

City Council Meeting Minutes (Approved)
June 9, 2008

Present at the meeting: Kim Ebnet, Mike Odden, Lloyd Rausch, Ernie Schmit, Vicki Statz, Pat Meier, Louis Walz, Jeremy Freudenrich, Sue Marstein, Sherry Johnson, Kristy Marstein, Annie Philippi, Debbie Meier, Molly Thompson. (Councilperson Dick Paggen was absent.)

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

Being our city auditor was present when the meeting started it was okay with the council to have her present the 2007 yearly audit to the council. She took the council through different parts of the audited financial statement for the city, noting that most spending and revenue remained the same as last year. She gave the council pointers on how to improve operating procedures for both the clerk's office and the liquor store. She informed the council on a new policy mandated by the legislature. The audited financial statement was approved on a motion by Mike Odden, seconded by Lloyd Rausch. AIF There are copies in the city hall office for anyone wishing to view the financial statement.

After some discussion, the checks were approved on a motion by Lloyd Rausch, seconded by Kim Ebnet. AIF

Council minutes for May were approved on a motion by Kim Ebnet, seconded by Mike Odden. AIF

The city clerk is to look into the possibility of the city becoming tax exempt. She will contact the LMC.

Liquor store report was given by manager Pat Meier. He talked about getting an advertising panel for the L.S. and getting internet. He will look into it further. The lottery contract for gambling was approved on a motion by Kim Ebnet, seconded by Mike Odden. AIF

		June, 2008	LIQUOR STORE REPORT	
		GROSS RECEIPTS		
MAY	2008	\$ 37,826.94	GROSS RECEIPTS	\$ 37,826.94
APRIL	2008	\$ 31,511.65		
MAY	2007	\$ 31,272.15	PREVIOUS GROSS	\$ 111,900.80
Lottery'08 April		\$ 424.51	'08 GROSS	\$ 149,727.74
'08 YTD		\$ 2,869.23	'08 EXPENSES	\$ 145,458.35
			PROFIT/(LOSS)	\$ 4,269.39
GT BANK		\$ 14,307.30	NET PROFIT LOTTERY	\$ 2,869.23
'06 CD	\$10,000	'07 CD \$10,000	TOTAL PROFIT (LOSS)	\$ 7,138.62

Procedures on liquor store banking was gone over with the council. Approval of these procedures was made on a motion by Mike Odden, seconded by Lloyd Rausch. AIF These procedures will become part of the city employee manual.

The city council and Manager Pat Meier did a mid year inventory of the liquor store. The inventory is virtually the same as it was the end of 2007.

Discussion on improvements for the liquor store was discussed, primarily redoing the bathrooms. Mike Odden made a motion, seconded by Kim Ebnet to get estimates for remodeling both bathrooms- AIF to see what can be done for this remodeling. AIF

CD 20925 Lottery CD will be renewed for a 3 month period. It comes due June 16, 2008. This motion was made by Kim Ebnet, seconded by Lloyd Rausch. AIF

Signage on the back of the store advertising the L.S. for bicyclists on the Lake Wobegon Trail was discussed as was painting the west and south sides of the L.S. Mike Odden made a motion, seconded by Lloyd Rausch to paint the west and south sides of the building. AIF

Mike Odden made a motion to have the L.S. obtain internet access, seconded by Kim Ebnet. AIF

Fire Department report was given by Fire Chief, Pat Meier. There have been 39 calls so far this year. They have received two reimbursement checks for training of the volunteer firefighters; one from EMS of Central MN for \$200, and from Stearns County \$298 for training of two people in First Responder Class. One application for a firefighter has been given out.

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

Mayor Schmit reported that Opatz Metals has been working hard in getting the area behind their business cleaned up. They are making good progress.

Behind Opatz Metals is a storm sewer that needs work. It has been busted up for quite a long time. The city received two bids for this storm sewer repair. On a motion by Lloyd Rausch, seconded by Mike Odden, Opatz Excavating with a bid of \$1,255 was given the work. Their bid was low bid. AIF

Holdingsford sign design for the Wobegon Trailhead was discussed. It will be a sign approximately 6 feet by 18 inches to be put on both ends of the trailhead shelter. A Soo Line sign will also be put just below the Holdingsford sign to acknowledge the old Soo Line that used to come through Holdingsford. Kim Ebnet made a motion to accept the design and purchase these signs for approximately \$1,000, seconded by Lloyd Rausch. AIF The city clerk is to call Robbie Berscheid with this information.

Xcel Energy natural gas line to be brought into the city was discussed briefly. This will be a costly endeavor and the mayor is looking into how we may be able to get this financed.

Ken Buttweiler has sent a letter concerning a tax forfeited property. The council has several questions for him, so this letter and any action sought by Mr. Buttweiler was tabled until he can be here for a meeting.

The annual lift station inspection service by Electric Pump was approved on a motion by Mike Odden, seconded by Lloyd Rausch. AIF

MaGuire Iron cleaned out the inside of our water tower in May. They suggested the city put in a flush valve to drain the tank periodically. The sediment was even with the stand pipe inside the tower and needs to be drained more often than every two years to keep the sediment at the bottom of the tower cleaned out. The council decided to put this valve installation in the 2009 budget.

Blue Cross/Blue Shield medical insurance renewal is due in August. The council received the new rates. Nationally the rates have gone up 12 – 15%, Holdingsford's rate is going up 3 – 6 %. It was decided to go with the small increase from BC/BS for the coming year.

Our new maintenance person, Jeremy Freudenrich will be going to Brainerd for MPCA wastewater training in August. This is a three day conference.

Mayor Ernie Schmit talked about a revolving loan fund for businesses. We would have to re-activate the Economic Development Authority here in Holdingsford. Mayor Schmit will be looking into this effort.

The Maintenance Department will be painting the fire hydrants in town, as well as doing yellow stripping on curbs where it is needed. They will also be painting the north bathroom in the ballpark, the dugouts and well house #2 to match the color of the Veteran's Park shelter.

Mayor Schmit will look into having Surfsota hook up the internet at our Maintenance Shop.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:42 p.m. on a motion by Lloyd Rausch, seconded by Kim Ebnet. AIF

Respectfully submitted by Victoria R. Statz