

City Council Meeting Minutes (Approved)  
February 14, 2011

Present at the meeting: Kim Ebnet, Mike Odden, Lloyd Rausch, Susan Marstein, Ernie Schmit, Vicki Statz, Scott Lange, Pat Meier, Dorine Rausch, Louis Walz, Gordon Sjaaheim, Tom Skudlarek, David Yurczyk, Louis Becker.

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

Motion to approve checks was made by Sue Marstein, seconded by Lloyd Rausch. AIF

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

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

Motion to approve minutes of the December 13, 2010 council meeting was made by Mike Odden, seconded by Lloyd Rausch. AIF

Liquor Store report was given by manager Pat Meier. Gross earnings for January, \$26,786.37, Expenses \$24,883.02. Lottery for the month was \$335.60 for revenue of \$2,238.95. Coming events; the fun runs are in full swing, dart league has started, it is Wednesday evenings, January through March. We also have Sunday's open featuring car racing. Video horse racing will be the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month, put on by the Booster Club. The Booster Club will also have a Pot of green raffle in May.

Fire Department report was given by Fire Chief, Pat Meier. There have been 11 calls so far this year. Our truck fund has \$36,132.77 including interest. Firefighter II planned for 2011 will start in March. Will test out for Firefighter I on Feb. 24. Firefighter I hands on went well Every one passed the test. The city council made the volunteer firefighters breakfast the morning of doing the hands on test. For year 2010 we have a tuition voucher of \$2,085 to be used for training. All training scheduled can be viewed on our city's web site.

The DNR grant we received is almost complete, the Agstar one is completed. With the Agstar, we purchased hose and a defibulator. Some of the firefighters are working on the department bylaws.

There are a couple changes in leadership, Dorine Rausch is the Emergency Management Director, David Yurczyk is training Director, Tim Winter is the new gambling manager.

**THE HOLDINGFORD VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS WILL HAVE THEIR ANNUAL BREAKFAST ON SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2011 AT CITY HALL, FROM 8:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.**

Mayor Ernie Schmit gave his report. See end of minutes for details.

Scott Lange, city engineer, gave an update on our water/sewer/street project. All is at Rural Development for final approval and we should be getting the go ahead anytime soon. We have most of the easements signed off from residents where the city needed sidewalk easements.

Sign reflectivity was discussed. Our city maintenance will do a thorough assessment of all signs we currently have in the city. The council will review which signs will remain when redoing with reflectivity.

Tom Skudlarek talked about winter parking on city streets. The council gave him an overview of what our city rules are on snow removal and city street parking. There is no overnight parking on city streets during winter months. Notice of such is posted on highways coming into town.

The council briefly discussed the now empty lot across the street from city hall. They are looking for commercial business to purchase/build on this property. One idea that came up is to have it listed with a commercial realtor. The approximate cost of purchasing the old grocery store and hardware store, demolishing, and other expenses came to about \$118,712. HRA dollars used for this was \$92,270 leaving the city tab of about \$26,441. Any and all commercial opportunities for this property will be looked at by the council.

The Commercial Club marquee was discussed. The city has been asked if they would pick up the electricity costs for running the marquee. It will have LED lighting along with other lighting. They were told the approximate cost per day to run this would be about \$1/day. Motion to allow payment of electricity for the marquee was made by Kim Ebnet, seconded by Mike Odden. AIF As a side note, the added cost of insurance to the city for insuring the marquee will be \$8/year.

Motion to adjourn was made by Lloyd Rausch, seconded by Sue Marstein. AIF Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria R. Statz, City Clerk