

City Council Meeting Minutes (Approved)
January 10, 2011

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

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

Mayor Ernie Schmit, councilmen Mike Odden and Lloyd Rausch were sworn in to new terms on the council.

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

Motion to approve bank reconciliation was made by, Kim Ebnet, 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 December 13, 2010 council meeting was made by Kim Ebnet, seconded by Lloyd Rausch. AIF

Motion to approve minutes of the November 23, 2010 public hearing/special meeting was made by Kim Ebnet, seconded by Lloyd Rausch. AIF

Liquor Store report was given by manager, Pat Meier. Gross revenue for December, 2010 was \$37,551.02. YTD revenue is at \$369,823.09 with expenses at \$368,560.05. Include YTD lottery revenue brings the YTD revenue to \$5,462.61. Inventory over 2009 is \$3,234.18 for a net income of \$8,696.79. Year end adjustments made by the city auditor are not included in this amount. Coming events for the Liquor Store: the fun runs have started, as has the dart league. We are open on Sunday's for football play offs and car racing. There will be video horse racing on Friday, January 21st.

Fire Department report was given by Fire Chief Pat Meier. Total calls for 2010 was 76. The breakdown is: Albany Township (mutual aid) 1; Brockway 19; City of Holdingford 28; Elmdale Township (mutual aid) 1; Holding Township 23; Krain Township 4. Truck Fund has a balance of \$21,132.77 including year end interest. Firefighter II is planned for 2011 starting in January. Will be testing out of Firefighter I. Budget for 2011 has been raised from \$88,824 to \$90,529. Bonding payment for the new fire truck, plus more training, instruction for new firefighters were causes for the increase of the budget. The new fire truck is in operation, additional equipment (hoses, etc) have been purchased in the amount of \$9,602. The annual fire board meeting with the townships and the city will be Wednesday, January 26, 2011 at 7 p.m. in the council chambers. There are various meetings and trainings set up for the next several months. All these can be viewed on the city's website calendar.

Mayor Ernie Schmit gave his report. This is in detail at the end of the minutes.

Old Business

Scott Lange reported he has everything in for our water/sewer project and is waiting for final approval from Rural Water

Motion to accept Opatz Excavating bid of \$90/load, (with approximately 35 loads by Opatz estimation) to remove concrete rubble pile by maintenance shed was made by Mike Odden, seconded by Kim Ebnet. AIF

The city has signed a one year contract with Surfsota for internet usage of our water tower. Surfsota has been sold to Xtratyme company. The only major change in this contract is that Surfsota (Xtratyme) will now be paying a monthly fee for electricity.

New Business

The council went over the fee schedule. Since we will be installing new water meters that read in gallons instead of cubic feet, we converted the amount over minimum from \$.035 per cubic foot to \$.04 for eight gallons or \$.005 per gallon. Last summer the city held a public hearing on putting an utility rate to help cover costs not being eligible for our Rural Water loan or grant. At that time the council felt it would be about \$15/month for each EDU (Equivalent Dwelling Unit). Residents and commercial businesses will be assessed according to their level of water usage. Residents will be at 1 EDU/household. The EDU's were figured by using the total water usage from 2009 utility billing. This rate will be assessed starting with the February billing for January usage.

Water usage other than in City rate is \$40/1,000 gallons.

One new fee was established: Zoning Variance and Appeals application fee was set at what the cost of a special meeting, clerk hours, and publishing costs would be.

Motion to approve fee changes was made by Lloyd Rausch, seconded by Mike Odden. AIF

Motion to approve donation of \$250 to Initiative Foundation, a regional foundation that has helped the city of Holdingford over the past several years with grant dollars was made by Mike Odden, seconded by Kim Ebnet. AIF

Resolution 11-01-10-01 To enter into an agreement with the County to light the Covered Bridge was made on a motion by Kim Ebnet, seconded by Mike Odden. AIF

City employee pay increases was discussed. Pay increase of 1% for all full and part time employees, except the maintenance department (waiting for resolution of union contract) was approved on a motion by Mike Odden, seconded by Sue Marstein. AIF

Annual step increase for city clerk was discussed. Motion to approve city clerk from Step 3 to Step 4, Group J, was made by Mike Odden, seconded by Lloyd Rausch. AIF

Having another person available for snow removal in the absence of Rodney Adolph was okayed by the council.

An electronic sign to be used as by the Holdingford area was discussed. The Commercial Club is pursuing to have this sign instead of the one on the south and east sides of the Old Maintenance building. The Commercial Club is asking the city's permission if it would be willing to have the marquee put on the city's insurance. The placement of the marquee was also discussed. The Commercial Club is looking to put it on the north side of Co. Rd. 17 off of the county roadway and west of the Wobegon Trail, set so it will be readable for traffic from Main St. and well as Co. Rd. 17. Motion to approve the concept of and general location as well as the insurance coverage was made by Mike Odden, seconded by Kim Ebnet. AIF

The maintenance men will be burning the large brush pile in Euteneur's pit sometime in the next several weeks, as weather (snow and wind) permits.

Stearns League of Cities next meeting will be Tuesday, January 18, 2011 in Sauk Centre. Mayor Ernie Schmit will be attending as will Lloyd Rausch. Any other council members are also invited to attend.

Councilperson Kim Ebnet requested that there be better lighting at the skating rink for skating in the evenings. Also requested were benches to sit on at the rink. Both items will be looked into.

The city has changed phone companies from DTI (who went out of business) to Integra.

Mayor Schmit has checked with several people about the value of the old fire truck. He was told it has little to no value, \$700 - \$900 possibly for the chassis. The rest of the truck is rusted, etc. It is to be put up for bids.

LMCIT, the city's insurance carrier has rebated to the city \$7,165 for 2010. Motion to put it into the General Fund (for rebuilding the skate park) and Liquor was made by Lloyd Rausch, seconded by Mike Odden. AIF The clerk is to look into what percentage belongs to the Liquor Store and what percentage for the General Fund.

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

Mayor Ernie Schmit opened up the closed meeting for union negotiations. Discussion followed.

Motion to adjourn the closed meeting was made by Sue Marstein, seconded by Lloyd Rausch. AIF. Closed meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Victoria R. Statz, City Clerk/Treasurer