

City Council Meeting Minutes (Approved)
And
Truth in Taxation Public Hearing
December 10, 2007

Present at the meeting: Kim Ebnet, Mike Odden, Lloyd Rausch, Ernie Schmit, Vicki Statz, Pat Meier, Louis Walz, Gordon Sjaaheim, Eric Smith, Tim Berscheid, Sue Marstein, Christy Marstein, Gary Lange, Deb Meier. Councilman Dick Paggen was not present.

Mayor Ernie Schmit called the public hearing on 2008 budget to order at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Schmit commented that the levy of property taxes for the citizens of Holdingford will remain the same as the past several years. Total levy will be \$258,663. Hearing no responses from the public, Mayor Schmit closed the public hearing at 7:05 p.m. on a motion by Lloyd Rausch, seconded by Mike Odden. AIF

Mayor Schmit called the regular council meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

To certify the tax levy of \$258,663, a motion was made by Mike Odden, seconded by Kim Ebnet. AIF

Approval of checks was made on a motion by Lloyd Rausch, seconded by Kim Ebnet. AIF

Approval of minutes from November, 2007 council meeting was made on a motion by Mike Odden, seconded by Lloyd Rausch. AIF

Liquor Store report was given by manager Pat Meier. Upcoming events for the Liquor Store, there will be live music on Friday, December 28th. Liquor store manager and council will be doing inventory on Tuesday, January 1, 2008 at 9 a.m.

		December, 2007	LIQUOR STORE REPORT	
		GROSS RECEIPTS		
NOVEMBER	2007	\$ 30,397.02	GROSS RECEIPTS	\$ 30,397.02
OCTOBER	2007	\$ 29,043.15		
NOVEMBER	2006	\$ 27,964.26	PREVIOUS GROSS	\$ 295,454.82
Lottery '07 November		\$ 438.17	'07 GROSS	\$ 325,851.84
'07 YTD		\$ 4,951.35	07 EXPENSES	\$ 327,837.41
			PROFIT/(LOSS)	(1,982.57)
GT BANK		\$ 10,995.49	NET PROFIT LOTTERY	\$ 4,951.38
			BAND REIMBURSEMENT	\$ 1,333.00
			GARDEN CLUB REIMBURSE	\$ 82.50
'06 CD	\$10,000	'07 CD \$10,000	TOTAL PROFIT (LOSS)	\$ 4,384.31

Fire Department report was given by Fire Chief, Pat Meier. Annual payroll for fire fighters is \$17,192.50. A motion was made by Kim Ebnet, seconded by Mike Odden to pay this payroll. AIF Payroll goes from December 1, 2006 to November 30, 2007. Budget for the payroll was \$20,000 so they are under budget for the year. Truck fund has 11,208.98. There is also a \$40,000 CD.

There were a total of 80 calls for the year 2007 (including Dec. 2006); Brockway 9; Holding 24; City of Holdingford 37; Krain 8 Avon 1; Two Rivers 1.

The Holdingford Fire and Rescue Department will be given an award at their Thursday meeting, Dec. 13, 2007.

The six people that came on as fire fighters in April, 2006 were recommended by Chief Meier to come off probation. Lloyd Rausch made that motion, seconded by Kim Ebnet. AIF. These six are now full fledged fire fighters. Two new people have come on the Fire Department at the recommendation of Chief Meier. Mike Odden made a motion to accept on probation Melvin Breth and Tim Winter as new recruits as of October 1, 2007. AIF

There are county and region courses for the fire fighters to attend. Chief Meier has asked for 20 refresher courses: 1st Responder, 4 Initial 1st Responder and 1 EMT course. The Fire Department pays for the course, then they get reimbursed by the county and/or region.

Mayor Schmit gave his mayor's report. See end of minutes for complete details.

