

**MINUTES
CITY OF ISANTI
CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2020 – 5:00 P.M.
CITY HALL**

This meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members Present: Mayor Jeff Johnson, Councilors: Jimmy Gordon, Paul Bergley, Steve Lundeen and Dan Collison

Member Absent: None

Staff Present: City Administrator Josi Wood, Human Resources/ City Clerk Katie Brooks, Community Development Director Sheila Sellman, Finance Director Mike Betker, City Engineer Jason Cook, Chief of Police Travis Muyres, Liquor Store Manager John Jacobi and Public Services Director Matt Sylvester

D. Public Comment

None

E. Committee Meeting Items

1. Public Works updates

- Public Works has been posting doors for tree trimming in Right of Way areas as well as in Parks and City owned facilities. This will likely continue through the winter as time allows.
- Staff has been out to do pothole patching.
- Staff has been preparing equipment for winter storage as well as prepping equipment that is used for winter snow removal.
- Fall cleanup of leaves and debris from streets has been completed.
- Annual maintenance of the Air release valves have been completed for the year.
- Annual jetting was completed. This year each lift station was jetted.
- Generators have been set and are up and running with the exception of Rum River lift station, Isanti Community Center, and Well 1/ Police Department/ Fire Department as well as the transfer switch at City Hall which should be completed in the next few weeks.
- The clarifiers were shut down and cleaned at the WasteWater Treatment Facility in early November. They will remain down until Spring. This is normal winter operations at the facility.
- Staff worked through some issues at the WTP on the MIOX machine. This was a great opportunity for some of our new staff to trouble shoot and cross train on the Miox machine.
- The Sledding Hill has been completed and has seen a lot of attention with the very little snow that has been received. The Grand Opening is scheduled for December 16th.
- The Compost Site was closed on November 8th and had another successful year with a lot of positive feedback from residents.
- Santa Day was scheduled for December 11th with the Candy Cane Hunt to follow on December 13th.
- Fall cleanup for leaves in the parks was completed for now and there will be some cleanup in the Spring.

- The Winter Isantian has been completed and sent out.
- The Farmers Market ended on September 25th.
- Recommendation from Committee is to postpone the Sledding Hill Grand Opening to a date later determined.

2. Chapter 227 Parking and Storage Discussion

- Previous Committee of the Whole meeting, it was requested that there be consideration of trailers being permitted to park on the grass during the winter restriction months, November to March 31.
- If permitted, staff requested consensus of where parking and storage would be allowed and if units such as snowmobiles or other motorized units will be permitted to be on a trailer.
- Consensus from Committee is to allow for trailers on a non-impervious surface and within 10 feet of the driveway from November 1st to March 31st.
- Recommendation from Committee is to post Ordinance for the required 10 days with the recommended changes listed above.

3. Isantian Newsletter Options Discussion

- In the past the City of Isanti has sent the Isantian Newsletter out to be printed and mailed to residents quarterly. That contract has been with Minuteman Press and expires on 12/31/2020.
- In the year 2020 it cost the City \$11,616.61 for the service.
- Another option would be to have the Isantian go digital. The City would then have the ability of posting it on Facebook and also the City website. Isantian could be mailed to a resident if requested.
- The Isantian is prepared in-house so this option would require no additional staff time.
- Recommendation from Committee is to print Isantian in-house for new residents as well as whoever may want one otherwise make the publication digital to save the money.

4. Intersection Control at Heritage/ East Dual Update

- City Administrator Josi Wood updated the Committee that she had spoke with the President of Minnco Credit Union, Doug Halverson, and asked if the Minnco Credit Union Board was willing to sell the piece of land as well as if it included the remodel. Halvorson was not sure but heard that the County Commissioners had been talking with some of the members of the Minnco Credit Union Board.
- City Administrator Josi Wood requested Doug Hallstrom talk to the Minnco Credit Union Board again and ask if they are interested in selling the property to make a 4-way intersection and Doug Hallstrom said he would.

5. Liquor Store Architect Discussion (6:00 p.m.)

- Committee and Liquor Store Manager John Jacobi shared their requests for the new liquor store with Mike Angland and Tim Houle from Widseth Engineering.
- Requests for the new liquor store included a pitched roof, 12-14-foot ceilings, shelving and racking against the back walls.
- Mike Angland shared that he expected to have a proposal ready for review by the following week for review at the next City Council meeting.
- Recommendation from Committee is to review Widseth proposal at the next Council meeting and to ask Brunton if they would like to submit a revised proposal.

6. Metal Detecting on City Property

- Mayor Johnson has received phone calls inquiring metal detecting on City property.

- The recent individual inquiring is interested in medal detecting the old house where the new liquor store is proposed to go. The individual is not looking for anything of value to keep and will give the City anything he may find.
- Recommendation from Committee is for staff to research policies allowing for this but does result in a liability for the City and bring back to Committee of the Whole for discussion.

7. Fire District Purchase Update

- The parcel has been split and recorded with the County. It will take some time before Beacon is updated.
- A revised purchase agreement will be sent to Fire Chief Al Jankovich with included language that the generator will be the City's sole responsibility.
- Recommendation from Committee is for the Fire District to keep the billboard sign when they purchase the building instead of moving the sign to the new police department.

8. Liquor License Fee Discussion

- Mayor Johnson shared that he is receiving phone calls about waiving liquor fees as Cambridge has recently waived theirs for 2021.
- Recommendation from Committee is if a business paid for a 2020 license, their fee will be waived for 2021. This would apply to liquor and pawn shop renewal fees. If a business is looking to obtain a new license, the waived fee will not pertain to them.

9. Open Minnesota

- Councilmember Bergley shared that there is a group called "Re-Open Minnesota" where there are approximately 150 businesses that plan to open against Governor Walz's order.
- Isanti declared themselves business-friendly in June.
- The City Attorney recommended in the past that not following the Governors Order may put liability on the City if encouraging businesses to open.

F. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted.



Jaden Strand
Deputy City Clerk/ Human Resources