

City Council Meeting Minutes (Approved)
September 12, 2011

Present at the meeting:, Mike Odden, Lloyd Rausch, Susan Marstein, Ernie Schmit, Kim Ebnet, Vicki Statz, Dorine Rausch, Scott Lange, Pat Meier, Jeremy Freudenrich, Adam Krebs, Gordon Sjaaheim, Dave Yurczyk.

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

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

Bank rec. for August was approved on a motion by Mike Odden, seconded by Sue Marstein. AIF

Electronic transfers and debit card purchases for August was approved on a motion by Kim Ebnet, seconded by Lloyd Rausch. AIF

Motion to approve minutes of the August 8, 2011 council meeting was made by Mike Odden, seconded by Kim Ebnet. AIF

Motion to approve minutes of the special meeting, August 29, 2011 was made by Lloyd Rausch, seconded by Sue Marstein. AIF

Liquor Store report was given by manager, Pat Meier. Gross revenue for August was \$30,548.93, with expenses at \$26,175.80 for a net revenue for liquor \$1,053.92. YTD lottery is \$2,743.33 for a total net revenue through August 31, 2011 of \$3,797.25. Upcoming events for the Liquor Store on Sundays: car racing, Twins games, Vikings games, golf. In October we will be starting a dart league, sign up now. There is bingo on Tuesday evenings and on Fridays – there is \$1 beer.

Fire Department report was given by Fire Chief, Pat Meier. There have been a total of 49 calls so far. The department has been working on the by-laws and should be in place for the start of 2012.

For the mayor's report, see end of minutes for complete details.

Old Business

Scott Lange reported on the progress of the street project to the council. The project is about 2 weeks ahead of schedule. Streets south of Co. Rd. 17 will be paved this week. Work to the north of Co. Rd. 17 is progressing well. Motion to pass Larson Excavating payment #3 for \$489,498.41 was made by Lloyd Rausch, seconded by Sue Marstein. AIF SEH has submitted a pay request of \$71,891.99 with credits of \$104 and \$361.81 for a total of \$71,426.18 was passed on a motion by Sue Marstein seconded by Kim Ebnet. AIF

Motion to pay ITT \$1,264 (for testing) was made by Kim Ebnet seconded by Lloyd Rausch. AIF

Motion to pay Briggs and Morgan for loan processing for \$7,000 was made by Mike Odden, seconded by Lloyd Rausch. AIF

Motion to pay Standard and Poor's city rating of "A stable" was made by Sue Marstein, seconded by Mike Odden. AIF

Motion to pay miscellaneous invoices of \$1,138 was made by Lloyd Rausch seconded by Sue Marstein. AIF

Motion to pay Rice Lake Construction for the WWTP pay request #1 of \$181,077.60 was made by Sue Marstein seconded by Lloyd Rausch. AIF

Scott discussed with the council Change Order #2. Not all dollar amounts are known yet, so no decision was made on this.

New Business

Discussion on sub-contracting a maintenance person with a Class B license for the long term was discussed. The council will submit a contract to Jerry Schueler to help oversee the upgrade to our WWTP, consult, direct and oversee the current staff until they have a class B rating as well as other pertinent projects. Mayor Schmit will be submitting this contract to Mr. Schueler within the next week. Cost for the proposed duties will be set for 25 hours per month for payment of \$500/month. Motion to proceed to have Mr. Schueler as our liaison was made by Lloyd Rausch, seconded by Sue Marstein. AIF There will be a verbal agreement of this contract for the first month until a written one is signed. The clerk is to look into workman's comp with the LMC for this contracted person.

The 2012 preliminary budget numbers was discussed. The 2012 budget is very similar to that of 2011. No major changes or increases. Included in the budget is a 2 percent increase to employee wages. The council certified the property tax levy at \$258,663 on a motion by Sue Marstein, seconded by Kim Ebnet. AIF This property tax levy has not been raised since 2003.

Union contract wage was discussed. Motion to approve a 2 percent wage increase for union workers starting January 1, 2012, was made by Sue Marstein, seconded by Mike Odden. AIF

The October city council meeting falls on Columbus Day, Monday, October 10. The council decided to have the regular city council meeting for October to be Tuesday, October 4, 7 p.m. at city hall.

The council looked at purchasing a new playground slide and picnic tables for Veteran's Park. The slide that was there became unusable earlier this year. The council tabled the purchasing of these items to the January, 2012 council meeting on a motion by Kim Ebnet, seconded by Mike Odden. AIF

Lighting for the skating rink was discussed. The maintenance men are to check into having a light pole put in at the north end of the Veteran's parking lot for the winter ice skating rink.

The American Legion has been storing a couple fire arms that the former Holdingford police had in its possession. The maintenance men would like to have the shot gun for use in taking care of vermin when the occasion arises. The council decided that the shot gun will be kept by the city. The pistol will be cleaned up and sold for market value.

Board of Equalization training is set for Wednesday, November 9 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the training center of Stearns County. Sue Marstein and Kim Ebnet will be attending this training.

Public hearing on the budget and tax levy is set for the December 12, 2012 city council meeting. Motion to have this public hearing held was made by Mike Odden, seconded by Kim Ebnet. AIF

Three delinquent water bills was discussed. Diane Young \$292.40; Moonshiner's Still and Grill \$1,719.91, Theresa Sanchez \$448.28.

Motion to have the city pay for the purchase of bottled water given away at the Holdingford Daze parade by the Fire Department in exchange for the department washing of the water tower was made by Ernie Schmit, seconded by Lloyd Rausch. Voting yes: Sue Marstein, Lloyd Rausch, Kim Ebnet. Voting no: Mike Odden. Motion passed. Cost for the water was \$537.11 vs. hiring an outside company to wash the tower at a cost of \$1,195. (This was the cost in 2010).

Motion to adjourn was made by Kim Ebnet, seconded by Sue Marstein. AIF Meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Victoria R. Statz
City Clerk