

City Council Meeting Minutes (Approved)  
April 12, 2010

Present at the meeting: Kim Ebnet, Mike Odden, Lloyd Rausch, Susan Marstein, Ernie Schmit, Pat Meier, Vicki Statz, Gordon Sjaaheim, Gary Lange, Brian Remer, Scott Lange, Janelle Kendall, Matthew Quinn, Linda Breth, Michelle Kiley, Dorine Rausch.

Mayor Ernie Schmit called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Stearns County attorney, Janelle Kendall gave the council her report from 2009. Prosecutions in 2009 went down from each of the previous four years. We had a total of 21 misdemeanors and three gross misdemeanors. She gave words of encouragement to the council that overall in the county crime was also down for 2009.

Motion to approve checks was made by Lloyd Rausch, seconded by Sue Marstein. AIF A question came up as to why the Liquor Store refuse is more than the Parks. City clerk is to find out why. (It's based on frequency and volume.)

Motion to approve bank reconciliation was made by Sue Marstein seconded by Mike Odden. AIF

Motion to approve electronic transfers, debit card purchases was made by Lloyd Rausch, seconded by Sue Marstein. AIF

Motion to approve minutes of the March 8, 2010 regular council meeting with corrections was made by Lloyd Rausch, seconded by Mike Odden. AIF

Motion to approve public hearing meeting minutes with correction of March 15, 2010 was made by Kim Ebnet, seconded by Mike Odden. AIF

Liquor Store report was given by manager, Pat Meier. March gross sales \$32,700.67 which included 3 days of April. Total net profit for the L.S. is \$1,528.23 plus the YTD lottery \$1,086.68 bringing total net profit YTD to \$2,614.91. There is \$13,912.25 in the bank lottery account. The council approved to have \$10,000 of the lottery account put into a CD at best rate on a motion by Lloyd Rausch, seconded by Kim Ebnet. AIF Upcoming events for the Liquor Store are: Game Day, May 8. Bar Bingo every Tuesday night, 7 p.m. and Cold Cash every Friday night at 10 p.m. They will be open at noon the next two Sundays in April, (18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>) for NASCAR races. There had been damage to the L.S. men's bathroom that has been fixed. The council wants to see restitution from the person who caused the damage. The costs would otherwise have to come off the net profit from the L.S.

Fire Department report was given by Fire Chief, Pat Meier. There has been 19 calls so far for 2010. Pat is working on a FEMA grant. The Fire Relief breakfast brought in a net profit of about \$775.

Dorine Rausch has updated the payroll. She also explained that by 2013 our city sirens will have to be narrow banded from 25 Mhz to 12.5 Mhz. They will work with the county to get this done. Cost will be about \$500 for each siren, the city has three.

The F.D. has \$97,115.12 in CDs. One of them is coming due April 14. The council will roll this CD over when it is due on a motion by Sue Marstein, seconded by Mike Odden. AIF

Dorine Rausch reported that F.D. activity, meetings, etc. are now on the city web site calendar. [www.holdingfordmn.us](http://www.holdingfordmn.us) Click on Community Calendar. She asked permission to take an EMT class starting in August. The F.D. is to help pay for the class that is not covered by grant dollars. Motion to fund this class unless funding can be gotten from grants was made by Mike Odden, seconded by Sue Marstein. Voting yes was Sue Marstein, Mike Odden, Kim Ebnet. Abstaining was Lloyd Rausch.

She also requested to be paid mileage for a free class at Metro Hospital in the Twin Cities on Training the Trainer. Okayed by the council.

Mayor Ernie Schmit gave his report. See end of meeting minutes for details. One of the items he brought up was the generous donation to our food shelf from Blattner Energy of over 3,400 lbs of food, and paper products for our community. Resolution 10-04-12-02 to this effect was made on a motion by Lloyd Rausch, seconded by Sue Marstein. AIF

#### Old Business

Scott Lange gave the council an update on the water/sewer/street project. He, Brian Remer and Ernie had walked the area of the city where the project will be done. Several areas that were first noted as non eligible expenses through Rural Development are now included by Scott working with Rural Development. He also stated that David Drown will be working with us, SEH and Rural Development to put together the payment plan for this whole project.

