

City Council Meeting Minutes (Approved)
March 14, 2011

Present at the meeting: Kim Ebnet, Mike Odden, Lloyd Rausch, Susan Marstein, Ernie Schmit, Vicki Statz, Scott Lange, Pat Meier, Jeremy Freudenrich, Louise Winkler, Gordon Sjaaheim, Cheryl Foster, Dave Neiman, Louis Walz, Janelle Kendall.

Mayor Ernie Schmit called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

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

Janelle Kendall, county attorney, gave her annual report for the City of Holdingford. Misdemeanors for the city were at 27 for the year, including 23 driving violations, three personal crimes, one alcohol. Gross misdemeanors were at 4 for a total of 31 for the year. 2009 crimes in Holdingford were at 24. During the year we had 29.5 hours of community service done here in the city with adults and juveniles from other communities serving out their sentence. The council thanked Ms Kendall for the work she is doing for our city and county.

Motion to approve bank reconciliation was made by, Kim Ebnet, seconded by Lloyd Rausch. AIF

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

Motion to approve minutes of the January 10, 2011 council meeting was made by Lloyd Rausch, seconded by Mike Odden. AIF

Liquor Store report was given by manager Pat Meier. Gross receipts for February was \$26,786.37 with expenses being \$27,661.85. February lottery was at \$345.85, giving the total net profit end of February to be \$1,105.83. Dart league ends in March. We are open on Sunday's for racing. April will have a 500 card tournament and music with Tim Haus on another date in April. Video horse racing continues on the 1st Friday of the month. The Booster Club will have a "Pot of Green" raffle in May.

Fire Department report was given by Fire Chief Pat Meier. We have had 16 calls so far this year. Albany Township and Two River Township had one mutual aid from us, Brockway 3, City of Holdingford 5, Holding Township 5, Krain Township 1. Truck Fund remains the same with \$36,132.77. Fire Fighter II classes have started. Two firefighters have completed their first responder initial. Truck bids for the old fire truck were opened at 7:30 p.m. Five bids came in: Pat Meier at \$526; Jeremy Freudenrich at \$1,444.44; Jason Anderson \$1,501; a second Jason Anderson bid at \$1,100; Louis Walz at \$752. Motion to accept Jason Anderson's high bid of \$1,501 was made by Lloyd Rausch, seconded by Mike Odden. AIF

Cheryl Foster from Stearns County Assessor's office came to give an update on homes sold here in Holdingford in 2010. Property values have decreased an average of 10% over the year before, commercial property went down 3% and apartments went down 1%. Property tax statements should be coming out April 1. Board of Equalization meeting for Holdingford will be Tuesday, April 12 from 7 – 7:30 p.m. here at city hall for anyone who may want to challenge their property tax statement value, etc.

Scott Lange discussed our water/sewer/street project. Two of the three projects are approved and should be getting final approval from Rural Development any day. Once approval is granted, bids may go out. Depending on when the bids go out, work may begin by the end of May. Motion to advertise for bids on the wastewater plant upgrade and the w/w/s project contingent upon approve was made by Kim Ebnet, seconded by Sue Marstein. AIF Motion for the water meters was already approved at an earlier meeting.

Dave Neiman from Rural Water came to explain to the council our Wellhead Protection Plan. Part I has been done by MDH at no charge to the city because of the size of our town. Motion to approve Part I of the Wellhead Protection Plan was made by Mike Odden, seconded by Kim Ebnet. AIF Dave also explained what needs to be done for Part II. It will include identifiers of where our well water comes from, how to protect this area, vulnerability areas, etc. This process will take from one to one and a half years to complete working with the township, landowners and the county to develop this plan. Included in this development team will be Karen Voz as well as Dave from Rural Water who will give us assistance among others who are knowledgeable in this area.

The Commercial Club's marquee will be placed on the south side of Co. Rd. 17 off the right of way between Main Street and the Wobegon bike trail. Council gave its okay to this.

Motion on Resolution 11-03-14-01, Supporting City of Holdingford and the Lion's Club installing electricity for lights along the covered bridge, City of Holdingford was made by Kim Ebnet, seconded by Sue Marstein. AIF

Xcel Energy gave a proposal to the council for installing a security light by our water tower. After some discussion a motion was made by Mike Odden, seconded by Sue Marstein to put a 100 watt security light in that area. Voting yes: Mike Odden, Lloyd Rausch, and Sue Marstein. Voting no: Kim Ebnet. Motion passed.

Overdue utility bills were discussed by the council. Bills reaching close to or over the \$300 mark are now sent letters explaining that their water may be turned off if the city receives no payment. The council discussed having the names and dollar amounts printed in the council minutes for those who have not kept their accounts up to date. The city clerk has checked with the League of MN cities and this is legal to do. Motion to may having names and account amounts published was made by Mike Odden, seconded by Lloyd Rausch. AIF It is unfair for the citizens of the city to carry the burden of someone else's non payment. By calling the city clerk and setting up a payment plan and following through with it will work in the resident's favor in keeping resident's names and amounts owed out of the council minutes.

Jim Anderson from HRA has notified the city that we are eligible for another round of home rehab in 2012. Working with Belgrade again will strengthen our ability to qualify for home rehabs. We are again taking names of home owners who may want to have some home rehab done. This may include roofing, siding, windows, plumbing, and more. Please call the city clerk if you want your name listed on the next round of HRA rehab. Motion to partner with Belgrade in the HRA home rehab was made by Sue Marstein, seconded by Mike Odden. AIF

The council looked over a preliminary sketch of a possible small campground in Veteran's Park. During the summer months we have many requests for camping here. This campground would help facilitate visitors to come and stay in our town. This preliminary sketch will be given to the Lion's Club for refinement. Ideas for this campground from residents are welcome. Please let any city council member or the city clerk know of your ideas that we may pass along to the Lion's Club. We are looking at having camp sites along the river west of the skateboard and volleyball court with tent camping on the west side of the restrooms. Showers will be incorporated into the bathroom building and a water spigot on the west side of the bathrooms. There would be electricity where camp sites would be placed.

The council discussed building incentives for our city. With the building stalemate in our area, the council looked at the possibility of proposing that any new home or outbuilding built would have the city's portion of the increased property taxes rebated for two years and the water/sewer hookup fee (now set at \$1,800) be waived. In addition, any new addition to an existing structure, that new portion that would increase the city's portion of their property taxes, would also be rebated for two years. Motion to approve this incentive was made by Mike Odden, seconded by Sue Marstein. AIF

ISO (Insurance Service Office) wants to do an evaluation of our building code enforcement department. An ISO rep will be meeting with Nancy Scott and the city clerk tomorrow on this evaluation. This should help in homeowners insurance rates once we get a rating from the ISO company.

Insurance for volunteers is up for re-issuance. Motion to have such insurance was made by Lloyd Rausch, seconded by Kim Ebnet. AIF

City wide clean up has been set for Saturday, June 18, 8 a.m. to 12 noon at the old Maintenance shop. Information on items accepted will be in your May utility billing.

Household hazardous waste pick up for Holdingford is set for Saturday, August 27, 9 a.m. to 12 noon at St. Mary's church parking lot. Gordon Sjaheim has volunteered to help again this year. The city is looking for at least one more volunteer to help with this. Please call city hall (746-2966) if you are willing to help.

Respectfully submitted,
Victoria R. Statz, City Clerk
Holdingford