

City Council Meeting Minutes (Approved)  
January 11, 2010

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

Acting Mayor Mike Odden called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Motion to approve checks was made by Kim Ebnet, seconded by Mike Odden. AIF

Motion to approve bank reconciliation was made by, Mike Odden, seconded by Lloyd Rausch. 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 14, 2009 regular council meeting was made by Lloyd Rausch, seconded by Mike Odden. AIF

Motion to approve minutes of the Emergency council meeting, December 29, 2009 was made by Sue Marstein, seconded by Lloyd Rausch. AIF

Liquor Store report was given by Pat Meier. Balance Sheet from Asyst shows a profit of \$12,474.44 for the year. There are some bills that need to be accounted for in 2009, so this balance is not the EOY total. Lottery for the year is at \$5,178.28 and interest on CDs is \$544.71. Inventory difference from 2008 to 2009 is \$4,393.12 less than 2009. The silent auction held in November has netted \$2,500 so far with a few more items left to be picked up. The Liquor Store has been open on Sundays for the Vikings football games.

Fire Department report was given by Fire Chief Pat Meier. There has been only a couple calls so far in January. The Truck Fund has a total of \$97,064.70, including the \$3,000 donation from Fire Relief at the end of the year. The department has placed ads for the new fire apparatus. Bids will be opened at the Annual Fire Board meeting, Wednesday, January 27, 2010 at city hall at 7:15 p.m.

Mayor Ernie Schmit gave his Mayor's Report. See end of minutes for complete details.

Scott Lange has received comments back from the Rural Development on the proposed water/sewer project late today and did not have time to go over the report in detail. He will have comments for the council at the next council meeting. He, Mayor Schmit and a renewable energy engineer from SEH have met to discuss the possibility of implementing such energy sources for the city.

Motion for mayor to look into grant \$s for renewable energy was made by Kim Ebnet, seconded by Mike Odden. AIF Mayor Schmit will work with SEH and their grant writers to this end.

The old Hardware Store at 500 Main St. was purchased by the city on December 29, 2009. There were asbestos issues with purchasing the Holdingford Meat and Grocery at 510 Main St., so that purchase was put on hold for now.

Pay equity was discussed at length. In order to be in compliance with the State of MN. several changes needed to be made to our structure. Kathleen Murphy from Murphy Management Consultants is working with the city to meet state requirements. Approval in pay equity information, steps, rates as amended was made on a motion by Lloyd Rausch, seconded by Sue Marstein. Rausch, Marstein and Ebnet voted yes, Odden voted no.

Further discussion on this subject resulted in LloydRausch rescinding his motion, Sue Marstein seconding the rescission and council voted in favor of rescinding motion.

Motion to accept salary range changes in H, I, and J salary ranges was made by Lloyd Rausch, seconded by Sue Marstein. AIF

Motion to accept ranking city employees in the matching position, group, step and salary documentation was made by Kim Ebnet, seconded by Sue Marstein. AIF The council asked the city clerk to seek questions on job evaluations from the LMC and the clerk's list serve.

Motion to look for a different building inspector was made by Kim Ebnet, seconded by Mike Odden. AIF

List of charges was gone over by the council. Minor changes were made to the list. Motion to accept List of Charges as amended was made by Sue Marstein, seconded by Lloyd Rausch. AIF

Local Board of Review Transfer Agreement was discussed. Motion made by Lloyd Rausch, seconded by Kim Ebnet to keep the local board or appeal and equalization in our community. AIF

The next Stearns County League of Cities meeting will be at St. Martin, Jan. 19, 2010.

No action was taken on resolution on Policy on Fire and Rescue Service Areas given out by the City of Richmond.

Skid loader snow bucket and snow blower attachments were discussed. Motion was made by Mike Odden, seconded by Sue Marstein to purchase both the 8' snow bucket from MidSota, Avon, for \$1,350 and the 85" Erskin snow blower from Ziegler Cat, St. Cloud, for \$6,465. AIF

The annual Fire Board meeting will be Wednesday, January 27, 7 p.m. at city hall.

Water bill from a resident was discussed. No change to the bill.

The city clerk's HSA is to be prorated to be in line with other employees HSA accounts. Motion to approve such was made by Mike Odden, seconded by Lloyd Rausch. AIF

Senior citizen monthly hall rental fee was discussed. No action was taken. Hall rental fee stays at \$100/month.

Mike Odden shared with the council that the city of Holdingford now has a Twitter website. Go to [www.holdingfordmn.us](http://www.holdingfordmn.us) click on "Follow us on Twitter" just below the covered bridge picture.

Motion to adjourn was made by Sue Marstein, seconded by Mike Odden. AIF

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Victoria R. Statz, City Clerk