Old Business

Eric Smith, from the Minnesota State Retirement System, addressed the council on Health Care Savings Plan for the employees. This would be a group benefit with a portion of employees' salary going into this plan. The council has an option of the city putting dollars into this plan for the employees and also has the option of putting part of their salary into this plan. Mayor Schmit and the city clerk will work out the details of this, submit the wording to the State to get approval, then bring it to the council at the January meeting for approval. This will become part of the Personnel Manual.

Speed study was discussed. There can be a speed study requested by the council in the form of a resolution. This gets submitted to the county for approval. If they approve it, it then goes to the state, which actually does the speed study. There is no cost to the city for this speed study. Resolution 07-12-10-1 reflects our request. A motion was made by Mike Odden, seconded by Lloyd Rausch to request a speed study via a resolution. AIF

Final payment on the City Hall/Fire Department roof repair was discussed. Final payment is \$16,606. There is a discrepancy on the invoices submitted for the extra work done. The city clerk is to look into this. If clerk can clear up discrepancy she is to pay the rest of the bill. If it can't be cleared up, the clerk is to deduct \$322.16 from final payment. This was made on a motion by Mike Odden, seconded by Kim Ebnet. AIF (The clerk called Jerry Vosen from Buttweilers Do-All, Inc. on Tuesday. The discrepancy is for Buttweilers time in working with doing these extra items. Clerk paid full final payment.)

Transfer of property where the Old Old Well #1 was located will be made to Louis Walz by warranty deed. This will include the elimination of the contamination agreement which became null and void when the well was abandoned and closed. Motion was made by Mike Odden, seconded by Lloyd Rausch. AIF City attorney is to make up the deed.

The liquor store operation options were discussed at length. The liquor store had in its budget to make a net profit of \$17,000. This is not going to happen by the end of 2007. Some of the options for improvement are: Replace present manager and staff; put the Municipal on the market to sell if we can get a fair price; lease the store out for a set monthly fee; contract with a company to run the store; council to take over and manage the store; continue as we are and hope it gets better; have more events; keep same manager but have a consultant come in for ideas for improvement; bar bingo; look at hours to see where they can be reduced; look where overhead can be reduced; explore remodeling the front of the liquor store; having "pop up" foods, i.e., French fries, short order foods; etc. Other ideas are welcome. The council will be looking at bringing in a consultant for fresh ideas.

New Business

Tri-County Humane Society sent the city a contract for 2008 for stray animals picked up in the city. This contract is the same as we had in 2007. A motion was made by Mike Odden, seconded by Lloyd Rausch to renew contract. AIF

CD 20523 will be maturing in January 2008. Motion made by Lloyd Rausch, seconded by Kim Ebnet to roll over this CD at the best rate when it comes due. AIF

COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) for public employees for 2007 was 2.3%. Raises for city employees was discussed. A motion was made by Lloyd Rausch, seconded by Kim Ebnet to give a raise of .34/hour for employees. AIF

Bryan Young has been contacted about cutting down trees that are leaning over the fence along Veteran's Park. He has not gotten back to the city about doing this. Kim Ebnet made a motion to spend not over \$1,000 on doing this work, seconded by Mike Odden. AIF

Tim Berscheid asked about our zoning laws on sign size. The city clerk will get him the information.

Resolution 07-12-10-02 on taxation training for Lloyd Rausch in 2007, Kim Ebnet and Dick Paggen for training in 2006 was made on a motion by Mike Odden, seconded by Ernie Schmit. AIF

Louis Walz asked if the city would pay a portion (\$500) of the concrete he had laid in front of his property for his sidewalk. Kim suggested that before the city pays Louis, the council needs to look at what sidewalk repairs need to be done throughout the city, who pays for what and take it all into consideration. A motion was made to this effect by Mike Odden, seconded by Kim Ebnet. AIF

Motion was made by Kim Ebnet, seconded by Mike Odden to replace the yield sign on 3rd Street, with a stop sign, where it crosses Washington. Since more parking is made available along this street, by St. Hedwig's church, Kim said it is hard to see cross traffic. AIF

Motion to adjourn was made by Lloyd Rausch, seconded by Mike Odden. AIF Meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Victoria Statz, City Clerk