Many can manage a fixed-route system but will struggle with technology or with the system’s changeable bus stops.

- “On demand” is corner-to-corner, not door-to-door. Stops would be within 3 blocks of home and also of destination.

- The plan still leaves large parts of Sioux Falls without bus transportation.

Transportation is an economic driver of the city. With more serious attention and effort, Sioux Falls could and should have modern, more efficient transit that serves more of the city.

FACEBOOK ETIQUETTE

There are many ways to communicate with your elected officials. I always encourage constituents to use our city email and phone number that is found in this publication. We also encourage you to address us at public input.

Facebook has been an effective tool for the Mayor and Council members to communicate issues and events with the public.

Recently, appropriate usage of “blocking” and “un-

friending people” due to disrespectful, repetitive or vulgar comments has been discussed.

There have never been any guidelines given to us as elected officials concerning Facebook activity and I have asked our City Attorney to lay out some ground rules for our benefit and the benefit of future council members. He has assured me that he is researching the issue and will be giving us input. In the meantime, please follow me on [facebook.com/theresa.stehly](https://www.facebook.com/theresa.stehly).

MY TWO CENTS ABOUT POLICE OFFICERS

Guest Column by Councilor Pat Starr



We need more police officers on the streets of Sioux Falls.

We don’t need more taxes and we especially don’t need to burden nonprofits that generate economic activity, with more fees to run their events

The City Council is addressing the police officer shortage by adding four new officers in the 2020 budget. The problem is that the state training program doesn’t have room to train more needed replacement officers because it is full.

The Governor and Attorney General need to fix this and addressing the shortage will be good for all of SD.

There is a second concern: we are losing officers to a serious morale problem in

the department. We are challenged with identifying and addressing the reasons we have gotten to this point.

Last fall the mayor proposed a new tax on nonprofits that host events in Sioux Falls. This tax would apply to events like the air show (almost \$40,000.) It was also proposed that smaller events like Festival of Bands and the St. Patrick’s Day parade pay close to \$10,000. This new money will go to the police department to pay officers over time.

This is wrong and short sighted. These groups should be receiving additional help from the City for creating economic activity not being penalized.

We need to solve the police morale issue but not by creating new taxes and not by stymieing the economy.

PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW

I have been asked if I am Democrat, Republican or Independent. First let me say that City Council members are to be non-partisan and to represent all citizens equally. As your City Councilor, I have worked to be responsive, compassionate, fair and courageous as I strive to stand up for the rights of EVERYONE in our community. For the record, I am a registered Republican, a Republican Precinct woman and have served as a Superintendent at our election voting centers.

The Arena project needs a public vote!

We have been told there are plans to demolish the Arena at an estimated cost of \$1.5 million. The cost to replace it with 60,000 feet of convention space has yet to be determined. The baseball stadium is also slated to be demolished. I believe that the final proposal and project cost needs to go to a vote of the taxpayers.

Cathy Anderson receives City Council “Outstanding Citizen Recognition Award”



Cathy Anderson received our City Council “Citizen Recognition” Award in 2019. Cathy has devoted her life to teaching at Mark Twain, Retired Teacher’s Association, AARP, St. Therese Choir and parish volunteer, Live on Stage Board of Directors and many other community activities.

What’s the Buzz?

by Councilor Janet Brekke

Councilmember Theresa Stehly and Janet Brekke recently sponsored legislation which will permit the hobby of honey beekeeping in the City of Sioux Falls.



The new ordinance has education, safety, inspection and permitting requirements. The ordinance is part of a broader effort to make Sioux Falls a bee and butterfly friendly city. Local bee enthusiasts are thrilled about the new opportunity

SNAPSHOT OF THE YEAR

It has been another active year for the City Council. We have responded to many constituent phone calls, emails, and site visits in addition to doing our research and outreach for the issues we address at the Council meeting. We also attended many community events. Below are some of the topics Councilors Brekke, Starr and I addressed on your behalf:

- Councilors Brekke and Stehly proposed ordinance that would prohibit cellphone/electronic communication by council members during a meeting for personal/business purposes. (There are several council members who routinely text and receive emails during the meeting.) This ordinance allowed for council members to step outside the meeting to engage in these personal matters on their cell phones while protecting the integrity of electronic communication during the official meeting. It failed on a 5-3 vote. Councilors Brekke, Stehly and Starr voted YES to move the issue forward to a second reading. Councilors Neitzert, Erickson, Kiley, Soehl and Selberg voted NO.

- Councilor Starr and Stehly Resolution proposed allocating extra funding for pothole repair after many concerns were voiced by the public.

- Councilor Star and Stehly Resolution proposed opening the secret “Event Center Task Force” meetings to the public.

- Councilors Stehly, Starr and Brekke met citizens at various events like the Benson Flea Market, Festival of Cultures, Neighborhood Summit, Fourth of July event and Neighborhood Watch picnics.

- Councilor Stehly proposed legislative amendment asking for more training opportunities for police officers.

- Councilor Stehly and Brekke worked with Park staff to develop/encourage more environmentally friendly plantings in parks and boulevards.

- Councilor Stehly organized and facilitated the first ever City Council Budget priority sessions, during spring of 2019.

- Councilor Starr and Stehly Resolution proposed to wave the \$20 fee for a city sponsored Housing Summit Event.

- Councilor Stehly and Brekke partnered with Mayor to reinstate the yearly Neighborhood Summit.

- Councilor Stehly and Brekke proposed the “Parking Ticket Payments for School Supplies” initiative to help provide capitol to The Banquet to buy school supplies for children.

- Councilor Starr and Stehly participated in the “Hungry Hearts Dunk Tank” at the Barrel House, to raise funds for the school lunch program.

- Councilor Stehly and Brekke proposed a pilot program for trimming boulevard trees at City expense.

- Councilor Brekke and Stehly brought forward the Bee Keeping Ordinance.

- Councilor Stehly, Brekke and Starr facilitated several meetings between business owners and city staff to address issues like traffic concerns, zoning restrictions and problematic regulations. Many on site visits with business owners and citizens has proven valuable in getting the best results for local citizens.

- Councilor Stehly and Brekke met with Joe Batcheller (DT Sioux Falls), Joe Kirby and city staff to discuss ways to make Downtown Sioux Falls more walkable. We discussed additional speed limit signs, brighter crosswalk paint, and more effective crosswalk signals.

- Councilor Stehly collaborated with the Garbage Haulers Association to ensure that their concerns about recycling were being heard by city staff.

- Councilor Stehly organized several meetings to address Whittier Neighborhood concerns. Many hours were spent visiting with nonprofits, business owners, homeowners and city staff about ways to improve vitality and safety in the neighborhood. Considerable progress has been achieved with other goals yet to be met.

- Councilors Starr, Stehly and Brekke worked with neighbors in the Canterbury Heights area to ensure that a new adjacent development would not cause a hardship to the existing traffic flow and would not jeopardize pedestrian safety.

- Councilor Stehly encouraged citizens to attend Council meetings and address the council with their concerns at public input. She also worked to inform citizens about City news through her monthly Stehly Report in the Sioux Falls Shopping News.

Disclaimer: This newsletter reflects the opinions and views of Theresa Stehly and guest columnists and does not reflect the opinions of Sioux Falls city government. All costs associated with this newsletter have been paid for privately by Theresa Stehly and not from campaign donations.