

City Council Meeting Minutes (Approved)
December 08, 2008

Present at the meeting: Kim Ebnet, Mike Odden, Lloyd Rausch, Dick Paggen, Ernie Schmit, Vicki Statz, Louis Walz, Sue Marstein, Jeremy Freudenrich, Jerry Schueler, Gordon Sjaaheim, Louise Winkler, Steve Ebnet, Stephanie Court and associate from New Core Wireless.

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

Motion to pay all bills was made by Lloyd Rausch, seconded by Dick Paggen. AIF

Motion to receive bank reconciliation was made by Lloyd Rausch seconded by Mike Odden. AIF

Motion to accept electronic transfers and debit/credit cards was made by Mike Odden, seconded by Lloyd Rausch. AIF

Motion to accept the November, 2008 minutes was made by Kim Ebnet seconded by Dick Paggen. AIF

Liquor Store report was given by Mayor Ernie Schmit in the absence of Manager Pat Meier.

		November, 2008	LIQUOR STORE REPORT	
		GROSS RECEIPTS		
NOVEMBER	2008	\$ 26,253.57	GROSS RECEIPTS	\$ 26,253.57
OCTOBER	2008	\$ 30,923.70		
NOVEMBER	2007	\$ 30,397.20	PREVIOUS GROSS	\$ 322,312.88
Lottery'08 November		\$ 371.21	'08 GROSS	\$ 348,566.45
'08 YTD		\$ 5,656.68	'08 EXPENSES	\$ 333,678.30
			PROFIT/(LOSS)	\$ 14,888.15
BANK		\$ 7,094.75	NET PROFIT LOTTERY	\$ 5,656.68
'06 CD	\$10,000	'07 CD \$10,000	Band Reimbursement	\$ 1,440.00
'08 CD	\$10,000		TOTAL PROFIT (LOSS)	\$ 21,984.83

Year end inventory of the liquor store will be on Sunday, Jan. 4, 2009.

Mayor Ernie Schmit also gave the Fire Department report along with Assistant Fire Chief, Steve Ebnet. The Truck Fund CD is coming up for renewal. Motion to roll over CD 20924 of \$42,684.67 to best interest rate was made by Mike Odden, seconded by Kim Ebnet. AIF Payroll for the Firefighters/rescue squad was discussed. From December 1, 2007 to November 30, 2008 there were 1,951 total hours put in by the Volunteer staff to equal \$19,812. Council approved the payroll on a motion by Mike Odden, seconded by Dick Paggen. AIF Budgeted for wages in 2008 was 26,600 including administrative wages. This year the F.D. came in under budget by \$6,788. Chief Pat Meier started attending a Fire Inspector I class about codes tonight. Cost is \$400 plus mileage costs, possible 44 hours of training. He is willing to pay for it on his own if the city does not. The council agreed to pay for this course for Pat Meier on a motion by Mike Odden, seconded by Dick Paggen. AIF

Fire Department's Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) are basically complete. Steve Ebnet would like to see a couple changes yet. They will have it ready for the January council meeting.

Received a reimbursement of \$70 from Central MN EMS Region toward the EMT refresher course. DNR grant 50/50 match was awarded to the Fire Department for \$3,000 (\$1,500/\$1,500) The contract was signed last week and as soon as the Fire Dept. receives the money, they will be ordering items for the Fire Dept.

Mayor Ernie Schmit gave his mayor's report.

The summary of the closed meeting at end of November regular council meeting: The council has taken Jeremy Freudenrich off probation and hired him as a full time maintenance person.

Jerry Schueler and Jeremy Freudenrich came before the council to explain snow removal for the city. For safety and financial reasons the sidewalks should be cleared off first, then the streets. This way all of the snow will be cleared at once. If sidewalks are left to property and business owners, many times that snow gets put back onto the already plowed streets, causing a safety hazard. On a motion by Dick Paggen, seconded by Kim Ebnet all Main Street sidewalks will be cleared as well as heavy pedestrian sidewalks. AIF As time allows all secondary sidewalks will be plowed.

The Maintenance Department is in the process of writing up policy on snow removal.

On a motion by Ernie Schmit, seconded by Dick Paggen, the Maint. Dept. will hire an on call, as needed seasonal person to clear off sidewalks, at \$9/hour. The council agreed to a maximum dollar amount for the snow seasonal person of not more than \$1,000 for these wages. AIF

A motion was made by Lloyd Rausch, seconded by Mike Odden to approve the 2009 budget. AIF There was one minor change made; Other Wages under Street Expenses increased by \$1,000 to cover snow removal. Other City Expenses in Excess of Revenue was lessened by \$1,000.

New Core Wireless associates Stephanie Court and Paul explained to the council about their company. New Core is a start up company offering wireless phone service and working with Benton Co-op, Sherburne, and Albany Telephone services. They want to use the city water tower to put up their antennas. Preliminary testing for coverage needs to be done by them before approval by either party. They will be working with our Maintenance Dept to set up testing, etc. On a motion by Kim Ebnet seconded by Dick Paggen this preliminary approval was given. AIF New Core Wireless gave the council a copy of their lease agreements they have with other area cities for the council's information. Further agreement on this is tabled until all information is disseminated by both the council and New Core Wireless.

A city resident has requested the council to extend the summer sewer cut rates to include September for all residents. Many are watering lawns and gardens into September. Mike Odden made a motion to that effect. The motion died for lack of a second. Summer sewer rates will stay as they were; for June, July and August.

City employees salary rates was discussed. The federal Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for 2008 is 5.8%. Kim Ebnet made a motion to pay city employees 3% of the COLA, seconded by Dick Paggen. Kim Ebnet and Dick Paggen voted yes. Ernie Schmit, Mike Odden and Lloyd Rausch voted no. Motion failed.

Mike Odden made a motion to pay city employees 5% of the COLA, seconded by Lloyd Rausch. Mike Odden and Lloyd Rausch voted yes. Ernie Schmit, Kim Ebnet and Dick Paggen voted no. Motion failed.

Ernie Schmit made a motion to pay city employees 4% of the COLA, seconded by Dick Paggen. Ernie Schmit, Dick Paggen and Kim Ebnet voted yes, Lloyd Rausch and Mike Odden voted no. Motion passed.

Stearns Bank asked the city to release several pledges that had low balances from their security roster. There is ample coverage for the city's finances with the pledges that will still be on the books. Motion to release pledges was made by Kim Ebnet, seconded by Dick Paggen. AIF

Stearns County Board of Equalization asked the council if they want to continue having the Board of Equalization meetings in May for property taxes. The council said yes, there are trained council members to assist the county assessor with this meeting.

Mayor Schmit thanked councilperson Dick Paggen for his years of service on the council. He is stepping down and Susan Marstein will be taking his place starting with the January, 2009 council meeting.

Dick Paggen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Lloyd Rausch. AIF Meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Victoria R. Statz, City Clerk