On a motion by Mike Odden, seconded by Kim Ebnet the council approved the plans and specs for the curb and gutter portion of the project. AIF

A motion to put future capital charge amount (specific dollars unknown as this time) to take care of non eligible costs in the water/sewer/street project on resident utility bills was made by Kim Ebnet, seconded by Lloyd Rausch. AIF

Two public neighborhood meetings for all residents on the water/sewer/street project have been set. There will be an open house for those who are north of County Road 17 at city hall on Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup> from 6 – 7:30 p.m. The open house for those who are south of County Road 17 the open house meeting will be at city hall on Thursday, April 29 from 6 – 7:30 p.m. Anyone who cannot make it to their open house meeting time may come to the other meeting. The council wants to make sure all the residents have a full understanding of what will be involved in this project and if there are questions to be sure to address them to the engineering team or the city council at this time.

Mayor Ernie Schmit requested permission to do a feasibility study on wind energy. Our engineering firm SEH will do a wind feasibility study for \$15,000. The Mayor will ask the Initiative Foundation for 50% grant funds of \$7,500 with the City and S.E.H. splitting the remaining costs.

Molly Thompson, the city's auditor from Schlenner, Wenner, & Co. gave the 2009 audit for the city. She went over several parts of the audit, stating that in comparison to 2008, the city was very comparable in revenue and expenses. Approval of the audit was made on a motion by Kim Ebnet, seconded by Sue Marstein. AIF

Resolution 10-04-12-01 retiring the Revenue Refunding City Hall Bond was made on a motion by Mike Odden, seconded by Lloyd Rausch. AIF

#### New Business

Michelle Kiley presented to the council three drawings for flags in our downtown area. She was looking for support from the council to go ahead with this project. The council made no decision on this and asked if there might be more involvement from the community in coming up with designs for the flags. Michelle will be meeting with various business owners later this week to share and get ideas from them as to this project.

Linda Breth representing Helping Hands came before the council to request a gambling permit for a raffle during Holdingford Daze. Motion to approve permit was made by Kim Ebnet, seconded by Sue Marstein. AIF Last year the tickets were sold for \$10 each and 600 tickets were sold.

Mayor Ernie Schmit talked about the demolition of the two buildings the city purchased a few months ago. There is an issue of asbestos in each building. Jacob Fisher from Assessco Environmental Services, from Sauk Rapids came to assess how much asbestos is actually in each building. There was a preliminary assessment made prior to the city purchasing them. Mayor Schmit will be contacting Stearns County to see

how this can be handled. A request has come to take out some items from the old hardware store. The council has tabled this so as of now nothing will be allowed to be taken out of either of these buildings.

Union negotiation representation for the city was discussed. There were several consultants the city has looked at. Mayor Schmit will be contacting one of them to help with this first negotiation process.

LGA for the city will be cut for this year, 2010, however; the final amount has not yet been determined by the state legislature. 2011 will also see our LGA cut for our city.

The city clerk explained about the classes she attended at the March MCFOA conference in St. Cloud. She will have follow up at a later council meeting.

The city wide clean up sheet was gone over and this will be included in the May utility billing along with the Consumer Confidence Report that is sent out yearly. City wide clean up this year will be Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, at the old Maintenance shop from 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

The city clerk shared with the council the vandalism that has been occurring at our Wobegon Shelter bathrooms. In the men's bathroom the stool has been purposely plugged several times and also a fire with burning leaves was discovered in the men's bathroom. Outside the shelter, two of the flower pots have been overturned, the bike rack and one of the benches have been moved several times. It is prudent for all city residents to keep an eye on our public property to see that it is well taken care of. If there is any vandalism, please report it to our Stearns County Sheriff's department or any city employee or council member.

Motion to adjourn was made by Kim Ebnet, seconded by Lloyd Rausch. AIF Meeting adjourned at 10:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Victoria Statz, City Clerk of Holdingford